



# City of Downey

FUTURE UNLIMITED

## Public Safety Tip

### Lottery Ticket Scams

July 28, 2011

The Downey Police Department would like to caution Downey residents to be wary of a recurring scam within our City.

In recent months, a growing trend has developed where criminals are contacting unsuspecting victims, asking them to assist in collecting winnings from a fraudulent lottery ticket. These incidents oftentimes occur as follows:

- A single suspect will contact the victim in a public place such as a grocery store or retail parking lot
- The suspect will show the victim a lottery ticket and tell them they are unable to collect the winnings due to a lack of citizenship or identification
- A second suspect will pose as a bystander and act as though they are interested in helping the original suspect cash the ticket
- The first suspect will then tell the victim that the lottery office requires a cash deposit before the winning ticket can be cashed
- The second suspect will offer to provide part of the deposit if the victim will provide a portion of the deposit as well
- Both suspects then take the victim to a local bank where they will remain in the car while the victim withdraws a large sum of cash from his/her personal account
- After withdrawing money from the bank, the suspects will drive the victim around town, looking for an opportunity to grab the victim's cash and flee the scene

These scams have been around for several years. Recently a Downey resident lost \$25,000 after falling victim to this crime. The suspects in these cases typically target elderly women, but have been known to change that pattern if the opportunity arises.

Anyone with questions regarding these scams is encouraged to contact Downey Police Detective Mark Galindo at (562) 904-2326 or Detective Jerry Price at (562) 904-2359.