



Vacaville Police Department

660 Merchant Street

Vacaville, California 95688

Communications Center: 707.449.5200

Internet: <http://www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police/pressrelease.php>

Press Release

Today's Date: October 28, 2011
Date & Time Occurred: Ongoing
Submitted By: Sgt. Charlie Spruill
Phone: 707-449-5200
Type of Crime/Incident: Telephone Scam
Location: City of Vacaville
Suspects: Unknown

VACAVILLE POLICE WARNING RESIDENTS OF PHONE SCAM

Vacaville police are warning residents about a scam that involves telephone solicitors seeking funds for a fake task force.

On October 28, 2011, police received several calls about a person soliciting \$25.00 donations on behalf of the Vacaville Gang Task Force.

The Vacaville Police Department is not soliciting donations or funds for any gang task force and is not aware of a Vacaville Gang Task Force. The Vacaville Police Department has contacted numerous agencies in Solano County and throughout neighboring counties that are involved with gang investigations and none of the agencies are involved with any financial solicitation for a Vacaville Gang Task Force.

This would appear to be a telephone scam that relies on the public's fear of gang violence. The Vacaville Police Department would like to remind the community that no known police agency will telephone you from a private number to solicit money.

The Vacaville Police Department would like to remind the community of some common-sense rules to follow no matter what transaction you might be considering or funds you may be solicited for:

- Deal locally with people you can meet in person – Following this simple rule will allow you to avoid 99 percent of scam attempts.
- Never wire funds via Western Union, Moneygram, or any other wire service – anyone who asks you to do so is a scam artist.
- Fake cashier's checks and money orders are common – banks will cash these items and then hold *you* responsible when the fake is discovered.
- Never give out any financial information – bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, eBay/PayPal info, etc.
- Avoid dealings involving shipping or escrow services – only a scam artist will guarantee your transactions

Criminal activity can be reported at www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police, or you can call "Crime Stoppers" and leave an anonymous tip at 707-644-STOP (7867). Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.



- Do not submit to credit checks or a background check for a job or housing until you have met the interviewer/landlord/agent in person.

Above all, if it seems too good to be true then it usually is and nobody will ask you for money in order to give you money. If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, please call the Vacaville Police Department at (707) 449-5200.