



California Association of Code Enforcement Officers  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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**CHULA VISTA CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER'S  
ABANDONED PROPERTY PROGRAM MAKES TOP 50 IN NATIONWIDE COMPETITION**  
*Residential Abandoned Property Program  
in the Running for Innovations in American Government Award*

CHULA VISTA, Calif.—The city of Chula Vista's Residential Abandoned Property Program was named one of the top 50 contenders and will move on to the next round of competition for the Harvard Kennedy School Innovations in American Government Awards. The program was selected from more than 600 applicants.

The Residential Abandoned Property Program was created by Chula Vista's City Code Enforcement Manager, Doug Leeper. The program is unique in that it holds lenders responsible for the condition of abandoned, financially distressed homes.

Vacant properties must be registered with the city, and the names of the lender and the person responsible for property maintenance must be provided. Failure to register or maintain properties results in violator fines of up to \$500 per day. The city places a lien on properties with unpaid fines. The Chula Vista City Council adopted the program in 2007.

The program protects Chula Vista neighborhoods from blight and has become a model for cities across the nation. More than 350 cities have contacted Leeper, seeking his guidance in crafting new legislation to address the issue of abandoned homes during the nation's foreclosure crisis.

Leeper has been an instructor on behalf of the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (CACEO) for several years and has trained code enforcement officers throughout the state. He will be teaching a class focused on foreclosures at CACEO's Annual Seminar held Sept. 9-11 in San Diego.

CACEO exists to promote and advance the profession of code enforcement while serving and supporting its members by offering comprehensive education and certification, providing legislative advocacy on issues of importance to the code enforcement profession, and facilitating a network for an exchange of information and technology.

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