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TO: ALL SENIOR CITIZEN GROUPS  
FROM: PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH  
DATE: JUNE 12, 2007

Please let the senior citizens in your group know about this con artist scam at your next meeting.

## **CON ARTIST ALERT TO ALL SENIOR GROUPS**

### **Foreign-lottery scams making their rounds in the Akron area!**

According to the Better Business Bureau of Akron, foreign lottery scams are a common way criminals try to extract money and information from unsuspecting consumers. The scam starts with an e-mail, letter or phone call where a person from a foreign country claims the victim has won a lottery but needs to pay a nominal fee for taxes, transfer fees, custom holding fees and the like, in order to receive the winnings. Unfortunately, consumers never receive lottery winnings. Instead, their checking accounts are drained, letters keep piling up and calls from the scammers do not stop.

A 73-year-old Fairlawn woman recently lost \$20,000 to this scam. Nobody knows how many people have fallen victim to this type of scam and there seems to be very little to do about it since the money leaves the country. If someone has become a victim, the police suggest he or she close the existing checking account and open a new one, as well as change any phone numbers that may have been given out to the scammers.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list to receive alerts and other useful information from my office, please call (330) 643-2796.

Please feel free to call my office anytime if there is any way we can assist you.