



Tinley Park Police Department **COMMUNITY ALERT** **SCAMS**

Tinley Park residents are being reminded that the Tinley Park Police Department will not call residents requesting payment for fines or fees. Unsuspecting village residents are being contacted by scammers requesting payment for missed court dates and fines. Scammers ask for payments from victims by purchasing gift cards in large amounts of U.S. currency. Once purchased scammers ask victims to call back with gift card account numbers. The cash value of the gift cards is removed by the scammers and the cards are left with the unsuspecting victims.

Residents are asked to contact the Tinley Park Police Department at 708-532-9111 and verify all information if they believe the telephone calls are legitimate. Scammers have used actual Tinley Park Police Department officers' names in some cases and have used disposable cellular telephones to legitimize the scam. The Tinley Park Police Department will not ever request residents to pay fines or fees by gift card. These scammers are not local and obtain information from websites. Residents are asked to call the Tinley Park Police Department and verify any and all information.

TIPS ON AVOIDING SCAMMERS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Be wary of inbound calls, emails or texts that ask for personal information, including your Social Security number, bank account information and medical details.
- ✓ If someone claims you owe money and insists you buy gift cards to repay the debt, don't believe it. Genuine businesses and government agencies never ask for payment via gift card.
- ✓ Don't click on links or download files from unexpected emails, even if the address looks familiar.
- ✓ Watch over your credit reports, don't carry PIN numbers or passwords in your wallet or purse, and protect your mail – don't let incoming or outgoing mail sit in your mailbox.

Scammers are regularly evolving their techniques to defraud you, so be wary of anything unsolicited and always independently verify an offer or request.

See Something, Say Something . . . Call 911