

## **News Release**

### **Palatka Police Department**

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## **Burglary at local pawn shop – numerous guns stolen**

A local pawn shop located in the 3700 block of Crill Avenue has been burglarized over the past several nights. During the burglaries, numerous guns were stolen. The Palatka Police Department would like to warn residents about the thefts and ask for assistance in identifying the suspects as well as trying to recover the stolen property.

The investigation revealed that the business, Foxy's Pawn located in the 3700 block of Crill Avenue was broken into twice. Once during the early morning hours July 31<sup>st</sup> and once during the early morning hours of August 4<sup>th</sup>. Evidence was recovered from the scene, but no suspects have been identified at this time.

A total of 14 guns were stolen during the break-ins. Nine (9) handguns were taken and five (5) rifles were taken. The value of the weapons was estimated at approximately \$6,000.00. The thieves also stole an undetermined amount of ammunition.

If anyone has information on possible suspects or the whereabouts of the weapons, please contact the Palatka Police Department at 329-0115. The investigation is being handled by Detective Reno Fells.

## **Financial Phone Scam**

The Palatka Police Department has received at least two reports in reference to financial fraud attempts being made over the telephone. The attempts occurred in the last few days.

The potential victims reported that the suspect callers stated they were an employee of the City of Palatka calling in reference to alarm registration. The caller stated that their records showed that the person called had not paid their yearly alarm registration fee. They asked how the person receiving the call would like to pay for the registration.

Both complainants stated that they questioned the caller about their employment with the City of Palatka and asked to verify it. They also questioned why they had not received any other notification about their registration being due. At that point, the caller hung up.

The Palatka Police Department checked and found that the telephone number showing up on caller ID does not belong to the company that manages the False Alarm Program for the City of Palatka. It was also verified that customers would receive some type of written notification about alarm registration, not a phone call. If they did receive a phone call, the person would verify their employment with the company that manages the program or their employment with the City of Palatka.

The calls reported are believed to be persons attempting to gain financial information from the persons called. If anyone else receives this type of call, please report it to the Palatka Police Department. We urge everyone to be cautious and do not give out financial information on the telephone.

Additional information is available from Assistant Chief James Griffith of the Palatka Police Department.