



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

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Fraud Alert

Henrico Police have spoken to area residents who have become fraud victims and have suffered a financial loss as part of an on-going scam. A suspect makes a call in these reported instances, claiming your social security number has been linked to drug trafficking and money laundering. The suspect requests victims to remove all their money from their bank accounts so the funds will not be tied up in any criminal investigation.

In previous instances, the victims have been instructed to use gift cards and cryptocurrency to transfer their money. The suspected representative claims a local law enforcement agency member will contact them to receive the funds for safekeeping or transfer the money.

The victims then receive a call from an 804-501 number, which may vary; however, these 501 prefix numbers are well known throughout Henrico County and may seem legitimate to our community members. The suspect's goal is to gain the credibility of Henrico County or the Henrico County Police Division. These calls have been reported to take up to four hours and claim to be a law enforcement member. There have been threats of arrest or complex legal procedures if you do not comply, therefore causing a great deal of concern.

Henrico Police wants to remind residents of these safety tips:

- Know who you are dealing with, even if the phone number appears legitimate.
- Guard your personal information and do not give it out over the phone.
- Henrico Police will not ask to transfer money on your behalf.
- Henrico Police will not demand immediate payment from you,
- Henrico will not require payment by cash, gift-card, wire transfer, or any pre-paid cards.
- Work with your banking institutions to make sure you have increased safety measures on your accounts.

If you area have suffered a financial loss, contact your local law enforcement agency. Also, you may report social security scams online at <https://oig.ssa.gov>.

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