

October 9, 2008

**City of Columbus
Division of Police
Forgery – Fraud Unit**

"Internet Loans" SCAM ALERT

Central Ohio residents are warned to beware of a current scam involving the use of the Internet to apply for a loan. Last week we have received a complaint regarding this SCAM.

A Central Ohio resident stated that they applied for a loan through the internet. Suspect in this scam requested that the victim send three payments to Canada via money-gram and when they went to call with more questions, the number was disconnected.

Citizens are warned not to send money or provide credit card information without first researching the organization and verifying details.

The follow cautionary are provided by IC3

- Know who you are doing business with — do your research.
- Obtain the name, address, and telephone number of the individual or company.
- Research the individual or company to ensure they are authentic.
- Contact the Better Business Bureau to determine the legitimacy of the company.
- Be cautious when dealing with individuals outside of your own country.
- Ensure you understand all terms and conditions of any agreement.
- Be wary of businesses that operate from P.O. boxes or maildrops.
- Ask for names of other customers of the individual or company and contact them.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Call the **Better Business Bureau** : (614) 486-6336 or 1 (800) 759-2400

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3): <http://www.ic3.gov>

If you have information concerning a scam that is going on now, please contact City of Columbus, Division of Police Fraud and Forgery Unit (614) 645-4751

Sgt. K. Winn #5300
Forgery – Fraud Unit 1st Shift