



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4630
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

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Contact:

ANDREA RASIZER

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

E-mail: arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County to look into Public Trustee audit

LITTLETON, CO --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Tuesday has directed staff to look into concerns raised about incomplete paperwork discovered in a recent audit of the Public Trustee's Office.

The Board of County Commissioners recently was made aware that previous audits conducted for the Public Trustee were not completed. Because of the apparent paperwork deficiencies, the Board of County Commissioners has directed the Finance Department to look into the matter. The Finance Department will work with the auditors to determine how to complete the audit.

"It is our job to ensure that the citizens of Arapahoe County have an accurate record of the activity that takes place in government and we intend to assist the Public Trustee's Office in resolving the matter," said Commissioner Jim Dyer.

The Public Trustee is appointed by the Governor to handle foreclosures of deeds of trust, releases of deeds of trust, and tax escrow accounts for land purchase contracts, and is an independent agency of the County for audit purposes. Ana Maria Peters-Ruddick recently was appointed Public Trustee by Governor Bill Ritter to serve a four-year term. She replaced Mary Wenke who served as Public Trustee until January 2007.

The audit conducted for the Public Trustee is separate from the audit conducted for the County. Arapahoe County received a clean audit for 2005. The 2006 audit for both the County and the Public Trustee's Office is currently underway.

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