



**Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department
Media Information Release
Warning: McAfee Scam Email**

Detectives with the Vienna Police Department are investigating two separate scam incidents related to a "McAfee Antivirus" email. Detectives advised that the scam usually begins with an email that purports to be from McAfee informing citizens that they are being charged \$300 for "McAfee Total Protection anti-virus software" unless they cancel the order by calling a phone number provided in the email. If you call the number provided, you will be greeted by a scammer posing as a McAfee employee who will ask for personal information, including a bank account number supposedly to verify the account. After receiving the personal information, the scammer will request a wire transfer of funds which will be nearly impossible to reverse once it is completed. The Vienna Police Department provides the following guidelines for spotting and avoiding a "phishing" email:

- 1) Always check the sender's email. Phishing emails may look like they are from a legitimate company you trust. Most of the time, you can tell it is a phishing scam if the sender's email address consists of random numbers and letters. If you are unsure, research the email of the company.
- 2) Look for spelling and grammatical errors. Phishing emails tend to have multiple spelling and grammatical errors in them.
- 3) Phishing emails will attempt to trick you through a sense of urgency in order to click on a link or open an attachment. You can inspect the link by hovering the mouse over it without clicking on it—only open attachments from trusted and verified sources.
- 4) Phishing emails may trick you by saying:
 - a. They've noticed suspicious activity or login attempts
 - b. Claim there are account problems or problems with payment information
 - c. Ask to confirm personal information
 - d. Attach fake invoices
 - e. Provide a link to allow for a payment
 - f. Threaten to arrest
 - g. Offer money or free items

If you feel you have fallen victim to a phishing scam, please call the police non-emergency number, 703-255-6366, to report it. You can also report phishing emails to your email provider or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) using their website. Useful links containing phishing email examples, how to avoid phishing emails, and FTC reporting procedures are attached below:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/online-security>

**For further information please contact:
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