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## **FRAUD ALERT: TELEPHONE SCAMMERS CLAIM TO BE TAX OFFICE EMPLOYEES**

Austin, TX – Multiple people have contacted the Tax Office in recent days to report a telephone scam. Individuals claiming to be Tax Office employees have attempted to collect jury duty fines threatening arrest for non-compliance. The victim is asked to obtain a prepaid credit card immediately, and the scammer is reported to insist on remaining on the phone while the victim drives to a nearby store to obtain payment.

“While our office does make phone calls to collect debts owed to the county, we do not collect jury duty fines or use aggressive, threatening tactics,” said Bruce Elfant the Tax Assessor-Collector

How can you determine if the call you receive is from the Travis County Tax Office?

- The Tax Office sends official notices by mail to inform you of a debt prior to any phone calls.
- Tax Office employees will never ask you for a prepaid credit card.
- You are not required to pay by phone. You will be offered multiple payment options, including the ability to come in person to one of our five locations to discuss the obligation.
- In most cases, you can make payment arrangements rather than paying in a lump sum.

“If you suspect that the person calling is not a Tax Office employee, hang up immediately and dial (512) 854-9473. A member of our team can determine what you owe and if the telephone call was from an employee,” said Elfant.

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