

## **California Department of Real Estate**

1651 Exposition Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95815 www.dre.ca.gov



Contact: Shelly Wilson

(916) 576-8100

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## DRE SUSPENDS LICENSE OF REAL ESTATE BROKER GEORGE CHIANG IN ONGOING FEDERAL CORRUPTION PROBE AT LOS ANGELES CITY HALL

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Real Estate (DRE) has suspended the real estate broker and officer licenses of Los Angeles County resident George Chiao Chih Chiang effective August 13, 2020, upon his entry of a guilty plea amid allegations of felony racketeering and conspiracy.

According to certified court documents obtained by DRE, Chiang pled guilty on June 26, 2020, in United States District Court, Central District of California, Case No. CR 20-203-JFW, to violating 18 United States Code Section 1962(d), racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations conspiracy. This case is part of an ongoing federal pay-to-play corruption probe at Los Angeles City Hall.

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 10177(b)(2), DRE is permitted to suspend the license of any real estate licensee who enters a plea of guilty to a felony, or a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a real estate licensee. This suspension means that Chiang is prohibited from conducting any licensed real estate activities at this time.

"Being able to suspend a license when a licensee pleads guilty to a substantially related crime further enhances the Department's ability to carry out its consumer protection mandate," said Real Estate Commissioner Doug McCauley. "Protecting consumers is our highest priority, and we are committed to ensuring that bad actors like Chiang are put out of the real estate business."

More information about DRE's actions against George Chiang can be found here: <a href="https://www2.dre.ca.gov/PublicASP/pplinfo.asp?License">https://www2.dre.ca.gov/PublicASP/pplinfo.asp?License</a> id=01781755.

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The mission of DRE is to safeguard and promote the public interests in real estate matters through licensure, regulation, education and enforcement. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.dre.ca.gov">www.dre.ca.gov</a>.