



OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

SUMMIT COUNTY, CO – The Summit County Sheriff’s Office wants to remind the public to be vigilant in recognizing scams. Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams. The amount lost can vary from a few dollars to a considerable sum of money. Recently there has been a scam in Summit County that was reported by citizens. During the scam, people have reported that they have received a voicemail from a “Deputy Walker” stating they have missed a traffic ticket payment, missed jury duty, or have an outstanding warrant and are provided with a call back number. When this number was called back it led to a message stating “this is the county Sheriff and all deputies are busy please leave your message.” If there were a warrant issued for someone’s arrest, law enforcement would come to your house to execute that warrant. This type of information would never be released over the telephone.

Scammers will say anything to get information from you to use for their benefit. They may claim to be affiliated with an entity you trust to convince you to offer personal information such as a credit card or your social security number. Telephone scams are prevalent and can target anyone. Please be aware of who you are speaking to and remember that any sort of tactic may be used to gather information. The IRS scam that has targeted thousands of people is still occurring. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 736,000 scam contacts since October 2013. Nearly 4,550 victims have collectively paid over \$23 million as a result of the scam. Do not be a victim. If someone calls you that you are not familiar with do not give out your information and hang up immediately.

Unfortunately, this type of fraud scheme dilutes people's trust or belief in who they're really speaking with. Please be mindful when dealing with suspicious phone calls. Do not give out personal information. Should you have any questions or doubts about phone calls you are receiving please call Summit County Dispatch at 970-668-8600.

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