

F E B R U A R Y 1 2 , 2 0 1 4



Town of Palm Beach Police Department

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SCAM ALERT

Protect Yourself

Carefully review your telephone bill every month. Treat your telephone service like any other major consumer purchase or service.

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Ask yourself the following questions as you review your telephone bill:

Do I recognize the names of all the companies listed on my bill?

What services were provided by the listed companies?

Does my bill include charges for calls I did not place and services I did not authorize?

Immediately call the company that charged you for calls you did not place and request an adjustment to your bill for any incorrect charges.

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Return Call Telephone Scam Alert

Residents are advised to be aware of a scam that involves returning calls to the 268, 809, 284 and 876 area codes that originate from Antigua, Jamaica or another Caribbean island.

Sometimes it just appears as a missed call, also known as a "one-ring scam." Other times, the caller leaves a message on your answering machine, gives their first name and leaves a message such as "Sorry I missed your call... please call me back I have something important to tell you." The reasons you are asked to call back vary and can include such things as a family member is ill, someone has been arrested, died or to let you know you have won a prize.

The overseas area codes can be used as pay-per-call numbers, similar to the more familiar 900 numbers. Consumers that have returned the calls have reported being charged a \$19.95 connection fee and an additional \$9 per minute.

The practice of third parties placing unauthorized charges on wireless accounts is called "cramming."

IF YOU DONT RECOGNIZE AN OUT-OF-STATE TELEPHONE NUMBER ON YOUR CALLER ID, IGNORE IT, AND IF YOU DO ANSWER, DO NOT CALL BACK.

If you think you've received a call from a potential scammer, immediately report it to your telephone or cellular provider.

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