



# FRAUD ALERT



## Protect Yourself from Scams

Senior citizens in the 24th District's Rogers Park and Edgewater communities have recently been targeted in various scams and fraud schemes. We are asking you to please be aware of some recent schemes that are taking place in your neighborhood.

### HOME REPAIR/IMPROVEMENT SCAM

- Also described as a wandering contractor scam
- Sometimes represent themselves to be a utility worker
- Someone knocks on your door and offers to repair something outside your home such as tree trimming, tuck pointing, roof repairs
- Sometimes say they were doing work in the area and had extra supplies and noticed your house needed the same type of work
- Work in pairs or small groups to distract you while another enters your home through front and/or rear door
- Sometimes the repair scam involves your vehicle and they will offer to repair a dent or improve the car finish.

### RED FLAGS TO LOOK FOR

- Unsolicited offers for home repairs, or car repairs
- Utility workers who do not have proper identification or scheduled service appointment
- Prices that seem too good to be true
- Demands for cash or full payment before completion of work
- Offers to drive the homeowner to the bank to withdraw funds for the proposed work
- High pressure sales tactics

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Beware of anyone trying to sell you something who suggests you pay in cash, or asks you to call your bank to approve a check
- Be aware of scare tactics when an agent tries to use fear of personal safety to sell, or fear of potential higher costs
- Be leery of anyone who tries to discourage you from talking to trusted friends or family neighbors about your decisions
- Trust your instincts and ask your neighbors or family when something doesn't sound right
- Call the police if you are feeling threatened, intimidated, or believe you are involved in a scam

**Be alert and be aware! If you see something, say something! Call 9-1-1.**