

Hello Neighborhood Watch members,

I was made aware of local scam call from a local resident. Below is her email (Windows SCAM CALL) and I wanted to share it with other Pinellas County residents.

Another recent scam in Pasco County involved someone pretending to be with the Sheriff's Office. A person would call and identify himself as a deputy. He would tell residents they had a warrant for their arrest... but they could pay a "fine" and the charges would be dismissed. Arrest warrants are NEVER handled this way. If you have any questions about any criminal charges or fines contact the Sheriff's Office using a number you know is valid (582-6200) and not any number or website the caller gives you.

These scams can be people claiming to be with the government (local, state or federal), a cable or utility company or any other company that might want payment for a service. The one thing in common is they claim "you owe money". They scare you with arrest, law suits or cutting off your service if payment is not made immediately. Scammers are very convincing and if you think it could be true- DO NOT PAY ANYTHING. HANG-UP and then call the agency/business using a number you know is valid to verify the claim.

Here's another RED FLAG: Scammers many times want payment via a credit card **gift card** (Gold Dot Card). It's fast and untraceable. Don't do it!

SUBJECT: Windows SCAM CALLS:

We've been informed that there are calls coming into our homes under the guise of " Windows Licensing" . The callers state that your license has expired and that you need to renew it immediately or your computer will not operate.

Upon calling Microsoft/Windows support @ [1-800-642-7676](tel:1-800-642-7676) (their official number) we are told indeed the calls are a scam. They stated Windows will never call with such a message and definitely, nothing about licensing. Do not answer the scam call for all they want to do is get into your computer. They stated they try to stop these but new ones keep creeping up.

Windows would like people to report the scams by going to: support.microsoft.com/reportofscam

Thank you to our residents for bringing this to our Neighborhood Watch attention.

Once again, our residents are vigilant and helping us remain safe.

Deputy Jessica Hughey
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"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, please do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.