For Immediate Release
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St. Petersburg Police Issue Scam Alert Involving Prepaid Credit Cards

Detectives in our Economic Crimes Unit report seeing a recent rash of individuals being convinced to obtain prepaid credit cards by scam artists.

In some of the cases victims are trying to obtain loans on line and are being contacted via phone by scam artists who tell them they will have to pay a loan processing fee. They are instructed to place the money on a prepaid credit card and provide the account numbers to the caller which of course results in the money being deducted from the card and no loan being provided.

Recently reports have also been received where someone claiming to represent Duke Energy is calling targeted victims about alleged late power bill payments. The victims are usually business owners who are asked to go purchase prepaid cards and put money on them so that their accounts can be credited. Once again they provide the caller with the card account numbers allowing the money to be electronically stolen from them.

Detectives would like to alert the public to this type of scam and Sergeant Kevin Smith from our Economic Crimes Unit will be available for interviews if desired.

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