



## Bureau of Detectives Central Investigations Division- Financial Crimes Unit



September 12, 2024  
24-1-151CA

# Community Alert

## Deceptive Practice/Fraud

### 009<sup>th</sup> District (Deering)

#### About the Crime:

The purpose of this alert is to inform the citizens residing in the 009th & 001st Police District regarding confidence scams. Offenders are targeting elderly members of the Chinese community, as well as their friends, family, and co-workers, by gaining their trust to facilitate confidence scams. In these scams, victims are given "blessed water" in exchange for money. The offenders typically approach victims with the help of 2 or 3 Asian females, engaging them in a conversation about finding a doctor before convincing them to participate in a cleansing or blessing ceremony. During the ceremony, victims are required to place their money and belongings in a bag for blessing, which they are then instructed not to open for several days, nor disclose the ceremony to family members. After the ceremony, victims find that everything inside the bag has been stolen. These incidents have taken place in the general geographical locations of the Deering District. We strongly advise everyone to exercise caution and conduct due diligence before engaging in any financial transactions. We especially want to remind our Asian community to be aware of these scams and to take extra precautions.

#### Incident locations and times:

- 2200 block of S. Wentworth on May 18, 2024, at approx. 10:55 a.m.
- 2800 block of S. Archer on August 14, 2024, at approx. 11:00 a.m.
- 2400 block of S. Wallace Ave on August 26, 2024 at approx. 11:00 a.m.
- 800 block of S. Park Terrace on August 27, 2024, at approx. 11:00 a.m.
- 2700 block of S. Wells St. on August 23, 2024, at approx. 3:00 p.m.

#### Description of Offender:

2-3 Asian Female(s), 30-40 YOA

#### Things to consider:

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Immediately report suspicious activity
- If you are confronted by an assailant remain calm
- Remember any unique physical characteristics (scars, limp, acne, teeth, etc.)
- Never pursue a fleeing assailant, provide the information to the police
- If approached by a witness to the incident, request their contact information
- Immediately dial 9-1-1 and remain on the scene when possible

**If you have any information, Contact the Bureau of Detectives – Financial  
Crimes Unit 604 Detective J. Sivicek #20335  
(312) 746-9661**

**JH348219, JH400952, JH402945, JH405691, JH406784**  
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