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For Immediate Release

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En Español

DA Charges South Bay Woman with 61 Felonies in Brazen Real Estate Scam

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced felony charges today against a 45-year-old woman who filed more than 50 false deeds on foreclosed homes that did not belong to her. The defendant then scammed numerous individuals out of thousands of dollars by renting out the homes. Dianne “Harmony” Brown is charged with 61 felony counts including burglary, filing a false instrument and possession of methamphetamine. If convicted of the crimes, she faces 39 years and eight months in state prison.

“This defendant was taking advantage of the fact that families have lost their homes to foreclosure and are now sitting vacant,” DA Dumanis said. “Our Economic Crimes Division worked closely with the Chula Vista Police Department to investigate this scam and hold the defendant accountable for her actions.”

Brown targeted more than 30 homes in the South Bay claiming to be the owner of fake businesses called Prudent Constituents Association and Peerless Property Management. After recording the false deeds, the defendant would cut off realtor lock boxes, break into the homes and have them re-keyed before renting them to victims. She listed the homes on Craigslist and collected tens of thousands of dollars in rent during the course of the scheme.

“This arrest represents the culmination of a lengthy criminal investigation requiring not only tremendous effort by our detectives and the District Attorney’s Office, but also a great deal of patience by those who were victimized,” said Chula Vista Police Chief David Bejarano. “More importantly, it begins the process of returning these properties to their rightful owners and ultimately bringing closure to the neighbors who were also impacted by Ms. Brown’s unlawful activities.”

Brown is being held on a \$ 300,000 bail. She pleaded not guilty today in front of San Diego Superior Court Judge David M. Szumowski. A readiness hearing has been scheduled for February 17 and a preliminary hearing is set for February 22.

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