



For Immediate Release
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Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Harrisonburg, VA – As part of the Crime Prevention initiative of the Harrisonburg Police Department, monthly tips are provided to residents and business owners in an effort to reduce crime with a specific type of crime highlighted each month. This month HPD will focus on Counterfeit Bills, a crime that affects business owners and the community alike. Recently, there has been an increase in reports of businesses receiving counterfeit money in the city. Some tips for business owners to be aware of when accepting cash from a customer are:

- Check the watermark! Aside from \$1 bills, all other bills have a water mark on the right side of the bill. This can be done by holding the bill up to the light.
- Look for Water Damage and Definition! Real money is printed on cotton and linen so that the ink will not smudge when wet. Additionally, each strand of hair is clearly defined whereas on counterfeit bills, it may appear blurry.
- Upgrade your technology! Some counterfeit bills will pass the pen test when marked on. A counterfeit bill scanner can be purchased for around \$100.00 and can save your business money later.
- Check the print! Recently, majority of the counterfeit bills Harrisonburg Police have collected are marked with “for motion use only” where real bills read “United States of America.”

For more information on how you can protect yourself or your business from these types of scams visit <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/> or contact HPD directly at (540) 437-2650.

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