



***Kemberle Braden***  
***Chief of Police***

Release: IMMEDIATE  
Date: January 21, 2025

Contact: R. Harrell, Public Information Specialist  
Phone: (910) 433-1829

*All suspects, and persons charged with a crime, are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Persons of interest are believed to have information relating to a case, and have not been charged unless stated otherwise.*

### **Scam Alert**

(Fayetteville, NC) - The Fayetteville Police Department has received reports of citizens being targeted by phone scammers posing as members of our department. These scammers may claim to hold various ranks, such as Sergeant, Detective, or Major, and might even use names of actual officers to make their calls appear legitimate.

#### **The scammer's voicemail may sound something like this:**

"This is Sgt. [Name] with the Fayetteville Police Department. I'm looking to make contact with one [Mr./Mrs. Name]. I've got some confidential legal matters that need your immediate attention. Just give us a call back at 910-\*-\*-. Thank you."

#### **When you call the number back, the voicemail might say:**

"This is Sgt. [Name] with the Fayetteville Police Department. If this is an emergency, hang up and dial 911. If not, leave your name, number, and a brief message, and I will get back to you. Thank you."

Once connected, the scammer will attempt to pressure you into providing monetary payments or gift cards, claiming this will prevent legal consequences.

#### **How to Protect Yourself from These Scams**

1. **The Fayetteville Police Department will NEVER ask for money, gift cards, or other payments to avoid legal consequences or imprisonment.**
2. Scammers often change the names, ranks, and phone numbers they use to make their schemes seem legitimate.
3. If you are unsure about the validity of a phone call, contact the Fayetteville Police Department directly at **910-433-1530** to verify the identity of the officer in question.
4. **Spread the word!** Share this information with friends, family, and neighbors to help protect them from falling victim to this scam.

**All suspects are innocent until proven guilty**  
**122<sup>nd</sup> Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency**

467 Hay Street

Fayetteville, NC 28301

Visit us at <http://www.bethebadge.com> & <http://www.facebook.com/fayetteville.police>

The City of Fayetteville, North Carolina does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion, or disability in its employment opportunities, programs, services, or activities.