



ALBUQUERQUE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Empowering people in our community through affordable housing and self-sufficiency opportunities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Please advise the public this is an ongoing concern

NEWS RELEASE-Public Service Announcement - January 18, 2017

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Credit Card Fraud Phone Call Scam hits Section 8 Landlords:
Phone calls to Section 8 Landlords asking for payment by credit card are NOT from Albuquerque Housing Authority – AHA does not accept payments by credit card

Albuquerque, New Mexico – Please be aware of a telephone scam that has claimed several victims. Several people around Albuquerque have received phone calls from a person claiming to an employee of Albuquerque Housing Authority (AHA) and the caller ID will show the AHA office main phone number of 764-3920. The scammer claims that the Section 8 housing landlord failed to attend a mandatory class for Section 8 Housing program landlords at the AHA office at 1840 University Blvd SE and now there will be some sort of negative consequence for failing to attend the seminar at the AHA office. Please note: the AHA does not require landlords to attend a seminar. It is an optional class to learn more about the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and rent payment standards for the Section 8 rental assistance program. Attendance by landlords is completely optional and there is no fee to attend the free class and the AHA never charges a fee for the printed materials handed out at this class.

The victim on the phone call is then told to buy a landlord training book from AHA for varied amounts in most cases. The scammer asks the victim to pay over the phone using a credit card. The scammer states that this is the fastest way to have the failure to attend the Section 8 landlord seminar resolved.

Linda Bridge, Executive Director of AHA, advises that the AHA does not accept any payments by credit or debit card. The AHA only accepts payments in the form of a check or money order, payable to: Albuquerque Housing Authority. The AHA staff will never ask a landlord for a payment by credit card or cash over the phone. AHA staff have no use for a credit card number.

Linda Bridge stated that if anyone has been a victim of this scam, please contact the proper law enforcement agencies and the financial institution that issued the credit or debit card. The Albuquerque Police Department (APD) non-emergency number is (505) 242-COPS or report the theft of a credit card by going to the APD website and filing out the form, at <https://www.cabq.gov/police/police-reports>

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Equal Housing Opportunity Agency

