



Town of Lancaster

Police Department

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Chief of Police

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Dear Lancaster Resident,

I am writing today to discuss with you the most recent rash of scams that have been reported to us. The people who are trying to steal your money are coming up with new and extremely innovative ways to separate you, from your hard earned dollars. I am sickened at the thought of another person being victimized by these hoodlums, and felt that we must get this information to our community.

First of all, before we talk about the scams themselves, it is important to understand where and what they are. Most of these scams are originating outside of the United States of America. I have spoken with several of these low life's on the phone, and once they realize I am American Law Enforcement, they become very willing to share with me there goals and aspirations. They are very vocal about stealing the American's money and using it to fund their goals. They know I cannot reach them and that they reside outside of any American jurisdiction. I typically will conclude my conversations with them with the hopes that someday there is a knock on their door, and they are greeted with the presence of a United States Marine who carries with him the frustration of every citizen whom they have victimized; but I digress.

The point of my preceding paragraph is that once you have sent money out to these scammers, you can never get it back. It is completely impossible. They make certain of this and utilize means that make it impossible for you to retrieve your funds.

So let's talk a little about the scams themselves. Some will come to you over the phone, others in an email. I have recently seen a rash of mailed letters which are credit card related scams. My point is that they can reach you in any form of communication that is available. Most scams will target you in a way that will make you afraid of something. Fear is the scam artist best friend. They will tell you that a relative of yours has been arrested in a foreign country and needs bail money. They will research you and your family utilizing social media avenues and then use those things against you. If you use social media websites, every bit of information you put on the web is accessible to them. When they call you they will have your name and the names of your family. They do their homework when they scam people which is why they are so successful. If you have ever been a victim of these scams, don't feel badly about it. These people work night and day to use everything they can to convince you they are real.

Some popular scams are when they pretend to be IRS agents. Remember how I said they will use fear to scam you? Who is scarier than the IRS? They will say you haven't paid your taxes and threaten you with arrest. They will know your address so they will say they are sending the local police department to your home to take you into custody. I have even heard of them

calling people pretending to be Lancaster Police Officers. They utilize websites to convert the phone numbers they call from to be local numbers. They will make you believe its real. Other scams include family members held abroad, you have won money in a foreign lottery, purchases on sites like ebay and craigslist, and also most recently, phony credit card applications in the mail.

These people will use everything available to you to scam you. Many of these scams can be identified by a simple common denominator. If the person on the phone asks you to go to a store and purchase pre-paid credit cards and for you to give the numbers to them over the phone, its a SCAM! No one will ask you to do that unless they are stealing your money. Once you buy those cards and give them the numbers, your money is gone and can never be recovered. The very reason they use this form of payment is so that you can never get your money back.

In closing I would offer you this. If you ever feel scared, threatened or intimidated by phone calls or letters or emails, please reach out to us. I will send an officer immediately to your home to discuss the situation with you. Never give money out without verification of the authenticity of where it's going. We will help you in every way possible to identify the validity of any source asking you for money. It is my job to protect the citizens of our community and I will utilize every resource in my power to do just that. Please call us anytime you think something is suspicious.

Thank you for the opportunity to write you today. I welcome any feedback you may have. We are always here for our community and will help in any way we can.

Respectfully,
Edwin H. Burgwinkel
Chief of Police