



Highland Park Department of Public Safety
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Press Release

for immediate release

HPDPS Advisory: Scam Calls with Spoofing Component

April 5, 2021 (Highland Park, Texas) – A Communications Specialist with Highland Park Department of Safety (HPDPS) spoke with a panicked caller who believed there were outstanding HPDPS warrants of “Failure to Appear” and “Contempt of Court” for the caller’s arrest. The HPDPS Communications Specialist quickly realized the caller was the intended victim of an imposter scam and assured the caller the phone call was part of a known Arrest Warrant Scam. While the story may vary, this type of imposter scam uses the threat of an arrest to manipulate the intended victim into paying money to the scammers.

The imposters behind the Arrest Warrant Scam will utilize a variety of tactics to make themselves sound legitimate: 1) the phone number on the caller ID will appear to originate from an official law enforcement agency, “spoofing”; 2) say terms and phrases normally associated with law enforcement; 3) use the name of real law enforcement personnel; and 4) name-drop a court official. When combined, these imposter scams use strategies that are designed to prey on fears and generate a sense of urgency.

A key red flag warning for this type of scam: the imposter will direct the intended victim to pay in unusual increments by unconventional means (e.g., gift card, wire transfer, pre-paid debit card, vouchers) to satisfy the non-existent warrant. Should you receive a phone call similar to any of the above scenarios, one where the caller claims to be with “Highland Park Police Department,” do not provide the caller with any personal information, and contact our non-emergency number, 214-521-5000.

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