The Hoboken Police Department

106 Hudson Street, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

Hoboken, NJ - The Hoboken Police Department is alerting the public to two rising crime trends in the area. One involves individuals asking for charitable donations in an attempt to access a victim's bank account information. The second involves individuals asking victims to deposit a fake check in order to steal cash.

Hoboken Police are currently investigating several recent incidents where unknown teenaged males approach potential victims claiming they are accepting donations to local charities, through Zelle or Venmo, only. If the victim agrees to donate, the suspect requests their phone to enter his account information into the app. Instead, the actor completes a fraudulent transaction and within seconds transfers a large sum of money to their preferred destination.

This type of crime has been reported throughout the county and region. Here in Hoboken, incidents have occurred at or near the New Jersey Transit Terminal, on Washington Street, and at the entrance of Pier A Park. Often the suspects wait for potential victims as they exit the terminal during rush hour times.

The Hoboken Police Department is working closely with the New Jersey Transit Police Department to identify and apprehend the suspects. Members of the public approached in this manner are asked to contact *Hoboken PD at 201-420-2100* or *NJT PD at 973-378-6565*.

The Hoboken Police Department is also investigating at least four incidents of "Theft by Deception." In these cases, a suspect approaches their target outside a bank, usually in the afternoon hours, and asks them to deposit a check into their account, in exchange for cash from the ATM. The suspect will tell the victim they cannot deposit the check because they do not have an account. In several incidents, the victims who agreed were informed by the bank 24 to 72 hours later that the check was fraudulent.

This type of crime is on the rise across the region and if you get approached in this manner, contact the local police immediately. If you become a victim of either of these, or similar crimes, report it immediately to your local police department then file a report with one of these agencies:

FTC.gov: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is a free, one-stop resource at www.identitytheft.gov to report and get assistance with recovering from identity theft. You can also report fraud to the FTC.

SSA.gov: If you believe someone is using your Social Security number, or has committed fraud using your SSN, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) fraud hotline at 1-800-269-0271 or www.ssa.gov/fraud.

IC3.gov: If you are a victim of online crime, you can file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.IC3.gov.

All media inquiries should be directed to Marci Rubin at: mrubin@hobokennj.gov