



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: March 11, 2019

LOCATION: City of Santa Cruz

TOPIC: SCAM ALERT

INFORMATION:

Santa Cruz Police Warn of Scam Spoofing the Police Phone Number & Email

Detectives are investigating a phone scam where the caller identified themselves as being from the Santa Cruz Police Department demanding the victim to either pay money or get arrested. In this phone scam, the Caller ID listed on the victim's phone was that of the Santa Cruz Police dispatch center non-emergency line number 831-471-1131. This number was falsified using app-based technology to "spoof" or alter the Caller ID.

The scammer tells the individual the Police Department has a warrant for their arrest and if they do not pay them, utilizing a variety of payment options, we will come to arrest them for their "crimes." Scammers are also sending emails from a Gmail account with a fake violation letter using SCPD logos.

Santa Cruz Police officers do not call asking for money instead of coming to arrest you on a warrant or to keep you from being charged for a crime. If you get a call from any agency requesting money to remove charges or a warrant, it is a scam.

Anytime that a person receives a call and is asked in any way to send money you should immediately be suspicious. Never provide personal or financial information over the phone.

Neither the Santa Cruz Police Department nor any other City agency will call you to demand payment and threaten arrest for any matter. Also, fees related to warrants and citations are handled directly through the Court.

The public can help combat this scam by doing the following:

- Do not call back and hang up if you are talking to them.
- Call the police department directly from a verified phone number when in doubt of a solicitation.
- Contact the Santa Cruz County Court directly to inquire about any outstanding warrant, bail or fine payment.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com . Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

SCAM LETTER SENT TO VICTIM



US. Departament of justice

Washinton. D.C 20535
Mar. 08, 2019

OFFICIAL. LEONARDO GARCIA
155 Center St, Santa Cruz, CA
95060, EE. UU.

Ser: [REDACTED]

El Departamento de Policia de SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA hace constar Que en sus archivos posa un espediente (CASO) Que esta siendo investigado en conjunto con (US. Departament of justice) por violacion de los codigo de la Ley (647) (261) .

The SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA police department record that a file is on file with them. (case)
What is being researched in conjunction with US. Departament of justice for vilation of the codes of laws (647) (261) .



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jay [unclear]".