



MONTEREY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Telephone Scam Alert

The Monterey Police Department (MPD) has received several reports from the community regarding a telephone scam, wherein the caller purports to be a Monterey Police employee. In the calls the caller identifies themselves as a Monterey Police Officer and threatens arrest if the person does not provide funds to the caller. The impersonating caller has used different approaches to include coaxing the victim into purchasing bitcoin or gift cards and having the victim read the serial numbers from the back of the cards to the caller. The caller is then able to utilize the serial numbers to obtain the monetary value.

The caller ID may show the number belonging to a local law enforcement agency, the FBI, or the IRS. These numbers are "spoofed" and are not originating from these government entities.

These calls are specifically structured by criminals to intimidate, convince and coerce the victims into providing information to the caller. This is simply one tactic, understand that in other instances callers may provide different types of stories to convince the victim to provide information that leads to financial loss. In some instances the callers are very congenial and may relate that they need money for a sick family member, they may relate that a family member has been kidnapped and they need the caller to help so they can pay the person who has taken their loved one. If anyone calls you and solicits any type of account number, financial information or any identifying information you should not give them the information. Instead you should advise them to contact their local police department.

Should you receive a suspicious phone call from someone identifying themselves as a Monterey Police Officer, you can call the Monterey Police Department (831-646-3830) to verify the officer is working and needs to speak to you. You can also report it by calling (831) 646-3914.