



**Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr., County of Charleston, South Carolina**

Charleston County Sheriff's Office  
Law Enforcement Center  
3691 Leeds Avenue  
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

Major Eric Watson  
Public Information Officer  
Office: (843) 554-2442  
Fax: (843) 529-5344  
[ewatson@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:ewatson@charlestoncounty.org)

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:  
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**Public Awareness: Treasury Scam Alert**

(Charleston County, SC) Over the past few days, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office has received complaints from citizens reporting that they have received phone calls or emails from individuals claiming to be representatives of the United States Treasury Department. The scammers call an individual asserting that the individual has been awarded a grant or a similar sum of money and request personal information or a sum of money to "release" the funds. The United States Treasury Department does not have such a program. Furthermore, e-mails promising a sum of money and purporting to be from the Treasury Secretary are false.

We urge recipients of such calls or e-mails to be extremely wary of any scheme requiring an advance payment for a later promise of funds—these are hallmarks of scams. A similar scam is a caller falsely representing that he/she is from the Internal Revenue Service or impersonating an investigator from this Office and demanding payment or information. Some of these callers have been described as threatening or abusive, and tell victims they need to make immediate payment to forestall arrest. THESE ARE FRAUDS. PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION IN YOUR DEALINGS WITH ANYONE PURPORTING TO BE FROM A GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND DEMANDING MONEY OR INFORMATION.

Further information concerning these scams are available at <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Repeats-Warning-about-Phone-Scams>.

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