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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff Patrick McDermott and the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office warn residents about an increase in scam calls linked to "missed jury duty" after two victims lose \$6,700

DEDHAM, MA – Sheriff Patrick McDermott and the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office are warning residents about an increase in calls by scammers claiming to work for the sheriff, or local police departments after two victims came forward after losing a total of \$6,700 in scams linked to "missed jury duty."

Both incidents occurred on Monday, October 27th. Both victims came to our office, after they had sent money to the scammers.

"The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office never makes calls like this, and neither do local police departments," said Sheriff McDermott. "Just hang up on anyone who is demanding money and acting like they are from our office, or another law enforcement agency, threatening you with arrest or detainment for things like 'missed jury duty' or an 'outstanding warrant.'"

Case #1: A woman from Sharon arrived at our facility on Monday afternoon with receipts from a Bitcoin kiosk totaling \$5,250. She told our officer she was there to clear up an issue about missing jury duty after transferring the money as demanded. What the sheriff's office learned is that someone acting like they worked for our office had left her a voicemail about "missed jury duty," and when she returned the call, the voicemail on the other end indicated it was connected to the sheriff's office. That triggered a series of phone conversations with the scammer, which led the woman to the Bitcoin kiosk to transfer the money. When the woman told the man on the other end that there was a sign on the machine warning users of such scams, she was told that if she refused, she would be detained for 10-12 days. She then transferred the money under duress.

Case #2: A woman from Dedham came into our lobby on Monday about 90 minutes later, stating she believed she may have been the victim of a scam. Sadly, she too was correct. Someone claiming to be a "lieutenant" with the sheriff's office told her there was a warrant out for her for missing jury duty and that if she did not pay it immediately, she would be arrested and detained for 72 hours. This scammer sent the victim a fraudulent court document to back up his claims, along with instructions on how to pay the "bond" via a Bitcoin kiosk at a store in Roslindale. The victim went to the store and transferred \$1,450.

Please remember: The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and local police departments never make calls like this. Hang up if you get a call like this.

You may be caught off guard and unwittingly fall victim. If they call back. Hang up again and report the calls to your police department.

Both victims have been asked to file reports with their local police departments.

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