



Borough of State College
"A Home Rule Municipality"

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MEDIA RELEASE

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The State College Police Department has received several reports of Ransomware scams in our area. Ransomware is a type of malicious software that threatens to publish the victim's data or lock a victim's computer or cell phone unless a ransom is paid. Recent reported cases involve the request to send iTunes gift cards to the person or agency offering to correct the problem.

Other common scams involve notice that an arrest warrant has been issued for failure to make payments to the government or other entity. The caller or email will request immediate payment to avoid arrest.

We would like to remind persons that any organization or individual that is requesting payment for services in the form of iTunes (or any other type) gift card should be carefully scrutinized. No government agency would request payment in this form.

For further information on protecting yourself, and reporting Ransomware attacks, see the Federal Bureau of Investigation public service announcement I-091516-PSA:

<https://www.ic3.gov/media/2016/160915.aspx>

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