

Nassau County



Police Department

LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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PATRICK J. RYDER
POLICE COMMISSIONER

September 10, 2020

Dear Elected Official:

As Commissioner of Police I would like to take this opportunity to bring to light an increase in phone scams directed at our elderly residents which is occurring across Nassau County. Our Detectives are pursuing all leads in these cases and effect arrests when possible.

Education of our residents plays an important part in deterring and solving these crimes. Some very simple measures can be applied to greatly assist the Police Department to decrease this criminal activity. Our intelligence shows that our seniors are being targeted by unknown callers stating that a relative of the victim has either been hurt in an accident or has been arrested. A monetary amount of cash or gift cards are discussed as a form of bail or for medical treatment. The caller then makes plans to pick up the money/gift cards from the victim. Many times this becomes a crime of opportunity and our residents should be aware that criminals spend hours a day in their attempts to scam unsuspecting victims.

I am requesting your assistance to educate our residents so that in a collaborative effort we can decrease the number of our elderly residents from becoming victims. This can be done using some simple safeguards listed below:

- If a resident receives a call stating that a relative is in need of assistance, they should immediately call a family member to ascertain if the individual in question is safe, uninjured and not in police custody.*
- Call the police immediately to report this type of crime so that our Detectives can commence an immediate investigation.*
- Always confirm who you are speaking to and never provide any personal information over the phone.*

I appreciate your partnership in this matter and all issues regarding public safety. Please forward this important information to your senior groups and residents. Together we will continue to keep Nassau County one of the safest suburban counties in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick J. Ryder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick J. Ryder
Commissioner of Police