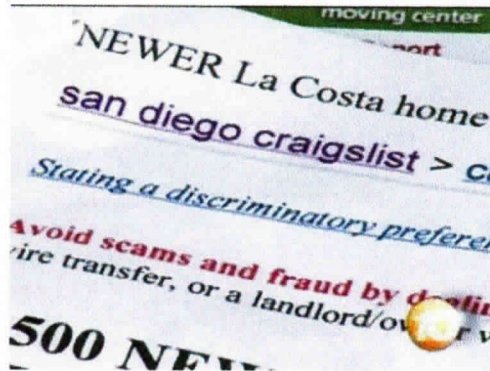


## Beware of Rental Deals that Seem Too Good to be True

by Kristen Castillo ~ July 17th, 2008. Filed under: [Consumer, investigative](#).

In a sour economy, the promise of quick money can be too tempting for some people like Alexander Braslavsky, 34, of Irvine, and Anthony Marshall, 38, of Mission Viejo, who were arrested last week for renting out Carlsbad homes they didn't own. The two took security deposits from would-be renters for vacant homes in foreclosure.

[Carlsbad Police](#) say Braslavsky and Marshall advertised two homes for rent on [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com). One address was 3676 Adams Street; the other was 4102 Sierra Morena. The police obtained paperwork indicating the men had collected several thousand dollars from prospective renters. The men were arrested on suspicion of burglary, fraud and illegal use of the Internet.



If you're a victim of this Craigslist rental scam, contact the Carlsbad Police Department at (760) 931-2197.

**This Craigslist scam is nothing new to the I-Team.** Earlier this year, we reported on more [Craigslist rental scams](#). And [last summer, we tracked](#) a couple of cons "renting" vacant homes in the San Diego beach areas like Pacific Beach and Crown Point. The cons somehow got access to the Multiple Listings Service (MLS) used by realtors. They used info on that database to get lockbox codes for vacant homes. They posted ads on Craigslist using MLS info about the homes and a few photos. They set their price for a rental fee and deposit, then waited for renters to show up. They didn't expect the 10News I-Team to show up, but we did.



We [caught the scammers](#) in the act and they ran away from our cameras. They couldn't outrun the law though. The San Diego District Attorney prosecuted both cons, [Anthony Zoccolillo](#) and [Robert Ramus](#).

These scams seem to be popping up more and more all over the U.S. and Canada, so be careful when you do business on the Internet.

- Check out the person behind the offer before you do business with him or her.
- Don't pay in cash – it'll be tough to get your money back if the deal goes bad.
- Don't meet the person alone. You don't know who you're doing business with and you don't want to get hurt.