



For Immediate Release  
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## Community Alert – Fraudulent Phone Calls

Harrisonburg VA – On October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the Harrisonburg Police Department received reports of an individual calling area residents and posing as an official from the federal court system. The caller stated during each of the calls that he was a representative of the court and informed the victim that he or she had missed a court appearance. As a consequence of missing the court appearance, the caller stated that an arrest warrant would be issued if the resident did not pay money for a subsequent bond. The caller further instructed the victim in each call to purchase prepaid credit cards and provide the numbers on the cards to the caller by phone. In one of the cases the victim was defrauded of funds and in another case the victim recognized the scam as fraudulent. On both occasions the caller appeared to be a male with no distinguishable accent.

The Harrisonburg Police Department wishes to warn other community members about this and other types of phone scams. Generally, no official transaction should take place via prepaid credit cards, and a person should never provide financial or personal information to unknown individuals over the phone. Similar scams have taken place via e-mail or other internet-based platforms on a regular basis. If a person believes to have been the victim of a scam or other type of fraudulent scheme, he or she should report these incidents to law enforcement.

Anyone with information pertaining to this or other cases should contact the Major Crimes Unit at (540) 437-2640. Callers can provide anonymous tips at CrimeSolvers: 540-574-5050 or text "HPD" plus the tip to CRIMES (274637). Witnesses are reminded that CrimeSolvers may award monetary compensation for providing pertinent information regarding this or other criminal investigations.