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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 them with prosecution for failing to comply with jury duty. In recent days the Richmond City Sheriff's Office has been made aware of the influx of cold calls from scammers pretending to be Richmond City Sheriff's Deputies. The caller will most likely identify himself/herself as an officer of the court, or a Sheriff's Deputy. He or she may say you have failed to report for Jury Duty and a warrant is out for your arrest. They will ask for your information for verification purposes. The callers are also now asking the unsuspecting victims to meet them at different areas with cash in lieu of being arrested. The caller may also advise the citizen that they have a capias out for their arrest and must pay fines and fees. The Richmond City Sheriff's Office nor any other Sheriff's Office would never ask anyone for confidential information over the phone such as your bank account or social security number. Most importantly we will never ask for payment over the phone.

There will be an influx of these calls to unsuspecting citizens as the biggest holiday is now approaching. Scammers are trying to get money the quickest way possible. Persons receiving such a telephone call or email should not provide the requested information and should notify their local Sheriff's Office, the Clerk of Court's office, or the U.S. District Court in their area.

Jury scams have been around for quite some time, but there seems to have been a resurgence of this in recent months. The victims of these calls seem to most often be 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. This scam is bold, simple, but highly effective. Most people buy into this because of fear, and they are willing to pay any cost necessary to avoid being arrested.

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