



Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office

71 Main Street
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900
(908) 788-1166 Fax (908) 806-4624
www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/sheriff.htm

Frederick W. Brown
Sheriff

Frank J. Cordero
Undersheriff

Robert W. Smith
Undersheriff

Edward W. Davis
Chief Warrant Officer

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Internet / Telephone Fraud Crime

On the evening of Tuesday, February 11, 2020, Sheriff Brown received a telephone call from a "Distraught Citizen" who wanted to make sure that the money was received ?

When the Sheriff informed the individual that he had no idea as to what was meant by "did you receive the money"? Sheriff Brown requested that the citizen start from the beginning. The citizen told Sheriff Brown that earlier in the day, he had received a "Robo Call" from "Social Security" which informed him that his Social Security number had been used in a crime outside of the state of New Jersey, and therefore he needed to protect his assets.

The citizen was directed to push number one on his telephone keypad for further information. The citizen followed the prompt and was connected to a "Foreign Sounding" individual who advised him that his Social Security number was involved in a crime in another state, and that he needed to immediately protect his financial assets as his account was compromised. The individual then advised the citizen to withdraw his money from his bank and purchase an "Electronic Debit Card" for the purpose of safeguarding his money.

Following the perpetrator's instructions, the citizen placed more than \$10,000.00 of his personal savings on a debit card, and then gave the individual the card's account information.

The Sheriff informed the citizen that he was a victim of "Internet/Telephone Fraud" and that he should immediately try and stop payment on the card. Additionally, Sheriff Brown put the victim in contact with his local Law Enforcement Agency for further assistance.

Sheriff Brown again wishes to remind all residents of Hunterdon County of the prevalence of internet and telephone crime scams, and that No Governmental Agency will ever contact a resident by phone, or via the internet for the purpose of soliciting or collecting money for any reason, be it alleged fines, bail or to protect their money. Furthermore, never give out any personal identifiers online, or by telephone such as your social security number, credit card or bank account information. **If you receive any suspicious calls requesting personal and or financial information immediately hang up and notify your local law enforcement agency.**