

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2025

Media Contact: Marci Rubin

Mrubin@hobokennj.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Hoboken Police Department seeks public's help identifying three persons of interest in mobile payment scam

Public urged to avoid sharing phones with strangers

The Hoboken Police Department is requesting the public's assistance in identifying three persons of interest in connection with a cash app scam that occurred at Pier C Park on April 30, 2025, at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The individuals approached a victim stating that they were seeking donations for their basketball team. When the victim attempted to donate via Zelle, one of the individuals took her phone and fraudulently transferred \$3,500 to the recipient.

Anyone with information about this incident, or the individuals involved, is urged to contact Officer Chelsea Tamborra of the Detective Bureau, at TamborraC@hobokenpdnj.gov or 201-420-2100 ext. 3109. All information will be kept confidential.

The Hoboken Police Department encourages residents to remain vigilant and exercise caution as suspects in these scams typically engage victims in friendly conversations and claim they are fundraising for sports teams, school programs, or nonprofit organizations. They often request donations via apps such as Venmo, Cash App, or Zelle. Once the victim agrees, the perpetrator uses the victim's phone, either through deception by asking the victim to use their phone or claiming the transaction didn't go through, or by using force. Then, the perpetrator transfers large sums of money without consent.

This regional scam has been reported in several locations in Hoboken including Hoboken Terminal, Washington Street, and both Pier A and Pier C parks.

The Hoboken Police Department offers the following safety tips to help safeguard against this type of scam:

- Never hand your phone to a stranger.
- Enable app security features, such as requiring a PIN or fingerprint to authorize transactions.
- Be cautious of unsolicited donation requests in public places.