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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

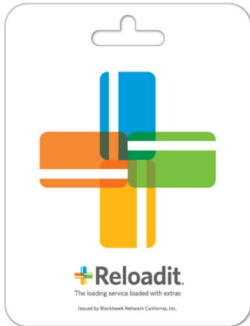
# Special Bulletin

LOMITA STATION • 26123 NARBONNE AVE, LOMITA, CA 90717 • (310) 539-1661

## PHONE SCAM ALERT

May 27, 2015

This information is to bring awareness to the public and retail establishments.



### TELEPHONE SCAMS INCLUDE:

- Overdue utility bills
- Unpaid taxes owed to the IRS
- Bail and attorney fees for a family member who has been arrested
- Fees or taxes due for winning a lottery or sweepstakes
- Problems with work visa or immigration
- Soliciting of funds for a police agency / charity

Suspects direct the victims to wire funds via **WESTERN UNION, MONEYGRAM, GREENDOT** and **MONEYPAK** or **RELOADIT** cards. **NEVER** give out your card or pin number.

**BE AWARE**, the caller ID you see might not be who is calling you. Suspects use apps to change the caller ID.

### SCAM EXAMPLES:

- Suspects contact residents claiming to be from utility companies attempting to collect overdue bills and threaten to shut off the water and power if immediate payment is not made. Residents should verify their account activity by contacting their utility company.
- Residents are contacted by suspects claiming to be from the IRS who are calling to collect unpaid taxes. The resident should contact their tax representative or contact the IRS directly.
- Suspects contact victims claiming a family member, child, grandchild, etc., has been arrested. The suspect attempts to collect the bail in order to release their family member. The suspects often put someone pretending to be the victim's arrested family member on the phone pleading for help.

**ATTN RETAILERS**, if a customer seems nervous, confused or unfamiliar with the process of wiring money or using reloadable credit cards, consider showing them this information. The information could prevent the individual from being a victim.