



PRESCOTT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

April 08, 2020 **PRESCOTT VALLEY PD URGES ALL CITIZENS TO REMAIN DILIGENT AND AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SCAMMERS DURING THIS COVID19 CRISIS**

Due to the COVID19 Pandemic, many of our usual day to day activities are being done online. The Prescott Valley Police Department is receiving reports and other information related to ongoing fraud related activity in our area. Scammers have been calling local citizens and requesting their bank information in order to “deposit” their COVID19 relief checks. **Please be aware that government agencies are not going to request your personal bank information or your social security number for any reason, regardless of how legitimate the call seems.** Scammers are now “spoofing” police department phone numbers as well as those of other government agencies in order to gain access to local residents. “Neighbor spoofing” is when scammers use reliable-looking numbers, such as the Police Department numbers, to disguise their identities. Citizens answer the phone call, believing it to be coming from the Police Department or other agency and then following the instructions they are given.

This information is in addition to previous guidance given about not paying for alleged services with store gifts cards, green dot cards or any other gift cards.

The Prescott Valley Police Department is still committed to providing our citizens with the same level of excellent service, even in these trying times. We want our citizens to be secure in the knowledge that their police department is looking out for them. If you do receive a call that appears to be coming from someone at the Prescott Valley Police Department, it is okay to answer it. No harm can come from that. However, once you determine that the call is not legitimate, simply hang up the phone. Do not provide the caller with any personal information. If you have any doubts about the legitimacy of the call and are concerned or have questions, call the police station for further guidance. We are here for you. As always, if you see something, please say something. Please share this information with your neighbors, especially those who may not have computer access.

Prescott Valley Police Department can be contacted at (928) 772-9267 for non-emergencies, 911 for emergencies.