



SIGTARP

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR THE TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM

ADVANCING ECONOMIC STABILITY THROUGH TRANSPARENCY, COORDINATED OVERSIGHT AND ROBUST ENFORCEMENT

April 6, 2009

Statement from Special Inspector General Neil M. Barofsky

“Since the announcement of the TARP mortgage modification plan, SIGTARP has been active in trying to limit the program’s exposure to fraud, through, among other things, making recommendations to Treasury to strengthen the program’s anti-fraud provisions. Included in these discussions was SIGTARP’s warning in late February that the mortgage modification plan was vulnerable to already existing fraudulent foreclosure rescue schemes. SIGTARP stressed the importance of outreach to educate homeowners who could fall victim to these scams. Today’s press conference, and the initiatives described, reflect a forceful implementation of that recommendation, and all homeowners should heed the warnings regarding these schemes. This initiative, along with Treasury’s adoption of SIGTARP’s recommendation that every TARP mortgage modification package include a cover sheet warning the participants about fraud and providing them with SIGTARP’s hotline information, will help protect distressed homeowners and the taxpayers who are paying for this program.

We applaud Secretary Geithner’s leadership in taking these crucial steps to protect homeowners, and indeed, the anti-fraud cover sheet has already resulted in referrals to SIGTARP’s hotline and has led to active criminal investigations. We look forward to coordinating with the other agencies who were part of today’s initiative to bring to justice those who attempt to criminally profit from this National crisis.”

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If you are aware of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement or misrepresentations affiliated with the troubled asset relief program, please contact the SIGTARP Hotline.

Via Online: WWW.SIGTARP.GOV
Via Toll Free Phone: 877-SIG-2009
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