



*"City of Vision and Change"*

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### **Mansfield police warn citizens about fraudulent check scams**

Mansfield Police Chief Joseph Pratt is asking citizens and check cashing businesses to be wary of fraudulent check scams. There has been a recent surge of counterfeit/fraudulent checks being sent to potential victims through the mail. Most of these scams involve the scammer sending the victim a check, and instructing the victim to deposit the funds into the victim's account. The scammer then instructs the victim to immediately send back a large portion of the money to the scammer. The victim thinks the checks are legitimate, because the funds become available to them within one to two days, when in fact the check has not actually cleared with the victim's bank. The victim then sends the larger portion of the money back to the scammer. By the time that the bank discovers that the check is no good, the victim is left responsible for the full amount of the check, and many times they are left with overdraft fees and other bank fees. It is important for anyone that receives an unsolicited check in the mail, to report it to the region's nearest **United States Secret Service branch (Baton Rouge (225) 925-5436)** and the **United States Postal Inspection Service (Houston, Tx (877) 876-2455)** immediately. It is also important that the victim not to believe that the check is valid just because it looks real. Printing technology has advanced considerably in recent years. In certain cases the victim may face prosecution, and in every case, the victim is liable for all money deposited within their accounts.