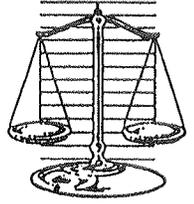




CITY OF PARMA OHIO

LAW DEPARTMENT



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PARMA, OHIO 44129-5593

440-885-8132

Timothy G. Dobeck

Law Director
Prosecutor

December 1, 2016

LAW DIRECTOR ADVISORY Potential Scam Regarding Property Boundary Lines

Following recent incidents in the Seven Hills area, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck wanted to take a moment to alert our residents—and, particularly, those who are elderly—of a potential scam that is threatening our area. Recently, solicitors have been approaching residents at their homes and asking them questions about their property boundary lines. The solicitors have claimed that they were contracted by the resident's neighbor to put up a fence in the backyard or cut down trees along the property line; and then the solicitors asks to enter the resident's home and backyard to see or have the resident point out the physical property line. The solicitor/scammer is, unsurprisingly, very friendly and professional, and it has even been reported that the scammer asks residents about the names of their spouses or kids in order to keep a lively conversation and further gain the trust of the resident.

While the scammer keeps residents occupied in their own backyards, he remains on the phone with a "coworker" who actually enters the residents' homes and steals their valuables while the resident is distracted outside with the initial solicitor/scammer. Once the coworker sneaks out of the residents' homes with their valuable belongings, the scammer concludes his "viewing of the property line" and gets into his vehicle where his coworker waits with the stolen goods and both men leave the resident's property.

We want to remind all of our residents to **never** let someone into you house or backyard that you do not know. If you are ever approached by someone asking to see your property line, enter your backyard, or go downstairs in your house to turn on/off your water, firmly tell them no and promptly contact the police. If at all possible, try to get a license plate number from the solicitor's vehicle, and be sure to give the police as detailed a description of the solicitor as you can.

We also want to remind our residents that if you are on the "Do Not Knock" list, and you still have unwanted solicitors knocking on your door, you should notify the Parma Police Department immediately of the violation. Do your best to remain aware and cautious of the potential for these scams to happen to you. Never hesitate to trust your instincts, turn away these solicitors, and call the police. If you wish to sign up for the "Do Not Knock" list, you may contact the Safety Department at 440-885-8174 or online at: www.cityofparma-oh.gov.

Parma Police Department: 440-885-1234