

Richland County Treasurer David Adams
Richland County Sheriff's Department, LEON LOTT, Sheriff

News Advisory
April 15, 2009
0409- 107

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott would like to alert citizens of a new identity theft scam.

Sheriff Leon Lott states that individuals are impersonating Richland County Treasurer's Office employees in an effort to obtain citizen's personal information. Sheriff Leon Lott states that these scammers have called citizens on the phone and stated, "*that they understand their current financial situation and Richland County is offering new programs to help senior citizens that are on a fixed income.*" Sheriff Leon Lott continues by stating these subjects are also going to citizens' homes and telling them they are delinquent on their property taxes and they are coming by to collect additional information.

Sheriff Leon Lott states this is a scam and citizens should not give out any personal information to these individuals that call or knock on your door.

Sheriff Leon Lott states he does not want the community to fall victim to this or any scam - remember there are hundreds of scams out there.

Sheriff Leon Lott would like to personally remind citizens that as the economy declines, crime increases and the criminals are going to desperate measures in order to victimize you. As a friendly reminder, Sheriff Leon Lott states that the Richland County Treasurer's Office does not make phone calls or go door to door to collect personal information -- the Treasurer's Office will send correspondence by mail and they are not collecting taxes this time of year.

Sheriff Leon Lott ask that any citizen that believes they may have been a victim of these crimes to contact the Richland County Sheriff's Department at (803) 576-3004, or individuals that want to verify their tax information please contact the Richland County Treasurer's Office at (803) 576-2250.

Sheriff Leon Lott states anyone wishing to receive additional information on identity theft or for FREE crime prevention classes, please visit our website at www.rcsd.net or call the Community Action Team at (803) 576-3118. Sheriff Leon Lott would also like to remind citizens about Project H.O.P.E. - this program is designed to assist, protect, and most importantly care for our senior citizens, for more information on Project H.O.P.E please call (803) 576-3183.