

# FPD CRIME ALERT



## LOTTERY TICKET SCAM INVOLVING HISPANICS

There have recently been three reported CONFIDENCE SWINDLES wherein a male Hispanic, approaches an elderly person in some type of grocery store or other retail store convincing the elderly person he has a WINNING LOTTERY TICKET, but needs help cashing it because he has no legitimate ID. A second Hispanic person comes up to them during their conversation and further convinces the victim ("mark") he/she needs to help the holder of the ticket.

In order to cash this "winning ticket", according to the con, the people who approached the elderly person need the elderly person to put up some "good faith" money so the man with the lottery ticket can "trust them".

The conmen convince the victim to withdraw money from a bank with a promise of cash (a portion of the value of the lottery ticket) in return, only to leave the victim with an envelope full of blank pieces of paper the size of US currency.

These incidents occurred in Milwaukee, West Allis, and Kenosha and all were reported to the police after the scam was completed. No one has been arrested so far. In Milwaukee, the offenders conned the victim out of \$8,000. In West Allis, they took the victim for \$3,000 and in Kenosha; they swindled the victim out of \$25,000. There has been evidence recovered in each incident, however no one has been linked to the case.

This is a variation on the "PIGEON DROP confidence swindle" and relies on the victim wanting "something for nothing", or a "sure thing" (a portion of the winnings from the lottery ticket). It also plays upon the sympathy of the victim in helping the Hispanic man who has no ID to claim his winnings.

If you see this scam taking place or these conmen attempt to get you involved while you're out shopping call the police right away and be a good witness. Remember, you will NOT win against these people and the only solution is to get them arrested and LOCKED UP!

**DON'T BE A VICTIM OF CRIME**

For more information about how to avoid being victimized contact any of the Franklin Police Dept. Crime Prevention Unit Officers by phone at 414-425-2522, or by email through our website: <http://www.franklinpdcrimeprevention.info>