



CITY OF RICHMOND
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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2025

Richmond- The Richmond City Sheriff's Office would like to make citizens aware of ongoing scams through phone calls, emails, and text, threatening victims with prosecution pretending to be deputies from local agencies. As a reminder no deputy would call to notify you of missed jury duty or not reporting for court, nor would a deputy advise there is a warrant for your arrest by telephone. The Richmond City Sheriff's Office nor any other Law Enforcement Agency would never ask for confidential information over the phone such as your address, date of birth, **bank account** or social **security number**.

Be on the lookout for the following types of scams. In one instance, the caller is identifying himself/herself as an officer of the court, or a Sheriff's Deputy. He/she/they may say you have failed to report for Jury Duty and a warrant is out for your arrest, then ask you to identify your information for verification. No officer would ask you to identify yourself via telephone. The caller will then ask you to meet them at different areas with cash, or gift cards instead of being arrested. In another instance, the caller will advise that there is a capias out for your arrest, and you must pay fines and fees to not be arrested. **THESE ARE SCAMS, Please HANG UP, immediately.**

Some ways that you may be able to identify a scammer is by looking for red flags such as unsolicited requests for money or personal information. We will never ask for payment for jury duty or a warrant. Scammers may also try to send unsolicited emails or text messages and will pressure you once you have responded to them. Scammers will also use scare tactics to coerce you into doing what they want. The scammer will pick up on the fear in your voice, and they use that moment to strike.

If someone calls you with an unfamiliar number do not answer, contact the local jurisdiction number listed not the number you were contacted from. These scams are bold and simple, but highly effective. Persons receiving such telephone calls or emails should not provide the requested information and should notify their local Sheriff's Office, the Clerk of Court's office, or the U.S. District Court in their area.