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San Francisco Police Offer Resources to the Chinese Community Affected by Blessing and Healing Scams 24-008

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San Francisco Police urge all members of the Chinese community to be suspicious of strangers claiming to provide relief from a curse or illness or those who provide “purification” ceremonies in which cash and valuable items must be offered as part of the process.

Please review the previously released video below on various ways to identify potential scammers, how to protect yourself from a scam, and reporting resources available to scam victims.

<https://vimeo.com/909199864/631b3875ba?share=copy>

In two recent cases, the suspects were described as one Asian male between the ages of 50 to 60 years and two Asian females ranging in age from early 30s to 60 years old. All of the suspects were described as having black hair and brown eyes and were often wearing masks that covered their mouths.

Anyone who is confronted by scammers or anyone who knows of an elder who scammers approached is strongly advised to contact the police. Reports can be made at any SFPD District Station or by calling Dispatch at [\(415\) 553-0123](tel:(415)553-0123) and requesting an officer to take a report.

Cantonese speakers can leave tips on a special tip line by calling [\(415\) 553-9212](tel:(415)553-9212) or [1-855-737-3847](tel:1-855-737-3847).

Information can also be called into the Anonymous Tip Line at [\(415\) 575-4444](tel:(415)575-4444) or via Text a Tip by texting [TIP411](sms:TIP411) and beginning the message with SFPD.

SFPD is committed to safety with respect for all our City's communities. The department works closely with San Francisco's multilingual communities to identify and address specific safety concerns. SFPD currently has hundreds of officers that speak more than 30 different languages. The department is encouraging all bilingual officers to become certified to provide Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services to community members.

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