

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, January 31, 2014

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT POLICE IMPERSONATOR PHONE SCAM

The Metropolitan Police Department would like to inform the public about a consumer scam that is becoming more common. Consumers should be ever vigilant and always question why. Business' and law enforcement agencies won't mind and actually appreciate when consumer's question the legitimacy of correspondence or bills. So for your own protection consumers should scrutinize anything that is asking for or offering something.



Several complaints received were from out-of-state residents claiming that law enforcement personnel (calling from a 202 area code) have contacted them under the ruse of collecting money for outstanding bills, tickets or loans. In some instances, the suspect has even represented themselves as a detective with the Financial Crime Unit of The Metropolitan Police Department or as an IRS Agent.

In these cases the scammer uses a law enforcement angle to attempt to add legitimacy and urgency to the hoax by threatening arrest or prosecution. These scams always ask for money to be wired via Western Union, MoneyGram, or Greendot "MoneyPaks", in order for one to avoid prosecution. Often times they use the actual names of government or law enforcement personnel to enhance the credibility of the scam.

Scammers are increasingly using "Magic Jack" or VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). Magic Jack and VOIP are simply making phone calls thru a computer network. With this technology it is easy to make phone calls or conduct scams that appear to be local but are not. In these cases, the scammer can obtain a DC area code (or any area code) yet they are physically located overseas. Since the money is almost always transferred overseas, law enforcement officials are unable to investigate the crime and the wire service is unable to reimburse the funds.

Law enforcement agencies will not attempt to collect fines or outstanding debt from citizens. Furthermore, the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers via phone calls or email. Anytime that someone you don't personally know asks for any type of wire transfer, there is a 99% chance IT IS A SCAM.

Citizens should also be reminded to never give out their personal information in response to an unsolicited phone call or email.

» The Metropolitan Police Department takes all scams seriously. If you believe that you've been targeted by this type of scam, please contact the **Financial Crime and Fraud Unit:**

» 202-727-4159

» mpd.fraud-unit@dc.gov

» Have a tip? Anonymous information may be submitted to the department's **TEXT TIP LINE** by text messaging **50411**.

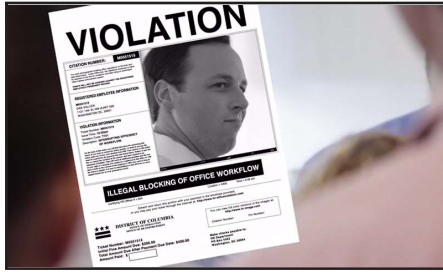
» Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Learn more about common con games and swindles at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/con-games-and-swindles>

WARNING PERIOD FOR NEW AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY ENDS TODAY

In November 2013, the Metropolitan Police Department announced the deployment of several new types of automated traffic enforcement as part of a new traffic safety campaign called DC Street Safe.

DC Street Safe is aimed at using new photo enforcement technologies to combat aggressive and dangerous driving habits that endanger some of our most vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicle drivers and passengers. Additionally, DC Street Safe allows traffic safety enforcement in areas and circumstances where it could be dangerous or impractical for police officers to pull over vehicles for violations. DC Street Safe will be comprised of the following new technologies:



» For more information about the new technology, the locations of all automated enforcement units, and DC Street Safe videos, please visit: <http://www.DCStreetsafe.org>.

- Gridlock enforcement units that will improve traffic flow by targeting “blocking the box” at intersections;
- Portable stop sign enforcement units to reduce violations in residential neighborhoods;
- Portable crosswalk enforcement units that will enhance pedestrian safety at crosswalks near schools, parks, and recreation centers;
- Speed enforcement units that will focus on intersections with known speeding problems;
- Units that will enforce rules on oversized and overweight commercial vehicles in order to reduce infrastructure damage and enhance quality of life in our neighborhoods.

The deployment locations for the automated traffic enforcement units were selected based on a variety of criteria, including sites with crashes and injuries, calls for service, high speed volume, near schools, or in zones prohibited for use by certain commercial vehicles. MPD also considered recommendations or requests from the Department of Transportation, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and community organizations.

The new automated traffic safety enforcement cameras were activated on Saturday, November 23 and cameras at new locations issued warnings to vehicles for violations until Friday, January 31, 2014. Cameras at new locations will begin issuing fines for violations on February 1, 2014.

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service — positive or negative — through MPD's email groups, our social media,

or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-843-5678 or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

Would you like *What's New in the MPD* emailed to you each week?

Register with DC.Gov at <http://dc.gov/DC/Subscribe/Email+Alerts>

LEARN MORE AT
mpdc.dc.gov