



**Long Beach Police Department**  
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## SCAM ADVISORY

The Long Beach Police advises the public to be aware of a common scam being utilized to fraudulently dupe victims for their money. Use vigilance when receiving unsolicited telephone calls or emails from people who represent themselves as officials from a government agency such as the IRS. During the contact with the victim the perpetrators of this scam will often threaten immediate official government action against the victims such as arrest, or promise rewards such as large tax returns unless payment is sent by unrecoverable, untraceable means such as gift cards, Green Dot money packs, or Apple iTunes cards. These scammers can be incredibly convincing as they often know your name and the last 4 digits of your social security.

If you should receive such a communication and:

- You know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue, if there really is such an issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some threats as described above), then call and report the incident to TIGTA at 1.800.366.4484.
- You can file a complaint using the website <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>; choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).