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## **COMMUNITY ALERT**

### **IRS TAX SCAM ALERT CLARIFICATION**

August 22, 2014

The Albany Police Department would like to clarify our prior Community Alert of August 21, 2014, on IRS procedures concerning contacting taxpayers via phone. The IRS does sometimes contact people by phone, but previously on the IRS website the language about phone procedures was vague. The IRS has since changed the language to more accurately reflect current procedures.

Taxpayers should know that the IRS usually does not:

- threaten police arrest, deportation or license revocation
- insist that taxpayers use a specific payment method
- request immediate payment over the phone

The IRS phone scam is very sophisticated. The IRS says that so far in 2014, more than 20,000 people nationwide have received threatening phone calls from someone posing as an IRS agent. Many victims fall for the scam and have paid out more than a million dollars collectively.

The most common way the IRS contacts taxpayers is via the U.S. Mail. For more information, please go to <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Warns-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam> or call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040.