



Livery Cab Passenger **Crime Alert**

The NYPD has identified a recent trend in which passengers of black Lincoln livery cabs have been the unwitting victims of Grand Larcenies. To date, there have been 34 incidents in which a passenger street hails a black Lincoln livery cab and becomes a victim of a debit card “Switch” scam.

Here is how it works:

At the conclusion of the trip, the perpetrator, who is the operator of the livery cab, convinces the victim to pay the fare using a debit card. Once the victim provides their debit card to the driver they are requested to enter their personal identification number (PIN) into livery driver’s cell phone to complete the transaction. Once this “transaction” process is complete the driver switches the victim’s debit card with a blank or similar looking card and returns that card to the unsuspecting passenger wrapped in a receipt. The unsuspecting passenger does not realize that the card they now have is not theirs. The driver now possesses the victim’s **debit card** and **personal identification number**. Once the passenger is dropped off at their destination the driver goes to store front ATMs and withdraws money from the victim’s account.

Don’t let this happen to you!

Follow these safety tips to protect yourself:

- If possible travel with friends. There is safety in numbers.
- Attempt to record the license plate of the livery cab before entering. Once recorded, text this information to a friend or family member along with your pick-up/drop-off locations.
- Workout payment methods with driver before entering to ensure you are not forced into using a credit/debit card as the only means of payment.
- If paying with credit/debit card, take the extra time to ensure that it is your card that is returned to you.
- Trust your instincts. If something does not feel right call 911 or notify a police officer.

Make sure to share this information with at least one other person!!!

