

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS CHARGED MARK GALLEGOS AND JOSE TOMAS-SILVA WITH CONSPIRACY TO ADVANCED FEE FRAUD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2017

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The Monterey County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Salinas Police Department, conducted an investigation into allegations that Jose Tomas-Silva and Mark Gallegos marketed real estate brokerage services that required up-front fees from potential clients.

On March 14, 2017, an indictment was filed by the United States Attorney's Office alleging the defendants conspired with one another to defraud victims by charging fees for non-existent loans. The indictment also alleges that the defendants charged fees in connection with real property sales for homes that were not being sold. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office is seeking the public's assistance in identifying other potential victims.

We encourage anyone who believes they may have been a victim of Jose Tomas-Silva and Mark Gallegos to come forward, regardless of their status as a citizen in the United States. Victims have a substantive right to report crimes without fear of reprisal.

Victims may contact Monterey County District Attorney Real Estate Fraud Unit Investigator Alicia Cox directly at 831-647-7640.