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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Recent scam reported in Norfolk Area.

The Norfolk Police Division has received complaints from Norfolk residents pertaining to a scam. People reported that they received a phone call from someone claiming to be with "Publishers Clearing House." The caller says that you have won millions of dollars and prizes including high end cars and travel vouchers. They may request your personal information for the IRS or tell you that there is a "holding fee" and that they should send Green Dot MoneyPaks for payment of this fee. MoneyPaks are used to top up existing Green Dot debit cards. The victim sends details of the card to the "broker." These are used to top up the crook's own Green Dot card -- and then quickly drained at an ATM.

In other words, it's a money transfer that bypasses the traditional cash-wiring companies and offers a far more effective cloak of anonymity for the advance fee scammers.

The scammer will be very persistent use guilt to compel the victim to provide financial information, money, or now, MoneyPaks.

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 or to get access to the victim's financial accounts.

The Publisher Clearing House Website comments on situations such as this:

"If you are ever contacted by someone claiming to represent PCH, or claiming to be one of our employees, and asked to send or wire money (for any reason whatsoever, including taxes); or send a pre-paid gift card or Green Dot Moneypak card in order to claim a sweepstakes prize – DON'T! It's a SCAM. If you are sent a check, told it's a partial prize award, and asked to cash it and send a portion back to claim the full prize award, DON'T. The check is fake, but the SCAM is real!"

<http://info.pch.com/consumer-information/fraud-protection>

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

**Service-Honor-Commitment**