



Community Board 12

The City of New York

Borough of Queens

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens

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BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

Yvonne Reddick
DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Report

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Hope 2024 Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at night DSS, HRA, DHS will conduct its annual homeless Outreach Population Estimate Hope Survey. The survey helps the city to estimate the number of unsheltered New Yorkers living on the street.

If you are interested in participating, go to NYC.gov/hope to learn more and to register. Volunteers help out by canvassing streets, parks, subways, and other public spaces. Volunteers are needed from approximately 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

ADA Joseph T. Conley III
Bureau Chief, Frauds Bureau

Queens County District Attorney's Office reported Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at the Borough Cabinet Meeting on the latest Emerging scams targeting Queens Residents, they are:

Romance Scams

- Scammers create profiles on dating, chat, or other sites.
- Contact their victims on social media and develop a relationship.

Grandparent Jail Bail Scams

- This scam preys on the hearts and minds of older adults

Phone Scams

- Scammers make contact over the phone to pull off various types of financial fraud.
- Car warranties
- Overdue payments

Check Washing

- Mail is stolen from Postal drop boxes or residential mailboxes.
- Check is "Washed" using readily available chemicals.
- Scammers will change the payee and amount before depositing the check.
- Signature is still original.

How to Avoid Check Washing

- Pay bills online when possible.
- Deliver mail directly to the Post Office

- Use gel ink pens.
- Monitor bank accounts.

Charity Scams

- Scammers use names that sound like well-known charities. You ask the fundraiser for the charity's exact name, website, and mailing address.
- The IRS website can verify if an organization is a legitimate tax-exempt charity.
- The New State Attorney General Charities Bureau Website
- Never donate to Charities that ask for donations by gift card or by wiring money.

Homeowner Scams

- Deed Fraud
- Warning signs – no longer receiving mail, bills from utility companies, official mail in an unknown person's name.

Avoid being a Victim

- Never send money in the mail, by wire, in the form of gift cards or to a person you never met.
- Never give a stranger access to your bank account information, be cautious with adding a joint account holder; review monthly statement.
- Do not call phone numbers you have not verified.

“Our community is as good as we make it, if you see something you say something. Take pride in your community.”

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!