

Important Public Information:

The Police Department is advising all residents and business owners to be aware of several scams taking place and have become more frequent lately.

The scam, primarily affecting businesses, is called the "PECO" scam. A person calls the business and advises them their electricity will be shut off in several hours if a payment is not made. The payments vary in amount but the method of payment has to be a "Green Dot" or similar card purchased at local pharmacies, discount stores, etc.. Once the card is purchased the caller accepts a call back from the victim and requests the numbers from the card as payment for their "electric bill". Unfortunately, this money cannot be retrieved from that point forward. Business owners may fall victim to avoid losing electricity and having to shut their business for the day.

The second scam, affecting residents, has several variations but includes telling the victim they owe money to the IRS and must obtain a card with a prepaid amount of money and read the number to the caller. It is unknown how many victims lose money to this scam because they are reluctant to report it for fear of embarrassment.