



**City of Newton Police Department
Detective Bureau**

Newton Police Department
Detective Bureau
25 Chestnut St.
Newton, MA 02465
Phone: 617-796-2104
Fax: 617-796-3680

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 the informational flyer titled ,“What To Do If You’re a Victim of Identity Theft. “

WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME A VICTIM

- 1.) **CONTACT THE THREE MAJOR CREDIT BUREAUS to place a fraud alert and “victim statement” on your credit report. Order a copy of your report from each bureau and review for any inaccuracies.**

EQUIFAX

to order your report call: 800/685-1111
or go online at: www.equifax.com

to report fraud call: **800/ 525-6285**
and write to: P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

EXPERIAN

to order your report call: 888/397-3742
or go online at: www.experian.com

to report fraud call: **888/ 397-3742**
and write to: P.O. Box 9532
Allen, TX 75013

TRANS UNION

to order your report call: 800/888-4213
or go online at: www.transunion.com

to report fraud call: **800/ 680-7289**
and write to: P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92634-6790

- 2.) **REVIEW YOUR CREDIT REPORTS and close any accounts you believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. (Continue to review your credit reports every six months)**
- 3.) **CHANGE P.I.N. numbers and passwords on existing accounts.**
- 4.) **CONTEST all fraudulent accounts with the effected financial institution / business in writing and follow up by sending them the Federal Trade Commission’s Identity Theft Affidavit. (found on the FTC’s website at: www.ftc.gov/idtheft)**
- 5.) **FILE A POLICE REPORT AND get a copy: BE PERSISTENT! The police report should identify all fraudulent activity. Under the “Police Report Initiative” the credit bureaus will accept a copy of the police report to block any fraudulent account information from appearing on your credit report.**
- 6.) **CONTACT the Federal Trade Commission at 877-IDTHEFT, or online at: www.ftc.gov/idtheft They will enter your complaint information into the national Identity Theft database and provide victim assistance and consumer education materials. Their website will also provide additional information about your rights as a victim and further explain all of the steps you will need to take to repair your good name.**

REPAIRING YOUR CREDIT MAY BE A TIME CONSUMING AND FRUSTRATING UNDERTAKING.

KEEP A DETAILED LOG OF EVERY STEP YOU TAKE

THESE RECORDS WILL BE USEFUL AS YOU CONTEST ANY FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY AND FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IF AN INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED.