

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

**"Parking lot" SCAM ALERT**

Central Ohio residents are warned to beware of a current scam occurring in parking lots regarding individual looking for money. Over the past several weeks we have received several similar calls regarding this SCAM.

- The first caller stated that she was approach by an individual wanting to sell an expensive diamond. The individuals proceeded to have the diamond appraised. Once the victim presented the cash for the diamond, the suspect switched the item with a fake diamond.
- The second caller stated that she was at the Northern Lights shopping center when three males approached her and stated that they were with a charity and that one of their brothers had just died. They told her that they had raised some money, but Kenya Africa would not allow them to take the money back into their country so they needed the victim to hold onto the money and place it into another charity. The suspects had the victim go to the ATM machine and withdraw currency. The money was handed over to the suspects when they wrapped the money into a blue towel. The suspects told the victim that she was not supposed to open her towel until she arrived home and that when she did open it there would be more money. One of the suspects reached into his coat where he had flashed money to the victim and grabbed what looked to be a roll of money. When the victim opened her towel there was a roll of news papers.

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