



memorandum

From the desk of Lieutenant John T. Gatta Jr

WARNING: FRAUDULENT SCAMS

Recently we have received a number of reports regarding fraudulent attempts to obtain money. Subjects who are outside of the Continental United States making it difficult to prosecute them usually perpetrate the scams.

These scams come in many different forms however they are all based on the same premise. They present a situation to an unsuspecting person in which they are led to believe that they can make money for very minimal work.

Recently residents have been receiving checks in the mail for several thousand dollars and they are given specific instructions on how to cash and spend the money. The person is told that they are helping with some type of evaluation or survey process for merchandisers. There is usually a portion of the money left over that the person is instructed to get a bank check for and return it to the company. The end result is that the original check that was sent is actually a counterfeit check and the person cashing is generally held responsible to the Banks for the cash.

Another recent scam was perpetrated by having people agree to accept packages for subjects they didn't know. They are then asked to forward the packages to a third party with promises of being reimbursed for shipping expenses and payment. They are not only never compensated or reimbursed, but the packages contain merchandise that was purchased fraudulently (credit card fraud) on the Internet.

We ask that you remain vigilant and safe throughout these tough economic times and don't let yourself fall victim to these con artist. The purpose of this notice is simply to keep the public informed and also it is sent as a reminder that **" IF IT APPEARS TO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT PROBABLY IS."**