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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon: The IRS Phone Scam is Back in Town. Staten Islanders Should Simply Hang Up on Cons

**** Best way to greet con artists looking to swindle your cash is with dial tone****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today warned Staten Islanders to be wary of phone calls from individuals claiming to be IRS agents looking to collect a bogus tax debt.

“My office has received reports that con artists are again making unsolicited calls to Staten Islanders in hopes of scoring quick cash from unsuspecting victims,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “The best way to combat this scam is to immediately hang up and provide no information. Remember, the IRS would never call to demand that outstanding taxes be settled with a credit card payment. Additionally, the IRS will first send a tax bill in the mail. And, most importantly, an IRS agent would never threaten to arrest you over the phone.”

The scam in question usually involves an autodialed call from an unknown individual who has used Caller ID spoofing software to disguise their real phone number and, on some occasions, to alter their voice. (Scammers may also use phishing emails, which pose as legitimate websites and trick targets into providing personal information and financial data.) Unfortunately, spoofing technology has prevented law enforcement from tracing the origin of these calls, but we encourage the public to notify our office at 718-876-6300 and report any repeat scam calls or changing patterns.

For more information, District Attorney McMahon urges Staten Islanders to visit: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/IRS-Urges-Public-to-Stay-Alert-for-Scam-Phone-Calls>

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