

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oshkosh Police Department

 Date:
 July 23, 2012

 Time:
 10:30 A.M.

 Contact:
 Officer Joseph Nichols (920) 236-5742

Subject: Subjects Posing as City of Oshkosh Employees/Contractors/Home Burglaries

MEDIA RELEASE

The Oshkosh Police Department is reminding citizens to be on alert for a subject or subjects that continue to pose as an employee(s) for the City of Oshkosh and that have been involved in numerous burglaries throughout the City of Oshkosh since March 2011.

The most recent burglary was reported to Oshkosh Police on Sunday, July 22, 2012 after a citizen said that on Monday, July 16, 2012, a subject knocked on the side door of the citizen's home in the 900 block of Knapp St. and was able to get the home owner onto the sidewalk while another suspect apparently entered the citizen's home and stole an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect is described as a male Caucasian, in his mid 20's, approximately 5'6" tall and weighing 150-160 lbs. The suspect had light brown hair with no facial hair and no glasses. He was wearing blue jeans and a blue short-sleeve shirt. The suspect was also carrying a notebook and tape measure. No suspect vehicle information was available. In previous burglaries, a dark colored pick-up truck was parked in the driveway.

A reminder to citizens that if a subject says they are with the City of Oshkosh, they will have a City of Oshkosh identification card with them. If someone says that they are from the City of Oshkosh and they need you to step outside with them, ask to see their identification card, what department they work at for the City of Oshkosh, and that department's phone number. If you suspect this a scam or fraud, you may contact the Oshkosh Police Department at 236-5700 or the City of Oshkosh general number at 236-5000.

Furthermore, if someone is at your door identifying themselves as a contractor or sub-contractor for the City of Oshkosh or if someone is identifying themselves as an independent contractor not working with the City of Oshkosh and they want you to step outside or go inside your home or is requesting cash to complete work, do not go outside with that person or give them money. Get the information from the person as to where they are from, if they have an identification card, and a phone number. If you feel this is a scam, contact the Oshkosh Police Department immediately.

In all these cases, the imposters have gone to homes targeting older adults and have asked for money to correct problems at their property, asked for permission to enter their home to inspect for problems or have enticed the home owner out of their house while another person committed the burglary.

Community members are encouraged to discuss this fraud alert with older adults they know.

If anyone has information in regards to this burglary or information on the suspects involved, they are highly encouraged to contact the Oshkosh Police Department at (920) 236-5700.

If someone has information on these suspects and wishes to remain anonymous, they may call Crime Stoppers at (920) 231-8477 and leave a crime tip; or go to the Crime Stoppers website of <u>www.winnebagocrimestoppers.org</u> and submit a crime tip on the website; or Text the tip "IGOTYA plus your message" to 274637 or CRIMES. The person leaving the tip is eligible for up to a \$1,000 reward for information.

Joseph W. Nichols Public Information Officer Oshkosh Police Department (920) 236-5742

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