We have received numerous phone calls today from citizens who report that they are being contacted by the Burlington Police Department for "owing money on back taxes".

Several callers reported that they received a phone call from a person who stated that they were a dispatcher with the Burlington Police and they were then "patched through" to a police lieutenant. The victims were informed by the "Police Lieutenant" that they owed money on back taxes and needed to pay or the city would be "freezing assets" until the taxes were paid. The Scammers are using "Caller ID spoofing" which allows them to appear as if they are calling from the Burlington Police main phone number (802-658-2700), when they are actually calling from outside the state of Vermont.

The Burlington Police does not collect taxes and would never ask for payment for any reason over the phone. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be the Burlington Police and you are suspicious of the phone call, you may call the Burlington Police Department directly to determine if the call was legitimate or not.

Thank you.

Lt. Michael D. Warren
Detective Services Bureau
Burlington Police Department
1 North Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401