



18th District Community Alert

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

There have been multiple financial crimes reported in the 18th District involving cash and credit card scams being perpetrated against Senior Citizens.

In the *first* scenario, the caller, typically female, identifies herself as a representative of a legitimate financial institution where the Senior has an account.

The female caller states they are investigating a bank teller who may be making unauthorized transactions against their account. The bank representative pleads for help in setting up a “sting” to catch the bank teller. The Senior is then instructed to withdraw large amounts of cash from their account, which the bank is saying is sting money for the operation and not really the Senior’s personal funds. Once the monies are withdrawn, the Senior is instructed to leave the cash in an envelope with their doorman, to be picked up by bank personnel. The Senior complies, believing they are returning the banks money, when in fact; they are really handing over their own funds.

In the *second* scenario, the caller, typically female, identifies herself as an Asset Protection Investigator of a legitimate credit card company.

The caller has specific identifying information regarding the Senior and their credit card accounts and informs the victim that their credit cards have been involved in fraudulent activity. The Senior is told their current credit card(s) will be cancelled, and that they need to be picked up immediately by investigating personnel. The senior is given new pin numbers in exchange for the old one(s) and told that their new cards will be arriving in the mail. The Senior is instructed to leave their “fraudulent” credit cards in an envelope with the doorman to be picked up by an investigator.

Building managers and doormen are asked to be particularly vigilant. If you suspect an elderly tenant may be a victim of this type of crime, please call 911.

If you have questions contact the 18th District Community Policing Office at 312-742-5778 or Area 3 Detective Division at 312-742-8263.