



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**November 6, 2019**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
PHONE SPOOFING SCAM	11/05/19 - 11/06/19
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**NARRATIVE**

**Telephone Scam Claiming to be the Burlington Police Department**

On Tuesday, November 5, and Wednesday, November 6, 2019, the Burlington Police Department received several complaints from residents about phone calls that appeared to originate from the BPD and the UVM Police Department phone numbers. These calls did NOT originate from police department numbers and we believe them to be scams using spoofing technology.

The scammer or scammers have allegedly attempted to impersonate police officials and elicit personal information from victims. Such information might include but not be limited to date of birth, Social Security numbers, and credit card numbers. Scammers may threaten victims that they will be arrested if they don't comply. These types of scenarios can be very convincing.

According to the FTC, "every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams — ranging from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly — calling you by your first name, making small talk, and asking about your family, or in this case posing as a government agency to convince you to do something on behalf of a family member. If you get a call from someone you don't know who is trying to sell you something or get you to pay for something you hadn't planned for, say 'No thanks.' If they pressure you to give up personal information — like your credit card or Social Security number — it's likely a scam."

If neighbors receive calls such as this, they should hang up and call the agency from which the call purported to come directly or call their local law enforcement agency.

The Burlington Police Department will never call and request money under *any* circumstance.

**If you receive any such calls, please report to your local law enforcement agency and the Attorney General's office (Consumer Assistance (800) 649-2424). For any calls claiming to be the Burlington Police Department or that are received within the City of Burlington, please contact us at (802) 658-2704.**