



PORT ST. LUCIE

POLICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

SUBJECT: If the IRS asks for payment in iTunes cards; it's a SCAM

On Friday, May 20, 2016, Port St. Lucie Police went to a local retail store for report of an IRS scam. The victim told police that a man claiming to be with the Internal Revenue Service requested him by name. The victim met with the alleged IRS agent outside of the store. The suspect, posing as an IRS agent, recited the victim's personal information to him and told the victim that he needed to pay his tax debt or he would be arrested. The victim was given a phone number to call to settle the debt.

The victim called the number and the person on the other line claimed to be with the IRS. The IRS impersonator told the victim to get an iTunes card or another card with a "scratch off" code and call him back with the number. The IRS impersonator told the victim that if he didn't pay the debt then he would be arrested. The victim went to a local Target store and bought an iTunes card worth \$2,300.00. The victim then called the number of the alleged IRS agent and gave him the number on the card. The victim then realized he was scammed after the IRS impersonator asked how he was going to pay the rest of the debt.

The victim immediately called police to report the scam. Police are warning the public of this scam and to remind residents that the IRS will not demand payment for taxes with a debit or gift card.