



CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

POLICE DEPARTMENT



William M. Breault
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOVER POLICE DPEARTMENT ANNOUCES PUBLIC WARNING ON SCAM PHONE CALLS

DOVER, NH, July 24, 2019, Chief William Breault of the Dover Police Department would like to alert the public regarding scam phone calls being perpetrated by individuals posing as members of the Dover Police Department.

On July 23, 2019, a Dover resident called police after receiving a suspicious phone call in which the caller told the resident he/she was “delinquent on payments” and would be arrested unless he/she purchased specific gift cards and provided the serial numbers over the phone. In this particular incident, the caller used an online application to “spoof” the police department’s phone number so it appeared on the resident’s caller ID as (603) 742-4646, which is the actual phone number to the police department.

This type of scam has been used nationally. The caller(s) pose as representatives from various law enforcement agencies and threaten arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment unless paid. They will demand payment via gift card or ask for personal information such as a social security number or date of birth. Suspects often target the elderly and can be aggressive on the phone.

This is not a method used by any actual law enforcement agency. The Dover Police Department does not make requests for payment over the phone. Furthermore, there are no circumstances under which court ordered payments or money to satisfy a bail fee can be paid via gift cards. People are reminded to never release personal or financial information over the phone unless they initiated the call and are certain who they are speaking with.

Any phone calls of this nature should be viewed with skepticism and reported directly to the police department. If a member of the police department contacts you and you have concerns that the person is misrepresenting themselves, you are encouraged to verify this person’s identity by contacting the Dover Police Department at (603) 742-4646.