



City of Newton Police Department Detective Bureau



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**Newton Police
Department
25 Chestnut St.
Newton MA., 02465**

Dear City of Newton Citizens,

In the recent past you may have heard of various scams and frauds perpetrated on persons all over the United States. These scams take place using several different formats. Some examples:

- A person may call you claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service and there is a warrant for your arrest unless you pay a fine immediately. **NO GOVERNMENT AGENCY WILL CONTACT YOU ASKING FOR MONEY/PAYMENT.**
- Your computer is frozen and a website directs you to call a number to have it fixed. The person then asks for payment in gift cards or Western Union money orders. **NO LEGITIMATE COMPANY IS PAID IN GIFT CARDS OR WIRE TRANSFERS.**
- Someone calls claiming to be from a utility company and your power, phone or heating service will be discontinued unless you pay a past due bill immediately. **NO UTILITY COMPANY WILL DEMAND PAYMENT IMMEDIATELY WITH GIFT CARDS OR WESTERN UNION WIRE TRANSFERS.**
- A person claiming to be a law enforcement officer from a foreign country or another U.S. State has called to inform you that a relative, usually a grandchild, has been placed under arrest and the fines or penalties must be paid immediately to release this relative. **NO PERSON CAN "BUY" THEIR WAY OUT OF TROUBLE WITH IMMEDIATE PAYMENTS.**
- A phone call is received congratulating you, and informing you that you have won a large sweepstakes award. To claim the award you need to pay either a fee or a tax, and then your winnings will be released to you. **YOU DO NOT PAY INSURANCE, TAXES, OR SHIPPING CHARGES FOR A LEGITIMATE PRIZE.**
- In the past several weeks the Newton Police have intercepted CASH payments forwarded to the Newton area in the total sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars. During this ongoing investigation it has been estimated that these same victims have lost an estimated One hundred and Thirty thousand dollars .
- On Feb. 8th a fraudulent CASH payment of Sixteen thousand dollars was recovered for a Newton citizen
- During the recent scams, victims have been instructed to ship CASH payments via UPS and FedEX, overnight delivery.

There are several other scams that are attempted which are not listed here. In addition, the callers usually attempt to gain access to the your bank account or social security numbers. They also ask for the Gift Cards serial numbers over the phone so they can be cashed immediately. These frauds are attempted ALL OVER the country on a continual basis. **DON'T BECOME A VICTIM.**

Some basic commonalities to these phone scams. The person/persons try and target the elderly. They try and scare the person into paying the assorted fees, penalties immediately. The transaction is usually in the form of Gift Cards or Western Union money transfers or some other type of immediate payment method . On occasion the scammer will arrange for someone to arrive at your home to collect payment directly.

PLEASE:

If you believe that someone has contacted you demanding payment for ANYTHING immediately then STOP and THINK ! If it does not appear to be legitimate then HANG UP AND CALL THE POLICE at 617 796 2100. If you have ANY questions about suspicious phone calls demanding payment for bills then again, call the police at 617 796 2100.

There are several agencies with direct oversight and authority to investigate frauds:

Report Mail Scams To: U.S. Postal Inspection Service (877) 876 2455

Telephone Scams: Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Protection Bureau (877) 382-4357

Internet/Email Scams: F.B.I., Internet Crime Complaint Center, www.ic3.gov or www.econsumer.gov (for foreign companies/websites)

Persons can also access the Newton Police Website and download a Copy of a informational flyer titled ,
“What To Do If You’re a Victim of Identity Theft. “