

March 9, 2006

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Authorized By: David Hall, Chief of Police

### **Impersonation of Police Officer for Credit Card Fraud**

On Wednesday, March 8, 2006, the Meridian Township Police Department received a report of a fraud scheme. The suspect telephoned a Township resident. A male caller identified himself as a police lieutenant. The man said that the victim's son was in a serious traffic accident and needed to be transported by helicopter from the crash scene to a trauma center. The caller told the victim that her son's insurance did not cover the helicopter transport. The suspect obtained the victim's credit card information to pay for the transport.

It was later determined that the caller was not a police officer and that the victim's credit card information was used to make illegal purchases. The investigation is ongoing.

Citizens are reminded to be cautious in divulging credit card information over the telephone. Calls from police officers can be verified by checking the number the caller provides in your telephone directory or by calling your local police agency.

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