



**For Immediate Release:** March 3, 2016

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Criminal Investigations Division  
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## **Local Restaurant Reports Internal Credit Card Fraud**

On February 17, 2016, a local restaurant consulted with officers with the Harrisonburg Police Department regarding how to correct a billing problem that it had identified at the business. The restaurant, Food.Bar.Food, which is located on W. Bruce Street, reported that an employee had altered several credit card receipts to reflect higher than authorized tips from customers. The business learned of the discrepancies when a customer noticed that a tip amount had been increased by \$5.00.

Upon further inspection of its receipts, the owner at the restaurant realized that there were likely additional victims and worked with the HPD in determining the extent of the scheme. The investigation has since revealed that receipts from as far back as September 12, 2015 may have been altered. Altogether, it appears that more than 60 receipts were altered between September 12, 2015 and February 16, 2016, and over \$200 in unauthorized tips were involved in this case. Since the unauthorized tips in most of these receipts were for relatively minor amounts ranging from \$1.00 to \$10.00, many of the victims may not realize they were victimized.

The Harrisonburg Police Department has a partial list of victims' names in this case, but not all credit and debit card receipts provide the card owner's name. The owner at Food.Bar.Food has stated that the restaurant is in the process of reimbursing its patrons who had unauthorized tips added to their bills. The Harrisonburg Police Department requests that patrons of the restaurant who believe they may have been the victims of an unauthorized tip contact its Criminal Investigations Division at 540-437-2640 to determine the proper course of action. Those patrons who wish to be reimbursed for the unauthorized amount of a tip but do not wish to be involved in the investigation may contact the business directly with questions at 540-433-3663.