



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### Scams Targeting Law Enforcement Plague Area

July 1, 2015—The Washington County Sheriff's Office and local police agencies have received numerous complaints from the public concerning a warrant or jury duty scam. The caller would ask for a payoff to avoid arresting the person that supposedly had a warrant, missed jury duty or had other financial issues.

The scammer would call a phone number at random and identify themselves as a Washington County Deputy Sheriff and would say the person currently has a warrant for their arrest. Lately, there have been reports that the person will identify themselves as Chief Deputy Willie Bose from the Washington County Sheriff's Office. The name and rank will change but the scam is the same. Some people reported that if they missed the call, the person would leave a message for them to call back.

As the conversation progressed, the person would tell the victim that they will be arrested if they did not buy a Green Dot prepaid card in a specified amount to pay the fine. Once the victim had the card, the person would then arrange a location to meet them and obtain the card. The person would threaten to arrest them if they didn't pay the fine.

**No law enforcement agency will ever call demanding money to clear a warrant or for any other reason.** If a person has a warrant for their arrest, a law enforcement officer is required to take them into custody and not take any type of payment to clear the warrant. We are advising anyone who receives a call like this to report it immediately.

Other local law enforcement agencies have received reports with similar circumstances. This scam is a variation of other incidents where scammers will call or email with the promise of something in exchange for cash, Green Dot prepaid cards, money wires, or any other form of payment that involves urgency. These are all scams to cheat you out of your money. Prepaid cards are considered as good as cash. Once a person has the secreted code located on the back of the card, your money is lost and very difficult to trace.

The Sheriff's Office reminds the public to never send money in any form to someone you don't personally know or do business with routinely. These requests are a concern for law enforcement with individuals attempting to cheat you out of your money through various methods.

Investigators are seeking the public's help regarding similar scam cases. If you have any information, or have recently received a solicitation that seemed suspicious, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 629-0111.