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Terrence Green
Chief of Police

"Building Partnerships with the Community We Serve"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

TAX SEASON TELEPHONE SCAM ALERT

Lexington, S.C. (February 22, 2016) – Chief Terrence Green would like to alert Town of Lexington residents of telephone scams that typically arise during tax season. This is in response to a series of incidents that officers responded to throughout the day of residents being contacted by a suspicious male caller who identified himself as an IRS agent. The suspicious male caller stated that a federal criminal investigation had been opened which raised suspicions to several receiving these telephone calls that it may be a scam.

Telephone calls with the objective to fraud or scam are targeted towards those who will engage in conversations with the caller giving personal information or sending money for them to collect a prize or to get out of trouble.

Some suggestions and tips to not become a victim of telephone scams include:

- Enter your telephone number on the [National Do Not Call Registry](#).
- Talk with elderly family members or others who may be susceptible to scams.
- Ask questions. Who are you and why are you calling?
- Never give out your credit card numbers, social security number, or date of birth.
- Don't confirm or give out account information over the phone to a suspicious caller.

Chief Terrence Green says *"Telephone scams come in many forms with the objective of taking money from those who do not realize that they are victims until it is too late. It is important that individuals and families safeguard their personal information and are aware that these scams exist. Please don't be a victim and hang up the phone if you think the caller is suspicious."*

More information can be found on the [Federal Trade Commission](#) website regarding handling telephone fraud or scams.

– END –

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