

New Jersey
State Commission of Investigation



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Immediate Release

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SCI HEARINGS:

**HOME CONSTRUCTION and
INSPECTION ABUSES**

TRENTON – The State Commission of Investigation will hold public hearings next week on widespread abuses in new-home construction and inspections in New Jersey.

The hearings will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 18, and Wednesday, November 19 in Committee Room 4 on the first floor of the Statehouse Annex. Sworn testimony will be provided by a wide range of

witnesses, including federal, state and local government officials, homeowners and builder/developer representatives.

The hearing will focus on the findings of a comprehensive ongoing SCI probe of flawed and deficient construction practices, and graft and incompetence in the conduct of code-violation inspections. The Commission also is investigating the extent and impact of lax oversight and enforcement of state and local laws and regulations, and serious problems involving the adequacy of complaint-response mechanisms, home-warranty programs and remediation options for new-home buyers.

This investigation is statewide in scope, and beyond next week's proceedings, additional hearings will be scheduled early next year. Ultimately, the Commission intends to issue a final public report incorporating recommendations for legislative and regulatory reforms.

A live audio feed of the hearings will be available through the SCI's Web site at www.state.nj.us/sci.

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The State Commission of Investigation is an independent New Jersey watchdog agency established in 1968 to investigate organized crime and corruption, waste of tax money and other abuses of the public trust. In addition to the home construction and inspections investigation, a number of other significant probes are ongoing in all areas of the Commission's statutory purview. Copies of reports are available at the Commission's offices or via its Web site at www.state.nj.us/sci.