



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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# City of New Bern

FOUNDED 1710

New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

**FRANK PALOMBO**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
(252) 672-4190

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

September 30, 2008

## **SWEEPSTAKES CHECK SCAM**

The New Bern Police Department is warning citizens of a sweepstakes check scam that lures people into wiring large sums of money to the scammers. The victims receive a letter indicating they have won \$100,000 through the North American Sweepstakes.

However, in order to collect the prize, victims are told they must pay government taxes on the winnings before the money can be released. As proof of winnings, the scammers enclose a forged check from a legitimate bank in the amount of \$4,900, for the purpose of covering the tax fees. The victim is instructed to call a specified tax agent and wire \$3,900 via MoneyGram or Western Union, before a final check for the sum of \$95,100 can be mailed to them. Shortly thereafter, the check bounces and the victim loses the money sent to the scammers.

The New Bern Police Department warns everyone this is a fraudulent attempt to receive money from victims, and appears to be linked to a Nigerian scam ring. Several letters and checks have been reported to police by New Bern residents.

It is important to remember that if you have not entered a lottery, you can not win prize money. It is also important to note that taxes are usually deducted from any prize money and are not typically paid by the winner prior to being able to collect the winnings.

If you have been the victim of this type of activity or you have any questions concerning these activities, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing,”** by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department’s **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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