



**Office of Genesee County Prosecutor
David Leyton**

PRESS RELEASE

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**PROSECUTOR WARNS RESIDENTS ABOUT SCAM ARTISTS
DURING FLINT'S WATER CRISIS**

Flint -- Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton is warning local residents to be alert to possible scams that may be trying to take advantage of Flint's emergency water crisis.

Prosecutor Leyton said that scam artists follow headlines and strike when people are most vulnerable including crisis situations such as Flint is experiencing now with its water problems.

He noted that fraudulent activities can come in a variety of forms including aggressive phone solicitations, mailers, emails, and even door-to-door solicitors. These scams may offer services or special insurance or warranties to those affected by the crisis situation and will request personal information such as social security numbers, birthdates, or bank and credit card information along with requests to send money via cash, check or credit cards.

"I don't want to spread further fear in our community but, I also want our residents to be extra careful and vigilant at this time when dealing with unsolicited offers from strangers and unknown companies," said Prosecutor Leyton. "The old adage is true, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," he said.

Prosecutor Leyton said that otherwise legitimate companies may also be taking advantage of this period of fear and uncertainty by offering services that costs hundreds and thousands of dollars but are really ineffective or unnecessary to deal with the crisis at hand. In those situations involving door-to-door sales people or telemarketers, Prosecutor Leyton advises residents to ask for more time to think about it and to request printed information concerning the company and its services. He said a legitimate company offering legitimate services will respect that reasonable request and give you time to consider without badgering, harassment, or threats.

Before entering into any agreement to purchase products or services that are related in any way to Flint's water crisis, Prosecutor Leyton advises residents to confer with trusted family, friends, or neighbors and get their opinion before purchasing anything. He noted that government agencies, local charitable organizations, and countless volunteers are already working night and day to provide needed products and services such as free water

and water filters free of charge. Prosecutor Leyton said that anyone offering to sell you something at this point in time to “fix the problem” should be looked at with a healthy bit of skepticism.

“My office has been informed of a couple of activities out there in our community that are questionable, at best” said Prosecutor Leyton. “I advise people to take advantage of the donated water being distributed in an organized fashion throughout the community and to be extra careful before spending hundreds or thousands of dollars on ineffective and unnecessary equipment, products, or services,” he said.

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