

COVID-19 Update from Hampshire Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane

January 13th, 2021

Another Scam Alert

As of 2 pm on Wednesday, January 13th, there are no cases of Covid-19 inside the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction, and 44 staff members have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine.

I learned today of another phone scam. A friend alerted me that he had received a call with a 631 area code asking for donations for sheriff's offices across the country that have been defunded.

As I have said whenever I have learned of such activity: The Hampshire Sheriff's Office will never, never, call private citizens and ask for payment of any kind. If you receive such a call, the best tactic is to simply hang up. Anyone receiving such a fraudulent call might also consider contacting their local police department, or notifying my office at 413-584-5911. The FBI website – www.fbi.gov – also has information about how to avoid such scams.

Here are some additional tips from the Better Business Bureau on what to do if a scammer calls:

- Hang up – don't press any buttons and, if you received a voicemail, don't call the scammer back. We all like to have the last word, but returning the phone call may just give the scammer information they can use.
- Don't trust caller ID – scammers have technology that lets them display any number or organization name on your screen.

- Never give out any financial information – if you did not initiate the call, do not provide bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers over the phone unless you have thoroughly done your research and verified the caller.

The duty of the Hampshire Sheriff's Office is to protect public safety. We want everyone to stay safe, and to remember that my office will never make, or be a party to, these kinds of phone calls.

Patrick J. Cahillane

Sheriff, Hampshire County