



## **Internet Fraud Alert**

During the past year the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department has received several complaints from residents who became victims of Internet Fraud. The victim is usually attempting to sell some merchandise utilizing Craig's List. It typically involves an e-mail request from a person outside the country expressing an interest to purchase. The requestor will send a "bank certified" check to the victim to cover all the expenses including the cost for shipment. In return the victim is to e-mail his personal information (name & address) to them. Upon receiving this check the victim is requested to deposit this check into their bank account and then withdraw a specified amount to cover the shipping costs. This money is then sent back to requestor via Western Union to an expediting company as payment for their services, at which time they would arrange for the pick-up of the merchandise. The victim then follows all the directions only to realize a few days later that the original check was a "fake" and that their bank account has been overdrawn.

These types of scams are very common, but unfortunately many people continue to become victims. The one thing we all need to remember is that if something "*looks to good to be true*" then chances are it is possibly a scam.

Attached are some "Internet Fraud" reference website addresses:

[www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com](http://www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com)

[www.fraudguides.com](http://www.fraudguides.com)