

# CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

## EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Richard Eddington, Chief of Police  
1454 Elmwood Ave., Evanston, Illinois 60201  
911/EMERGENCY  
847-866-5000/NON-EMERGENCY  
311/Request City Services or Information  
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/>



## TELEMARKETING FRAUD PREVENTION



It is estimated there are more than 10,000 fraudulent telemarketing operations calling hundreds of thousands of American consumers every day. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that one out of every six consumers are the victims of telemarketing criminals annually. In a large percentage of those cases, senior citizens are the targets of the fraud, which holds true to Evanston and throughout the North Shore.

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### TO PREVENT & REDUCE THE THREAT OF FALLING VICTIM OF THIS CRIME, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:

- **DON'T** be pressured to make an immediate decision.
- **DON'T** give your credit card, checking account or Social Security number to unknown callers.
- Research a charity BEFORE you give. Ask how much of your donation actually goes to the charity. Ask that written information be sent to you so you can make a wise and informed giving decision.
- **DON'T** send cash by messenger or overnight mail.
- Be cautious of statements that you've WON A PRIZE – particularly if the caller says you must send money to claim it.
- RESEARCH unsolicited offers through the [Better Business Bureau](#) (BBB), local consumer protection agency or the Illinois Attorney General's Office BEFORE you agree to send money.
- If in doubt, talk to family and friends, your attorney, accountant or banker and obtain their advice BEFORE you make any large purchase or investment.
- If you do not wish to be called by telemarketers, ask that your telephone number be removed from their phone lists. The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Telemarketing Sales Rule gives you the power to stop unwanted telemarketing calls. You can also put your phone number on the National "do-not-call" Registry to stop MOST telemarketing calls. Call 888-382-1222, TTY 866-290-4326 or go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Report violations of your "do not call" rights through the National Registry as well. You can also report telemarketing fraud to the NFIC at 800-876-7060 or online at [www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org).

[FOR ADDITIONAL INFO CONTACT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES BUREAU AT 847-866-5019](#)

[OR EMAIL POLICE OFFICER LOYCE SPELLS - lpells@cityofevanston.org](mailto:lpells@cityofevanston.org)