

Did You Pay an Unwarranted Invoice? L.A. City Code Enforcement Billing Errors **By Patricia A. Harris, Senior Editor**

It has been brought to our attention the Los Angeles Housing Department is incorrectly generating bills to apartment owners. These invoices are in the amount of \$201.50 for a Code Enforcement re-inspection (that never occurred) and a processing fee and ... **YOU** may have received one in error!

Due to a technical problem, data was not properly entered into the city's system which triggered a second inspection invoice to be generated and mailed even though this second inspection was not necessary or performed.

You may have been intimidated into paying one of these from the city when you saw the penalty on the invoice of the \$201.50 becoming \$705.25 if not paid on time. **That's over a 250% late fee!!** Wouldn't it be nice if we could collect that rate from our tenants who pay late?

If you think you received and/or paid one of these invoices in error, please call the Code Enforcement's billing department at 213-808-8900 and request a "Senior Inspector Appeal" form and refund. Most likely, they will not discover their "billing errors and payments received for them" unless you are the one to bring it to their attention!

We've also been informed that it may take up to 10 months to receive your refund check.

P.S. Imagine the interest and penalties that would incur if you "mistakenly" kept someone's security deposit refund that long! I doubt you'll see any interest or penalties refunded to you for all of the time the city kept **your** money!