



City of Edmonds Media Release

Edmonds Police Department ~ 250 5th AVE North, Edmonds WA 98020

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To: Media

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POLICE RECOVER \$22,000 FOR FRAUD VICTIM

Local resident swindled from online dating scam gets her money back

With the hard work of a fraud detective, and the willingness of the victim to quickly report the scam, Edmonds PD was able to recover \$22,000 for the victim.

The victim, a 50 year old Edmonds woman was scammed by someone on a dating website. Instead of finding love, she came across someone willing to take advantage of her. After many email conversations, the victim was convinced the person needed the money to take care of legal matters so they could finally be together.

After sending the money to an account provided by the suspect, the victim realized she had fallen victim to an online dating scam. She filed a police report quickly, which ended up in the hands of Detective Morrison.

Detective Morrison was able to track the \$22,000 to a bank account in the State of Virginia. After a conversation with that account holder, he discovered that man was also being used by the same suspect.

The man in Virginia had been selling his truck and provided his account information to the suspect, who claimed interest in buying it for \$22,000. The suspect then instructed the Edmonds victim to deposit her \$22,000 into the Virginia man's account. After a few days had passed, the suspect contacted the man in Virginia and claimed they wanted to back out of the truck deal and requested a "refund". The suspect instructed the man in Virginia to wire the money to a different account elsewhere. The Virginia account holder became suspicious of this request and moved the money to a different account he owned. Detective Morrison convinced the Virginia Man to send us a check so we could recoup our victim's loss.

On October 1st, 2015 Detective Morrison was able to give the Edmonds victim a \$22,000 check.

This sort scam is more common than many people think. The Edmonds Police Department wants the public to be aware that if you are asked for money by someone you have met on a dating website, it is likely a scam. If you have been the victim of this sort of scam, the best thing you can do is report it immediately. "It is extremely rare that we are able to recover any funds that are voluntarily sent to another bank account", says Detective Morrison. "In most cases, the account is drained immediately after funds are wired. Time in these cases is of the essence. It is because of the quick actions of the victim in reporting this incident to us, and also keeping meticulous records that abled us to identify where her money went".

(Edmonds - WA)

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