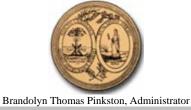


South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



June 11, 2008 Release #08-044 SCDCA Media Contact: Hugh Crofoot, 803.543.8044 1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC) Email: <u>scdca@dca.state.sc.us</u>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA RETURNS TO FLORENCE ON JUNE 11, 2008

Columbia, SC... ... The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) will visit the Florence community on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, to handle consumer complaints and questions. Regional SCDCA outreach coordinator Hugh Crofoot will pay a visit to the general conference room at the Florence County Library located at 509 S. Dargan Street in Florence. Consumers may come with questions or complaints regarding a business between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Individuals are encouraged to bring documentation with them.

Mr. Crofoot will also have additional materials on home buying and mortgages available upon request. "Mortgage rates right now are pretty reasonable, making the American dream more affordable for consumers. However, with all the mortgage fraud and foreclosures, consumers have to be extra careful to look before they leap. A home purchases is a huge financial commitment, and it is important consumers understand all the variables that could affect them down the road," said Hugh Crofoot, SCDCA Outreach Coordinator.

The Department will continue to visit the Florence community on a regular basis. Locations will be announced monthly. The Department services the entire state via telephone and online help. Specific questions and concerns from the Florence community may be addressed to Hugh Crofoot. Appointments are available upon request. Mr. Crofoot may be reached at 803.543.8044.

About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs: Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education. For more information, visit <u>www.scconsumer.gov</u>. This month's visit has been made possible through a collaborative effort with the Florence County Public Library, Executive Director Ray McBride, and Information Services Manager Aubrey Carroll.

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