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**THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Richmond-** In different parts of the United States citizens are being targeted with phone calls and emails threatening with prosecution for failing to comply with Jury Duty. In recent days the Richmond City Sheriff's Office has been having an influx of cold calls from scammers pretending to be Richmond City Sheriff's Deputies or deputies from other localities. Recently there have been scammers calling from a 606# identifying themselves as actual Deputies. If they can't reach a person they will leave a voicemail stating that they need to discuss important information due to missing jury duty in lieu of being arrested a payment must be made. They will also ask for personal information for verification purposes as well as payment over the phone. We will never ask for payment of any type over the phone or in person.

There seems to be a resurgence of these types of scams in recent months. The victims of these calls are most often senior citizens or women. The scammer will pick up on the fear in the voice of the citizen and realize that they have put them in a vulnerable position, and they use that moment to strike. These scams are bold and simple, but highly effective. Most people will buy into this because of fear, and they are willing to pay any cost necessary to avoid being arrested.

Persons receiving such telephone calls or emails should not provide the requested information and should notify their local Sheriff's Office, Police Department, the Clerk of Court's office, or the U.S. District Court in their area.

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