



City of Clearlake
14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, California 95422
(707) 994-8201 Fax (707) 995-2653



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chief Andrew White, 707-994-8251

Social Security Scam Alert!

Clearlake, CA – January 17th, 2019

The City of Clearlake Police Department would like all citizens to be aware that scammers are targeting the 707 area code with fraudulent Social Security calls. As part of the con, scammers try to convince you to give up personal information, like Social Security numbers and bank account numbers, over the phone. Alternately, a caller claims to be from "SSA headquarters" and asks you to confirm personal information, such as an SSN, "new" Medicare number, address, and date of birth.

Many of these calls are "robocalls" or automated calls. In one robocall version of the scam, an automated recording declares that your Social Security number (SSN) "has been suspended for suspicion of illegal activity," and advises to contact a specific phone number immediately. The robocall or caller may also warn that if you don't call back, your assets or benefits will be frozen until your alleged issue is resolved.

City Manager, Greg Folsom, stated, "We want to warn the public to be cautious and to avoid providing information such as your SSN or bank account numbers to unknown persons over the phone or internet unless you are certain of who is receiving it. I and several other city staff members recently received calls from these scammers and they can sound fairly legitimate as they threaten to cut off your benefits."

Police Chief, Andrew White, added, "Be aware of suspicious calls from unknown sources, and when in doubt, contact the official entity to verify the legitimacy of the call." The SSA advises that if you receive a suspicious call from someone alleging to be from SSA, report that information to the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General at 1.800.269.0271.

###