



MEDIA RELEASE

September 11, 2014

1:30 P.M.

Residential Rental Fraud

Recently a family was the victim of a 'Rent Scam' in a condominium community in Greenbelt, Maryland. The family was shown a condominium in the community by the suspect, who had advertised the property on a nearby supermarket community bulletin board. The condominium shown (but not owned by the suspect) had been vacant for some time and was apparently rekeyed by the suspect in order to gain entry. The family was told that they would be given a discount if they agreed to fix up the unit at their own expense, and that they could pay their rent in cash. A vigilant neighbor brought the situation to the attention of the community's homeowner's association. The family subsequently had to be evicted.

If you feel you may have been the victim of a similar fraud or notice a neighboring condominium or rental unit that has been vacant for some time and then rekeyed in a different manner than normal, please call the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200 or your local police department to report the situation.

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