

Fraud Alert!

January 17, 2007

YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE

The District Attorney's Office has received two reports of area residents receiving threatening e-mails designed to extort a large sum of money, or to scare the recipient. The e-mails are identical and the author claims to have a contract for \$50,000 to kill the person receiving the e-mail, but if the victim will pay \$80,000 the hired killer will not fulfill the contract. The writer warns the victim not to call the police because he/she will know if that happens and will have to complete the contract.

We believe this to be a scam, and believe that there is no hired killer who has a contract on anyone's life. One possible goal is to frighten the victim into paying a large sum of money to save his/her life. To date the perpetrator has not made any further contact with the victims to try to collect the money. Only the original e-mail has been received. Or the goal may simply be to scare victims, a particular concern with persons who already feel isolated or vulnerable. Regardless of whether the motivation is fraud or a prank, this is a serious matter. Anyone receiving this e-mail should notify their local law enforcement agency immediately, or call the Fraud Assistance Line at 720-874-8547. Under no circumstances should any money be paid or any attempt be made to contact or correspond with the perpetrator. Anyone receiving this e-mail should do nothing without the advice of law enforcement.

A copy of the threatening e-mail may be found on the District Attorney's website, www.da18.org. Click on "Fraud Alerts", "Your Money or Your Life" and the hyperlink at the bottom of the page.

Need help?

Call the Fraud Assistance Line

720-874.8547

