

# Real estate crimes rise in New York and the U.S.

**1.** Estimated annual losses in the U.S. tied to mortgage fraud:

**up to \$6 billion**

**2.** New York's rank on the top-10 list of states with significant mortgage fraud problems in 2008, after not making the list at all the year before:

**6**

**3.** New York's rank in the second quarter of 2009 on the FraudBlogger.com index, a measure of active mortgage fraud cases across the country:

**1**

**4.** Number of residential properties in New York tied to "Operation Bad Deeds," which in October charged 41 real estate professionals with fraudulently obtaining \$64 million in mortgages:

**107**

**5.** Percentage increase in the number of mortgage-fraud-related suspicious activity reports in the U.S. from 2007 to 2008:

**36%**

**6.** Percentage increase in the number of U.S. mortgage fraud cases being investigated by the FBI late last year compared to five years ago:

**400%**

**7.** Percentage increase in the number of FBI agents handling those cases last year:

**108%**

**8.** Number of people who may have fraudulently enjoyed the original first-time homebuyer tax credit:

**90,000**

**9.** Estimated dollar amount that the federal government lost to fraudulent use of the first-time homebuyer tax credit:

**\$600 million**

**10.** Age of some people who claimed the first-time homebuyer tax credit, which is legally available only to taxpayers 18 and older:

**4**

**11.** Number of New York City Buildings Department employees indicted on corruption charges since 2002:

**37**

**12.** Number of people charged in the city Oct. 1 with soliciting bribes to overlook building violations or speed up permits:

**29**

**13.** Number out of the 29 charged who were former Buildings Department inspectors tied to the Lucchese crime family:

**6**

**14.** Number of building sites in the city at which bribes were allegedly paid in the Lucchese family case, including 75 Wall Street, 110 Fulton Street and 11 West 25th Street in Manhattan:

**19**

**15.** Largest single alleged construction bribe cited in the case, linked to Carmine "Snappy" Francomano Sr. to win building permits:

**\$44,000**

**16.** Number of city construction projects named in a 2008 indictment of concrete testing firm Testwell Laboratories, which allegedly falsified test results for 7 WTC, Yankee Stadium and the Second Avenue subway line:

**102**