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News Release

HPD Warns Residents of Recent Scams

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The Harrisonburg Police Department has recently learned of attempts to apparently defraud individuals into providing banking and personal information to unknown persons. This information would likely be used to steal would-be victims' funds or identities. Recent attempts to defraud local residents include scams from an individual alleging to be international banker who offers to share the proceeds from an unclaimed bank account belonging to a deceased client. Other scams may ask individuals to transfer funds or send a check to a domestic address in order to claim a larger amount of sweepstakes winnings or other type of monetary prize. A recent apparent internet scam offers loans to individuals, but asks applicants to send "processing" or "application" fees via Western Union and then after the transfer takes place the individual who initially contacted the applicants disappears.

HPD would like to remind the public that no one should ever contact any individual unsolicited and ask for his or her banking, credit card, or other financial information over the phone or through e-mail. As a general rule, if an offer seems too good to be true, it likely involves some sort of fraud, and HPD cautions anyone from pursuing such offers. In the event that an individual becomes a victim to such a scheme, HPD recommends that the victim or would-be victim notify the primary law enforcement agency in his or her locality.

Callers are able to remain anonymous by calling Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050. Tipsters may also text "HPD" plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).