



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE

"Taking Care of People"

Scam Alert: Lt. Vance Berry Is NOT a Member of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

20 November 2017

The Community Affairs Bureau of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office would like to warn local residents of an active scam that has been occurring over the past few weeks. Many residents have reported receiving a call from a male individual who claimed to be a Lieutenant with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and went by the name of Vance Berry advising the victims that there was an outstanding warrant out of them for missing jury duty.

The male individual would tell the victims they would have to pay a fine or face arrest. The male has now been using the identity of Shannon Borra, who is a deputy here at the Sheriff's Office but is a female deputy. The male making these phone calls has been said to be harsh, forceful, and demanding in demeanor.

Be advised that Con Artists along with other criminals attempt to find easy ways to steal money or identities from their victims. These types of scams may vary from one like this one and their targets can be anyone, although many times our elderly are singled out.

In order to appear credible, these scammers may provide information like badge numbers, the names of actual law enforcement officials and federal judges, and courthouse addresses. They may also spoof their phone numbers to appear on caller ID as if they are calling from the court or a government agency.

We want to reiterate once again that the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office will not contact you via phone in reference to missed jury duty, nor about a possible warrant that is out for your arrest. Furthermore, the SJSO will never request payment over the phone, or in the form of any kind of Green Dot card, iTunes gift card, or any other form of money card.

For your protection, DO NOT give out personal information based on a phone call, email, or text message. DO NOT assume the number they provide is a legitimate number to that organization, always look up the number in the phone book or search it yourself to validate the number. You can also call your local sheriff's office.

If you feel you are a victim of a scam, please contact your local law enforcement agency to validate any story they may provide.

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1991



1996



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