



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



SCAM ALERT

DATE: March 24, 2010

Yet *another* twist on the old Nigerian scam:

We recently received a report from a citizen that his elderly Grandmother had received an **unexpected call** from an **unknown person**, stating that he worked for UPS and he needed to set up delivery of a certified check and a new Mercedes car. All for free! And the clouds did part, and the sun shone through, and it rained money and luxury cars from the sky! Well...

Fortunately, the citizen was wary enough that she didn't fall for it, and a family member contacted me. I called the number for the person who had identified himself to the citizen as "Michael Williams," and after the phone rang for quite a while, he answered it with a simple "Hello" (not very business-like). He also sounded very sleepy (it was probably in the middle of the night in his country). While I'm no linguist, his accent sounded distinctly African to me. He said that he worked for a company called "Megabuck," and that the company was - get this- owned by the U.S. Government. Having not just fallen off the proverbial turnip truck, I questioned this. He then told me to go ask them for myself, and then to go ____ myself. I found this to be most unprofessional and again not very business-like, so I promptly informed him that he should come to America and visit me so that I could secure an all-expenses paid vacation for him at our Hall County lodging facility, in a manner of speaking. He ended our conversation rather abruptly after that.

The way it goes down is this: before they would deliver the check and the car, the citizen would have been required to wire a certain amount of money to cover a delivery fee, insurance fee, etc. The amount varies, but it's always some made-up fee. Naturally, once that money is wired, it's gone for good into an overseas account. And believe or not, the victim never sees their certified check or their new luxury car! Another variation is where the perpetrator will actually send the victim what looks like a valid check, asking them to cash it and immediately wire a portion of the proceeds back to them so they can deliver the (insert unbelievable item here). Of course, the check is no good and when it bounces the victim is left with the problem of repaying their bank.

Again, simple diligence pays off.

*** Always be suspicious of unexpected great deals.

*** Never get reeled into a transaction without doing some research. Scammers will try to rush their victims with a false sense of urgency in the hopes that they will commit to the deal before they become suspicious.

*** If it sounds too good to be true, **it is**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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