

County of Santa Clara

Office of the District Attorney

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADVISORY

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BEWARE OF PRIVATE COMPANIES CHARGING SANTA CLARA COUNTY RESIDENTS TO FILE REQUESTS FOR REDUCTION IN ASSESSED VALUES

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office is warning residents about recent mailings from companies which offer to lower your property taxes. These offers, which can be confused with official government documents, charge a substantial fee to file a "Proposition 8 Assessment Reduction Request" with the Assessor's Office.

Residents should be aware that they can do this themselves **at no charge** by using a form provided by our County Assessor's Office.

Proposition 8 requires the Assessor to reduce the property tax on a home when the market value of that home declines. To qualify, homeowners must demonstrate that on January 1, the market value of the property was less than the current assessed value.

The form to request a reduction can be completed on-line at www.sccassessor.org. It is called a "PROP 8 (DECLINE-IN-VALUE) REQUEST FORM." Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Assessor's Office at 299-5300.

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