



Town of Palm Beach Police Department

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www.palmbeachpolice.com

PROPERTY FRAUD SCAM ALERT

**Sign up for alerts offered by the Clerk &
Comptroller, Palm Beach County
Register for Property Fraud Alert today at
<http://pfa.fidlar.com/FLPalmbeach/>
or call: 1-800-728-3858**

Property Fraud Alert is a free service offered by the Clerk & Comptroller, Palm Beach County, which helps you protect your property from fraud by monitoring the documents being recorded in the Official Records of the Clerk & Comptroller's office.

By signing up you will receive notification by email or telephone whenever a document is recorded in Palm Beach County using your name or your business's name.



How to Sign Up!

Simply follow these steps:

- Call 800-728-3858 or go to <http://pfa.fidlar.com/FLPalmbeach/>
- Click 'Continue' to begin the registration process.
- Choose whether you would like to monitor a person's name or a business name.
- Enter the name you would like to monitor.
- Enter either an email address or telephone number you would like the alerts sent to.
- You may repeat the process to monitor additional names. If you entered an email address, you will receive a confirmation message.

Residents are advised to be aware of a scam that involves property and mortgage fraud. Scammers file fake deeds, making it appear as if they own homes that are not actually theirs! Scammers know that finding the right apartment, vacation rental or home can be hard work, and a seemingly good deal is hard to pass up. When looking for properties to rent or buy, it's now become commonplace to search for a deal on Craigslist or other online websites. These listings have tons of pictures and a lengthy description of a real house. These scammers then trick people into giving them money to rent or buy those homes they have fraudulently advertised. Their goal is to get your money before you find out.

To completely avoid scams, it's best to shy away from sites like Craigslist and book properties from legitimate vacation home rental sites and real estate professionals.

Here are some tips from the Federal Trade Commission website to help you avoid this scheme:

- **Wiring money is the same as sending cash.** If you wire money to a person you've never met, you have no way to trace it or get it back.
- **Don't be rushed into a decision.** If you receive an email pressuring you to make a decision on the spot for a rental, ignore it and move on.
- **The lower the price for a premium vacation property, the more likely it's a scam.** Rip-off artists love to attract people's interest by offering below-market rent.
- **Get a copy of the contract before you send any deposit money.** Check that the address of the property really exists. If the property is located in a resort, call the front desk and confirm the location of the property and other details on the contract.



If you are a victim of this crime or find your property posted for rent or sale on a website that you did not authorize, contact the Palm Beach Police immediately at 561-838-5454.

Dedicated to Excellence in Law Enforcement

