November 9, 2021

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Presentation from Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk
Shelly Scott and District Attorney Lori Frugoli on the recently launched Deed Fraud Prevention Project.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Receive presentation from ARCC and DA

SUMMARY: The Recorder and District Attorney have teamed up to launch a new program to mitigate fraudulent real estate transfers and protect property ownership. In alignment with the County of Marin 2-year action plan, Innovation & Change - Strategy 3, this is a collaboration between three departments including ARCC, DA, and IST to develop an automated alerting process to Marin County property owners when a deed is recorded on their property.

Background:
Marin has the highest percentage of seniors out of California’s 58 counties, many of whom are property owners whose homes have significant equity. Victims of fraud may be unaware that a document they are signing, at the suggestion of a family member, friend, or criminal, could transfer the property title. The fraud happens when a fraudulent deed is recorded against a property. In many cases, the owner may not even be aware that a deed was recorded changing ownership of their property. Under the new program, property owners or former property owners will be notified by letter about a recent filing with the Recorder’s Office. If they are aware of the transfer, they don’t need to act. If they are not aware, they should contact their local police department or the District Attorney’s real estate fraud division as soon as possible.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact related to today’s presentation.
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REVIEWED BY:  ☐ County Administrator  ☒ N/A
☐ Department of Finance  ☒ N/A
☐ County Counsel  ☒ N/A
☐ Human Resources  ☒ N/A

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Shane Blair
Chief of Assessment Systems

ATTACHMENTS: Copy of today’s presentation