

# Prince William County Police

## Crime Alert



3/4/21

### "Get Quick Cash" Online Scam

#### The scheme:

- A person that you may have known back in high school, or even a friend of a friend, contacts you on your social media asking if you would like to make some quick cash. They assure you everything is legal. They may share screen shots of other people's bank accounts being credited with large amounts. They ask for your online bank login information and say they will deposit some cash into your account.
- After providing your banking information, lo and behold they deposit a large check into your account using mobile deposit! They withdraw most of the cash and put it into an encrypted wallet, but for your trouble they leave you with a few hundred dollars.
- Everything seems great...**until** the next day when your bank recognizes the check is fraudulent and reverses the deposit leaving you with a large negative balance.

#### Tips to protect yourself:

- Never give someone your banking information.
- If you must pay by check through the mail, consider sending it via Certified Mail with signature required so you know it reached its intended recipient.
- Ask the merchant if there is a secure way to pay other than sending a check.
- Keep an eye on your bank account balance. Look for suspicious activity and dispute the charges immediately.
- Allow push alerts on your mobile banking app so you are notified promptly if there are any unexpected transactions.
- Treat your banking information like cash. Giving out that information is like throwing cash out the window.
- Like your mother told you, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!
- Monitor your credit report at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Free weekly reports through April 2021.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270.

## REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE

**Emergency: 911 - Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500**