

Hello again Neighborhood Watch,

If you think you have been involved with a scam, please call the Sheriff's Office at 727-582-6200 and file a report.

Employment Scam:

With many people out of work due to the Corona virus:

- A victim may post their personal information on an employment website such as Indeed.com, LinkedIn, & Care.com.
- These websites can be infiltrated by imposters posing as legitimate employers.
- The victim is contacted and believes they are speaking to a legitimate employer however, it is the imposter.

Craigslist or eBay Scam:

- The victim may place an ad on either Craigslist or eBay attempting to sell an item.
- The scammer will contact the victim stating they want to purchase the item.
- The scammer then sends a check to the victim and requests the check be deposited into their bank account.
- The check is usually for a larger amount than the item is being sold for.
- The scammer advises the victim the extra funds are for the moving company for the item.
- The scammer requests the victim deposit the check into their bank account and remove the excess funds to provide to the moving company at a later date. The victim is instructed to send a predetermined amount of money via wire transfer or gift cards.
- The bank will later advise the victim the check was counterfeit and the victim is now responsible for the amount of the check and any overdraft fees that came as a result of the check.

Secret Shopper Scam:

- A person is hired by a research firm to visit retailers and file reports.

The victim replies to a post from an email, Facebook posting, Craigslist ad, etc. offering employment.
- The victim receives a check payable for a large sum and is told to deposit the check and make a cash withdrawal to complete the job, which entails a large financial transaction.
- The information on the check may be true, but it is a counterfeit check. The check will not clear and the victim is accountable for any negative balance.

The above information was provided by Deputy Sean O'Brien, our Neighborhood Watch deputy.