## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Lehigh County Pennsylvania

## Joseph N. Hanna

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## LEHIGH COUNTY SHERIFF JOE HANNA WARNS OF TELEPHONE SCAMMERS PROFESSING TO BE DEPUTY SHERIFFS

According to Sheriff Joe Hanna a number of citizens have reported receiving telephone calls from individuals purporting to be members of the Lehigh County Sheriff's Office. There are variations of the scam which include but are not limited to, failure to appear for Jury Duty or to respond to a warrant. The potential victim is then advised to pay a fine or be subject to apprehension and incarceration. They are further directed to purchase a disposable debit card and call the scammer providing access to the PIN number. In a number of cases, names of actual Lehigh County Sheriff's Deputies have been used and official phone numbers have been "spoofed" to appear on caller IDs in order to legitimize this scam.

Sheriff Hanna said "Deputies do not collect monies during the course of our everyday business" and warned that "varied telephone scams of this nature are frequent and anyone is subject to being targeted".

Sheriff Hanna advises the public that anyone receiving a call requesting money on behalf of his office should contact the Lehigh County Sheriff's Office at (610) 782-3175.