



## City of Greenacres

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### Public Safety Department

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## Foreign Lottery Scam

You receive a letter in the mail or by e-mail stating that you have just won the lottery. The lottery is from out of the country. You have never entered this lottery nor have you ever heard of this lottery.

The letter states it's from the lottery or bank which claims that you have won a large sum of money. The letter is accompanied by a check from a bank which claims to be a partial payment of your winnings. The writer claims to be a representative of the bank or lottery. The letter also states that you have to pay the taxes and insurance before you can collect the full amount of the winnings that it has to be paid directly to a tax agent assigned to you, a name and an out of country phone number is provided to you.

There are many different versions of this type of scam. Expanded versions of the lottery can have the thieves sending checks to their victims for the full amount of their winnings but in the same breath telling them to remit a smaller sum to an agency that handles the transfer, either for fees associated with preparation of the paperwork or taxes associated with the win. You try to cash the check and the check bounces leaving you out of the money you mailed off to the cons.

No matter what form the scam takes, there are no lottery winnings waiting in the wings. This is a scam. If you receive any type of lottery notice stating that you have won a large sum of money and you have never heard of the lottery nor have you entered the lottery, it is a scam. Contact the police and report it. **Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**