

# F.B.I. and the BETHLEHEM POLICE DEPARTMENT

## SCAM / CYBER SECURITY **ALERT** INFO SESSION

The Bethlehem Police Department has been receiving an increased amount of complaints from residents regarding scam telephone calls. The Bethlehem Police recommends that people be cautious of potential scams and be alert to any unsolicited phone calls that they receive. Further, people should be cautious of giving credit card information over the phone unless it is a call that they initiate. Likewise, legitimate companies or corporations, or bail bondsman will never ask people to purchase prepaid credit cards to purchase items or pay fees. Also, it is recommended that people take precautionary steps if they believe that the caller or organization is skeptical. Businesses and phone numbers can be verified on the internet as well. If residents are unsure if the person calling is legitimate then they should contact their local police prior to sending any money or providing any personal information. The three most common scams are the Social Security scam, the Internal Revenue Service scam and the grandparent scam. In each of these scam telephone calls the person will attempt to scare or manipulate you to giving the caller personal information such as name, address, credit card information, social security number and in the case of the grandparent scam request you buy gift cards and turn over the card numbers to secure the safety of a loved one. Also remember when service workers come to your home, legitimate service workers or municipal employees will wear a uniform, drive a marked work vehicle and have identification. AARP website has various links to educate seniors on scams and fraud with the latest being issued by the Social Security Administration warning of an increase in telephone scams.

Please attend our presentation on scams and learn how to best identify and deal with a scammers if they contact you or a loved one.

**Don't get Scammed!**

**Bethlehem Town Hall / Room 101 A & B**

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

**1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

Program Presenter:

Special Agent Samantha Baltzersen, F.B.I. Albany Field Office

Panel Discussion Participants:

Detective Sergeant Gina Cocchiara, Bethlehem Police Department

Detective Ken Beck, Bethlehem Police Department

Detective Adam Cobb, Bethlehem Police Department