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Homebuyers Under Surveillance

I recently installed a "Ring" doorbell at home to bolster my ADT security system even though we have lived on our cul-de-sac, trouble free, for 8 years. It is always difficult to make such decisions and not be just driven by the fear promoted from all the media and internet traffic. However, for such a small cost, it seemed worthwhile - even though I am now alerted every time my neighbor leaves his driveway to take the kids to school, or my neighbor across the road goes shopping.

It is, however, another thing altogether to be showing property as a Realtor to clients, as I was last week, only to see cameras, like a minefield, throughout the home as well as at the front door.

My clients and I were disturbed that, not only were we being watched by the seller of the home, but quite possibly being listened to as well.

We exercised extreme caution in our behavior while in the home and curtailed our

comments and conversation during the inspection. We left with a most uncomfortable feeling and I have to say the experience seriously affected our interest in the property because we were unable to relax and assess its suitability for my clients' needs.

For several months I have been pressing our industry to do something about this. I have spoken to my Broker, and to our local Multiple Listing Service, plus many Associates in the industry.

It is essential that Homesellers disclose to all intending buyers touring their property for sale whether they will be under video and/or audio surveillance. It is not just a practical matter but a moral imperative.

Buyers need to be able to conduct an inspection of property for sale and have a confidential discussion with their real estate representative without the fear of being watched and listened to.

This is a reverse invasion of

privacy. We cannot stop a homeowner from installing security surveillance equipment but it is only reasonable, as a matter of disclosure, that homesellers and their agents give public notice to intending homebuyers of the presence of such equipment.

Please support this campaign by asking your Realtor, before touring a home, to find out if you will be observed and/or recorded when on that particular property.

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