GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of the Inspector General



Inspector General

For Immediate Release May 25, 2023 Contact: External Affairs oig.prcomms@dc.gov

Fraud Alert: District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Telephone Numbers Used in Scam

WASHINGTON – The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (DC OIG) confirmed that its official DC OIG telephone number (1-202-727-2540) is being used as part of a spoofing scam targeting individuals who may be Medicaid, Social Security, or Disability benefit recipients. These scammers represent themselves as DC OIG employees and can alter the appearance of the caller ID to make it seem as if the call is coming from the main DC OIG phone number (1-202-727-2540) found on its <u>public website</u>. The perpetrator may use various tactics to obtain or verify the victim's personal information, which can be used to perpetrate fraudulent activity.

We encourage the public to remain vigilant, protect their personal information, and guard against providing personal information during calls that purport to be from DC OIG telephone numbers. We also remind the public that it is still safe to contact the DC OIG Hotline to report fraud. We particularly encourage those who believe they may have been a victim of the telephone spoofing scam to report that information to us through the DC OIG Hotline 1-202-724-TIPS (1-202-724-8477) or <u>online</u>.

Other Resources:

- If you suspect your personal information has been stolen:
 - File a Report with the Metropolitan Police Department:
 - Via telephone at 202-727-4159.
 - Via the Internet at <u>https://www.mpdc.dc.gov</u>.
 - In person at your nearest MPD District Station.
- Learn more about Identify Theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
- Learn about Social Security Scams from the Social Security Administration
- <u>Report Identity Theft to the Federal Trade Commission</u>
 - Individuals may also file any other consumer complaint with the Federal Trade Commission 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or online at <u>https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/</u>.

Protect Yourself

Do not provide any personal information to unknown individuals, including any of the following information:

- a social security number
- date of birth

- credit card information
- driver's license number
- bank account information
- mother's maiden name
- copies of personal documents

Do not verify your name or any other personal information. Be extremely cautious. The District of Columbia Government will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take immediate action.