

# County sells ex-bondsman's property

Auction generates \$33,500; 4 unsold, even at \$100 each.

By Craig Kapitan  
ckapitan@express-news.net

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Six years after once-prominent bail bondsman Emerson Vance's business imploded with customer complaints and the loss of his license, Bexar County is still trying to unload some of his foreclosed properties and recoup its losses.

In an auction Tuesday on the lawn of the Bexar County Courthouse, a dozen foreclosed bail bond properties — about half of which once belonged to Vance — generated \$33,500 for county coffers.

Some of the properties, mired with code-compliance liens and back taxes owed to the city and school districts, sold for \$100.

Four didn't sell at all.

The sales won't make a big dent in Vance's debt to the county, a district attorney's office representative said. Vance still owes about \$3 million.

Vance, who opened his bail bond company in the late 1990s and quickly grew it into one of the largest of its kind in San Antonio, lost his license in 2005.

At the time, he owed the county \$3.7 million for clients who jumped bail, according to previous Express-News reports.

The district attorney's office had previously sold other Vance properties.

But it took months to put a system in place to sell the latest group of properties because he voluntarily ceded them instead of going through the courts — a rarity for foreclosures.

“We've never sold any of them before, so we had to set up a procedure to do so,” said [Joe Newton](#), an asset manager with the county's infrastructure and services department.

As for the four properties that didn't sell even for \$100, the Commissioner's Court will have to decide at a later date whether it is worth the effort to try again, Newton said, explaining that there are costs involved with advertising the sale.

“It's pretty hard to go lower than \$100,” he said.

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