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RE: Grand Jury Indictments for Mortgage Fraud

The Jefferson County District Attorney's office has filed the second in a series of indictments arising from the grand jury's ongoing investigation of mortgage fraud.

Charged in the indictment are Lakewood realtor Patricia Soehnge, age 36, and Denver-area loan officers Kenya Marina Hedges, age 39, and Martha Pereda, age 30.

The indictment alleges that Soehnge, Hedges, and Pereda conspired to violate Colorado's Attempt to Influence a Public Servant statute. According to the indictment, Soehnge, Hedges, Pereda, and others submitted false documents to obtain government-insured loans for 41 homebuyers who were unqualified by reason of credit and citizenship.

By selling the 41 homes financed by these loans, Soehnge received commissions totaling approximately \$197,000. The loans totaled about \$7,700,000.

Soehnge and Hedges are also charged with counts of Theft, a class 3 felony carrying presumptive penalties of from 4 to 12 years in prison. Hedges and Pereda are also charged with several counts of Forgery of a Government – Issued Document, a class 5 felony that carries a possible sentence of from one to three years in prison.

The grand jury investigation is expected to continue.

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