



**SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Vicki L.H. Myers, Chief of Police  
Louis Lumpkin, Deputy Chief**

*Honor, Pride, and Commitment*

440 Harcourt Avenue  
Seaside, CA 93955

Telephone (831) 899-6748  
FAX (831) 899-6297  
TDD (831) 899-6217

## **Public Service Announcement**

### **911 Phone Scam**

Seaside, CA  
October 17, 2016

On October 13, 2016 the Seaside Police Department was alerted to a scam in which a victim received a phone call and the caller ID showed the call was coming from 911. The victim answered and was told by the caller that they represented a police department and the victim owed \$250 in order to keep their record clean.

If someone claiming to be a government official or law enforcement officer calls making threats such as arrest or deportation, beware! Hang up and report it!

#### **Here's How it Works**

A number appears on your caller ID that may look like a legitimate government number. When you answer, the person on the phone poses as a law enforcement officer or other government official. The scammer states there is some sort of a problem and will either ask you for sensitive personal and financial information, demand payment, threaten you with deportation, arrest, or other negative consequences if you do not comply.

**The scammer will then order victims to make a payment - and will often order them to go to a nearby bank or store and withdraw money or purchase a prepaid card, gift card, voucher, money order or make some other wire transfer, money exchange, payment or withdrawal.** (Note that the scammers are often able to direct victims to nearby banks or stores by using online maps to study the area in which a victim resides.)

**If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately.**

If you are required to make a payment to a government entity, they will not ask for any form of payment over the phone or in an email. You will instead be mailed a letter on official stationery requesting payment.

If you have been a victim of this telephone or email scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission at <http://1.usa.gov/1suOHSS>. If you receive a suspicious email or voice message

*The mission of the Seaside Police Department is to provide quality police services, in partnership with our community, to enhance and maintain a safe environment.*

and are not sure if it is a scam, forward it to the USCIS webmaster at [uscis.webmaster@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:uscis.webmaster@uscis.dhs.gov). The information will be shared with law enforcement agencies as appropriate. Visit the Avoid Scams Initiative at [uscis.gov/avoidscams](http://uscis.gov/avoidscams) for more information on common scams and other important tips.

You may also report any suspicious activity to the Seaside Police Department at one of the numbers listed below:

**Anonymous Tip-Line** – (831) 899-6282  
**Seaside Police Department** – (831) 899-6748  
**Non-Emergency Dispatch** – (831) 394-6811

Or leave a tip at the Seaside Police Department's online tip website at:

**<http://www.tipsoft.com/index.asp?P=WebTips>**

CONTACT: Commander Stradan  
PHONE: (831) 899-6863  
EMAIL: [jstradan@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:jstradan@ci.seaside.ca.us)



For Immediate Release  
###