



## *Public Information Release*

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The Acworth Police Department has recently had reports of the Green Dot phone scam being used to swindle businesses out of money. A twist on the power department scam where someone posing from a utility billing company, calls to warn that the utilities are about to be disconnected. The caller instructs the resident or business to make a payment with a prepaid credit card over the phone. Recently, employees at some businesses, particularly food service businesses, have received calls from someone claiming to be from the corporate office. The caller advises the employee to take the funds from the register and purchase Green Dot and/or prepaid gift cards. Once the employee obtains the card, instructions are provided to transmit the numbers from the card to the scammer via telephone. The scammer may be even be able to “spoof” the caller ID which indicates the name of the corporate office where they claim to be calling from.

These types of calls claiming to be from a corporate office may sound convincing. The Acworth Police Department Criminal Investigations Division would like for the public and the business community to know that this is not a normal business practice. If you or your employees receive a call like this, it is most likely a scam. When in doubt, hang up and call the corporate office utilizing a number that should be on file at the business to confirm.

If you have any questions, please contact the Acworth Police Department at 770-974-1232.

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