

HOUSING SCAM NOTIFICATION

It has come to our attention that several landlords have been contacted via e-mail by people **posing** as international students/visiting scholars/faculty. The majority of these e-mails have originated from the UK.

Typically, the scam works like this:

- ❖ Tenant expresses urgency in completing rental agreement & agrees to send a check/money order for the cost of the rental **ASAP**.
- ❖ Tenant sends a counterfeit check/money order for more money than is needed and requests the landlord send them the balance.
- ❖ Tenant states that they're planning to use the balance to purchase their plane ticket, furniture or another urgent cause and asks the landlord to send the money **ASAP**.
- ❖ Upon initial deposit, the bank accepts the counterfeits but contacts the landlord within a couple of days and notifies them that the check/money order was fake.

IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU, DO NOT SEND OR RETURN MONEY

WHO SHOULD I NOTIFY ABOUT FRAUD OR SCAM ATTEMPTS?

If you feel suspicious that a potential tenant may be attempting a scam, request that the bank/post office investigate and/or contact the following:

- FTC toll free hotline: 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)
- FTC online complaint form (www.ftc.gov)
- Internet Fraud Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov/)
- Non-emergency number for your local police department.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THIS WARNING AND BE SUSPICIOUS OF ANYONE CONTACTING YOU WITH SIMILAR REQUESTS.