the IG SPECIAL FRAUD ALERT

February 2017

KEN BURKE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

VOICE

You Have A VOICE Report Cybercrime

FRAUD ALERT

SIGN UP TODAY and receive free alerts when a document with your name is recorded in Official Records. Protect yourself from fraud. **CLICK HERE.**

GET IN TOUCH:

Write:
Public Integrity Unit
Division of Inspector General
Fraud Hotline
510 Bay Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756

Call:
(727) 45FRAUD
(727) 453-7283
Fax:
(727) 464-8386
E-mail:
fraudhotline@mypinellasclerk.org
Internet:
www.mypinellasclerk.org
www.twitter.com/pinellasig
www.facebook.com/igpinellas

TAX SCAMMERS WORK YEAR-ROUND

The IRS informs us that Tax Scammers work year-round; they don't take the holiday season off. The IRS urges you to stay vigilant against calls from scammers impersonating the IRS.

Below are several tips from the IRS to help you avoid being a victim:

SCAMS USE SCARE TACTICS
These aggressive and sophisticated scammers try to scare people into making an immediate payment. They make threats, often threaten arrest or deportation, or they say they'll take away your driver's or professional license if you don't pay. They may also leave "urgent" callback requests, sometimes through "robo-calls." Emails will often contain a fake IRS document with a phone number or an email address for you to reply.

SCAMS SPOOF CALLER ID
Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legit. They may use online resources to get your name, address, and other details about your life to make the call sound official.

SCAMS USE PHISHING EMAIL AND REGULAR EMAIL
Scammers copy official IRS letterhead to use in email or regular mail they send to victims. In another new variation, schemers provide an actual IRS address where they tell the victim to mail a receipt for the payment they make. This makes the scheme look official.

SCAMS COST VICTIMS OVER $38 MILLION
The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) has received reports of more than one million contacts since October 2013. TIGTA is also aware of more than 6,700 victims who have collectively reported over $38 million in financial losses as a result of tax scams.

The real IRS WILL NOT:

- Call you about your tax bill without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount that you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way; for instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card or any specific type of tender.

- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.
- Threaten you with a lawsuit.

If you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not provide any information to the caller---hang up immediately.
- Contact the TIGTA ***IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting web page*** to report the incident.
- You should also report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) through the ***FTC Complaint Assistant web page***. (Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.)

Please report this type of IRS impersonation scam to the U. S. Department of the Treasury at ***https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml***

For more information or to file to a complaint, contact Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or visit ***www.pinellascounty.org/consumer***.