



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

295 Police Memorial Drive, Savannah, GA , 31405

(912) 652-6920 FAX: (912)650-6130

Chief Jeffrey M. Hadley

Assistant Chief Terry Shoop

Assistant Chief Julie Tolbert

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

November 19, 2019

Chatham County Police Department Issues Gift Card Scam Warning

Chatham County, GA (November 19, 2019) – The Chatham County Police Department is warning people to be aware of an ongoing scam involving gift cards.

In the scam, a caller says there is an urgent reason that someone should go to a store and purchase gift cards – and then turn the gift card numbers over to the caller. In some instances, callers claim that a warrant is out for an individual's arrest, and that they can avoid arrest by purchasing gift cards as some type of payment.

Any phone call you receive requiring you to purchase a gift card and then turn it, or the number, over to someone else is almost certainly a scam. Once the gift cards are purchased and the number turned over to the caller, it is basically impossible to have your money returned to you. Many of these scammers are from other countries, and very difficult to trace. Your best protection against these crimes is to never give money to, or make any type of purchase for, someone you do not know.

The elderly are especially vulnerable to these scams, and those with elderly family members are urged to pass along these warnings. Make sure elderly family members understand that they should never give out any financial or personal information over the phone to a caller, and never make a gift card purchase for someone they do not know.

###

Contact:

Betsy Nolen

Public Information Officer
Chatham County Police Department
Cell: (912) 675-2949
Email: bnolen@chathamcounty.org