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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Increase in Scams Affecting Beverly Hills Residents

IRS Tax / Southern California Edison (SCE) Scam – Numerous residents have reported that they have received phone calls from individuals identifying themselves as agents or representatives of the IRS or SCE. During these phone calls, the alleged agents state the resident is delinquent in paying a bill or owe back taxes. The resident is then instructed to purchase prepaid debit cards, usually Green Dot/Money Pak cards. The suspects have been known to stay on the phone with the resident while they purchase the card(s) and they even mention specific details about the resident that only a legitimate source would know. There have also been threats of the delinquent payments leading to a warrant being issued for the resident's arrest. After the resident purchases the card(s), the alleged agent asks for the card numbers to be given verbally over the phone. Once the card numbers are given over the phone, the alleged agent/suspect will then upload the card number to another untraceable debit type card, usually in a place outside of California or the United States, and the funds are gone within minutes. Due to this being a scam, the resident's bank will not reimburse them for their financial loss. No legitimate government agency, public utility, or company will request payment for bills via the use of prepaid cards purchased from a pharmacy or grocery store (example: CVS Pharmacy, Rite-Aid, etc...).

In the event you receive such a phone call, contact the true entity by researching the number either on the internet or contact a trusted resource for assistance. ***IT IS ADVISED THAT A RESIDENT NEVER CALL THE NUMBER A SUSPECT PROVIDES TO VERIFY LEGITIMACY.*** As of late, residents have begun to report these alleged agents have visited their homes and made the same claims. However, in person they are also willing to accept cash. In these instances, it is advised that the resident does not allow the person to enter their residence, get a good description of the person, and **contact the Beverly Hills Police Department (310-550-4951) immediately to have and have a patrol unit dispatched to the residence.**

Additional Contacts:

Southern California Edison 1-800-655-4555

Internal Revenue Service 1-800-908-4490

Equifax – www.equifax.com, 1-800-525-6285

Experian – www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion – www.transunion.com, 1-800-680-7289

Federal Trade Commission 1-877-438-4338