



# Peninsula Detachment Crime Alert

## **2/13/09 – Unemployed Residents Targeted by Scams**

Residents of the Peninsula Detachment jurisdiction have reported receiving employment offers which result in the receipt of fraudulent checks and sometimes the loss of money forwarded to other parties.

The most recent report involves a resident posting a resume on [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org). A person claiming the name of Sandra Hill replied and offered employment doing data entry from home. When the job was accepted, the victim received a cashier's check for \$895.00 with instructions to keep \$200.00 and forward the balance via Western Union to Save Our Souls Children Foundation.

Several emails were sent by Sandra Hill, each had numerous spelling and grammatical errors. The emails relayed a sense of urgency. The victim forwarded the money as requested then later found the check received was fraudulent.

This type of scam email has been sent in connection to other legitimate websites. To protect themselves, residents need to be educated about this type of scam.

If an email contains spelling and grammatical errors, think about what type of business would want to be represented by poorly written communication.

If the email includes a business name, attempt to verify the physical location of the business and other contact information. Don't be afraid to use the newly found information to follow up and verify the employment offer received.

If any business transaction involves you accepting a check, depositing the check in your own account then sending money somewhere else, it is not a legitimate offer. If the money must be transferred via Western Union, realize once the money is picked up, it can not be retrieved.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can reach the Peninsula Detachment office at 253-798-4940 during normal business hours.