



For Immediate Release
October 5, 2018

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Harrisonburg, VA – On Thursday, October 4, 2018 the Harrisonburg Police Department received three scam complaints from local citizens claiming someone had contacted them by phone impersonating a local law enforcement officer. The offender advised the victim they had missed a court date and in order to avoid criminal charges they must provide prepaid credit/debit card numbers over the phone which amounts totaled over several thousand dollars. The number from which the offender contacted the victims was disguised to be a local law enforcement agency's telephone number and also used the name of a local law enforcement officer.

The Harrisonburg Police Department along with other law enforcement agencies are working to investigate these scams, however want to remind the public to be very diligent when receiving these types of phone calls. Legitimate law enforcement and court officials will never engage in this type of request nor ask for funds to be paid over the phone in this manner. Unfortunately, once the information has been provided to the offender it is often very difficult for law enforcement to recover the funds for the victim.

If you have received a phone call like this or feel you have been a victim of a telephone scam involving the impersonation of a local law enforcement officer, the Harrisonburg Police Department requests you to report it by calling the non-emergency number (540) 434-4436 with information. Anonymous tips related to this investigation can be sent to Crime Solvers by calling 540-574-5050 or text "HPD" plus the tip to CRIMES (274637).

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