

FRAUD ALERT

Jury Duty Intimidation Scam

The St. Louis Post Dispatch recently reported about a scam occurring in St. Charles County that also happens in many other American communities. Called the **Jury Duty Intimidation Scam**, it preys on the citizen's fear of being arrested for missing jury duty.

The Post Dispatch reported that St. Charles County residents have received phone calls from a man who claims to be a sherriff. The caller tells the victim that he or she has missed a scheduled jury duty date. The scammer then informs the fraud victim that a warrant will be issued for his or her arrest. However, the warrant can be waived if the citizen pays a fee of \$13.50 with a credit card. Thankfully, the call recipients did not fall for this scam and realized the scammer was "phishing" for credit card information in order to steal their identities. The FBI reports that this con is particularly insidious because the caller attempts to intimidate innocent citizens by capitalizing on the court's authority. While the Fraud Prevention Taskforce has not received a recent call about this fraud in the City, it is stil a possibility: the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis annually calls upon 21,000 residents to serve as jurors.

In order to avoid this scam, remember the following guidelines:

- Never provide information to any caller that you do not personally know — no matter whom they claim to be or what information your caller ID provides. Scammers can electronically spoof a seemingly legitimate number on caller ID.
- No government agency or legitimate financial institution will *ever* request personal information via telephone or e-mail. Any attempt to do so is a scam, and you should immediately hang up or delete the e-mail.



*To Pursue Justice for All Citizens Within the Highest
Standards of Ethical Behavior and Professionalism*

**Fraud Assistance Hotline:
(314) 612-1412**