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CHIEF OF POLICE

# NEWS RELEASE

PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **For More Information:**

Lieutenant Tim Bundy: 626-744-4507

## **Impersonating a Police Officer Scams**

**Pasadena, CA** – Several Pasadena residents have recently been contacted by imposters claiming to be officers from the “Pasadena Sheriff’s Department.” The callers spoof a legitimate Pasadena PD or LA County courthouse telephone number to make the call appear legitimate. They then tell the victim they have an outstanding warrant for some alleged violation and threaten to arrest the victim unless they provide immediate payment.

These types of scams generally have the following common characteristics:

- The call appears to be from a legitimate law enforcement number. The caller may even tell the victim to verify the telephone number online.
- The caller knows the victim’s name, telephone number, and address.
- The caller uses threats of arrest to create a sense of extreme urgency. This prevents the victim from realizing what is happening or being able to verify the caller’s claims.
- The caller demands immediate payment, generally via gift cards or Bitcoin.
- The caller will insist the victim stay on the line with them until payment is made, again by threatening arrest.

Ways to Avoid being Scammed:

- Pasadena PD Officers and other law enforcement agencies will NEVER contact you and demand payment over the phone.
- Law enforcement agencies will not accept payment for any legitimate fees by gift card or Bitcoin.
- Hang up, then verify the caller’s identity by reaching out to the law enforcement agency independently and confirming what the caller is telling you.
- Be wary of any type of high-pressure calls insisting on immediate payment.

Anyone with information about these scams is encouraged to call the Pasadena Police at (626) 744-4241 or report information anonymously by contacting "Crime Stoppers" at (800) 222-TIPS (8477), via your smartphone by downloading the "P3 Tips" Mobile APP on Google play or the Apple App Store, or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

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