



NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Warns Citizens against Scams

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[WENTWORTH, NC]— Recently it has come to the Sheriff's Office's attention that scammers are contacting citizens here in Rockingham County by phone telling them that they have won large sums of money, and/or luxury cars. Then the scammers are trying to convince these potential victims to go to their local Walmart and get a "GREEN DOT Rechargeable Debit Card" for varying amounts, usually hundreds of dollars, to send to the scammers to cover taxes, handling fees, etc. for these prizes.

These scammers are often using the names of large companies, such as Geico Insurance, to make their scam sound legit. These recent phone scammers are calling from the following area codes: 702 (Las Vegas, NV), 636 (St. Louis, MO), and 876 (Jamaica).

A good rule of thumb to remember is that people are not going to call you out of the blue telling you that you have won a large prize, especially when you haven't entered anything. If you had won a legitimate prize, the awarders are not **ALLOWED** to try to collect any taxes or fees on **ANY** prizes prior to the disbursement of that award. In other words, if they want money before you get your prize, it's a **SCAM!**

Another popular scam is the "Craigslist Scammers". They will buy an item for sale on Craigslist, and then send a bogus check to the seller for much more than the item cost. They will then ask the seller to cash the check they sent and send them a Cashier's Check or Money Order for the difference because they "accidentally" paid too much. Once the seller finds out several days after cashing the check that it was no good, the Money Order or Cashier's Check has already been sent to the scammers and the seller is out that amount of money.

People **DO NOT** send checks for more money than an item costs. If you are inclined to believe a buyer did "accidentally" send a check for too much money, then at least wait a few days for the check to clear with your bank to make sure it is legitimate before sending any money back.

Just like the saying goes "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is..." If you think someone may be trying to scam you, contact your local law enforcement agency **BEFORE** sending any money. Remember to **NEVER** give out **ANY** of your personal information over the phone.

RELEASED BY DEPUTY KEVIN SUTHARD, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWS RELEASE?
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