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NEWS RELEASE

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Recent phone scams reported in Norfolk Area.

The Norfolk Police Division has received complaints from Norfolk residents pertaining to a phone scam. Residents have reported that they received a phone call from someone claiming to with a sweepstake company. The caller claims you have won a large sum of money or extravagant prizes. The caller instructs the victim that they first must pay the "taxes" on the winnings and to wire or send cash or cashier's checks to handle these taxes and fees. Variations of the scam would be that the caller directly asks for the victim's personal and banking information or for the victim to send iTunes, Green-Dot, or prepaid credit cards.

The Norfolk Police Division would like to remind everyone that no personal information such as social security numbers, dates of birth, bank account information or any other financial information should be given over the phone in situations such as this. The caller is simply trying to trick the victim into providing this information in an effort to steal the victim's identity and get access to the victim's financial accounts or to simply steal their money. Additionally, no legitimate sweepstake, raffle or contest will require this type of contact and request for pre-payment of taxes or fees.

If you feel that you have been a victim of a scam, you are urged to contact your local law enforcement.

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