FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WILLIAM RAYNARD

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\*\*WARNING - SCAM ALERT\*\*

The Essex County Sheriff's Department is warning residents about a new phone scam in which the caller pretends to be a Deputy of this Department and states they are calling regarding a legal civil matter that requires your immediate attention. They provide a call back number 978-279-9709.

“At no time would an Essex County Sheriff’s Department employee call people to demand payment,” said Sheriff Kevin Coppinger. “Callers demanding payment in a short amount of time is an obvious sign of a scam and illegal attempt to defraud citizens.”

The Essex County Sheriff's Department is not making any such phone calls and we remind residents to never share any personal or financial information with strange callers and to hang up.

Citizens can call the Federal Communications Commission hotline at 1-888-225-5322 or file an online complaint at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>, they can contact the Attorney General’s office by calling 617-727-8400 and they can file an online complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)