



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Fotios Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

Incident Type: Phone Scams Continue

Incident Location: Westport CT

(Westport, CT) Westport residents continue to receive phone calls from persons or recordings claiming to be the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In these calls, victims are threatened with lawsuits, arrest, or fines unless they pay money that is supposedly owed in taxes. Some victims are reporting multiple calls a day. Please be aware that this is a common scam nationwide. The IRS will not ask for you to pay back taxes via GreenDot, Moneygram, electronic transfer, and certainly not via a prepaid gift card. The IRS does not conduct its legitimate business in this manner.

According to the IRS, any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

1. Call to demand immediate payment, nor will we call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Should you receive a call of this nature; a quick internet search of the originating phone number will most likely return results showing it to be associated with scam activity. If you receive multiple calls from the same phone number, you can block that specific number by logging into your cellular phone account online.

If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue. If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1.800.366.4484 or at www.tigta.gov. You can also report the incident to your local police department or file a complaint using the [FTC Complaint Assistant](#); choose "Other" and then "Impostor Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

- END -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 05.17.2017
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