



PRESS RELEASE

August 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Possible Telephone Scam
CASE NUMBER: 1602835
DATE OCCURRED: August 10, 2016
TIME OCCURRED: 1:32 p.m.
CONTACT PERSON: Lieutenant Troy Fry

On Wednesday, August 10, 2016, at approximately 1:32 p.m. officers from the San Bruno Police Department spoke with a resident of the 1000 block of East Huntington Avenue regarding a possible telephone scam.

The resident informed officers that he had received several telephone calls from unfamiliar telephone numbers. The resident told officers the various numbers showed up on the caller ID function on his telephone. The caller identified himself to this resident as a representative from the Internal Revenue Service and demanded payment. The resident reported receiving similar calls from "911" and "650-616-7100." The resident recognized telephone number 650-616-7100 as the number to the San Bruno Police Department. The resident reported these call to the police department lost no money as a result of these calls.

Officers determined there are several cellular phone applications that allow the user to customize the caller ID information that appears on the phone of the person receiving a call. It appears the caller in this case utilized one of these applications.

Telephone scammers are getting more sophisticated, as is the technology available to them.

If you are ever unsure that you are speaking to a legitimate San Bruno Police Officer, please tell the person you are speaking with that you will call them back. Our officers are all very aware of these scams and will not be offended.

This sophisticated technology, in addition to allowing these scammers to use any caller ID they choose, also allows them to call from anywhere in the world.

The phone numbers they display are most often fake, and tracking these criminals is extremely difficult.

The best defense against becoming a victim of a telephone scam is knowledge.

Points to remember:

- **NO** Law Enforcement Agency will call and demand money over the telephone
- The Internal Revenue Service will **never** call and demand money over the telephone
- If you are asked to send money via Western Union or by way of purchasing gift cards, *you are being scammed.*
- If you are unsure about the legitimacy of a call, tell the caller you will call them back.
 - Feel free to contact the San Bruno Police Department at any time if you receive a suspicious call.

If you are interested in learning more about these types of crimes and the technology behind them, please visit:

<https://www.callersmart.com/articles/18/Caller-ID-Spoofing-How-Scammers-Use-Local-and-Trusted-Numbers-to-Trick-You#>

Anyone with information related to this crime is encouraged to call the San Bruno Police Department at (650) 616-7100. Information can also be provided anonymously by email to: sbpdpline@sanbruno.ca.gov.