



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

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PRESS RELEASE

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As Tax Season Approaches, Beware of Income Tax Scams

Pacifica, CA- The Pacifica Police Department wants to make citizens aware that they could be contacted by scammers identifying themselves as IRS representatives. These contacts are most frequently made by telephone. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS, and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest or suspension of business and driver's licenses. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

"These scammers are brazen criminals who will stop at nothing to get your money or personal information," said Chief Dan Steidle. "If you receive a call from someone claiming to be a representative from the IRS who is threatening to take legal action against you, remember that the IRS does not initiate contact requesting information by electronic means. Also, they do not call asking for credit card numbers or demand payment without first sending a notification by mail."

Citizens should be on the lookout for the following signs:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number or a 202 area code (Washington, DC) on caller ID to make it appear as if it's the IRS calling.
- Scammers sometimes send fake IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police, and the caller ID supports their claim

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and you think you might owe taxes, go to the IRS website at: <https://www.irs.gov/>. The IRS site has links to useful tools and information for local offices where employees can help you with a payment issue – if there really is such an issue.

If you know you do not owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), call to report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484 or go to their website: <https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/>

Daniel Steidle
Chief of Police

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