

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Sheriff's Office Investigating Jury Duty Scam**

**[Lancaster, Ohio, October 13, 2015]** The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Court of Common Pleas is warning the public of a phone scam identifying themselves as Sheriff's Office employees and threatening arrest for failure to appear and for contempt of court.

Starting at the end of September of this year, the Sheriff's Office began to receive phone calls from concerned citizens advising that they have received calls from "Deputy Michael Scott", "Deputy Michael Moore" or "Lt. Zach Miller" claiming that the victim had a warrant out for their arrest. The caller would then direct the victim to go to their local Kroger store and purchase a "Re-Charge Card" to pay their bail to lift the warrant.

On a recent occasion when the victim advised the caller they felt this was fraudulent and refused to send any money, the caller threatened to harm the victim and any Law Enforcement Officer that tried to stop him. Sheriff Phalen states "The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office or the Court of Common Pleas will never call residents to solicit money for bail to lift warrants." The Sheriff's Office combined with the court has received over 50 complaints from residents about this scam.

Sheriff Phalen reminds residents to be alert and report any suspicious activity to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office at 740-652-7911.

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