

City of Norfolk  **SHERIFF**

FRAUD WATCH

Volume #2 - Summer, 2024

Did someone tell you that you missed jury duty? It's probably a scam

Sheriff Joe Baron and the Norfolk Sheriff's Office Consumer Protection Unit are warning citizens of a jury duty scam once again making its rounds in the Norfolk area. We have recently been contacted by several citizens who have received calls from someone portraying themselves as an employee of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office, claiming the citizen missed jury duty and must pay a fine to avoid jail time. The caller says the citizen must pay approximately \$2,500 per fine and tells the citizen they have multiple fines, stating they owe several thousand dollars in fines.



To get the word out about this scam and other likes it, the Norfolk Sheriff's Office recently purchased billboard space in high traffic areas around Norfolk. Additionally, Sheriff Joe Baron has put together a scam task force comprised of sheriff's office employees who have been visiting area businesses dropping off scam alert posters. These posters have been distributed to over 100 businesses in Norfolk.

As a reminder, the Norfolk Sheriff's Office will NEVER call asking for money over the phone and correspondence regarding jury duty is always done through the mail. Additionally, we will NEVER call and tell someone there is a warrant for their arrest.

It's important to note, Virginia State Code § 8.01-356 states "If any juror who has been given due notice to appear in court shall fail to do so without sufficient excuse, he shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$200." Meaning, you will never be arrested for missing jury duty and never have to pay more than \$200.

We ask that any resident who has fallen victim to this scam and sent money to the callers, please contact the Norfolk Police Department's Economic Crimes Division to file a report.

There's much more information available on our website at
<https://norfolk-sheriff.com/fraudwatch>

Consumer Alerts

From the Federal Trade Commission



Sure ways to spot a scammer

Scammers say and do things that can tell us they're lying — and they're not who they pretend to be. Of course, to hear or see those clues, we have to get past the panic scammers make us feel, thanks to the so-called emergencies they try to create. And since scammers are convincing, that can be hard to do. But recent scams are costing people their life savings.

The Federal Trade Commission has come up with a sort of checklist to help you figure out if someone is trying to scam you. You can find it in this post on their website:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/03/sure-ways-spot-scammer>

Got a call about fraud activity on your bank account? It could be a scammer

Did someone supposedly spot fraud or criminal activity on one of your accounts? Did they offer to help “protect” your money by moving it from your bank, investment, or retirement account? Maybe they even asked you to share a verification code? If anyone did any of those things, it's always a scam. So, what do you do next?

The Federal Trade Commission offers great advice for what you can do if you believe you've been a victim of fraud. You can learn more from this post on their website:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/06/got-call-about-fraud-activity-your-bank-account-it-could-be-scammer>

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