Sheriff Joe DiSalvo
Pitkin County Sheriff's Office
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Pitkin County Sheriff's Office Warns Public of Extortion Scam by DEA Special Agent Impersonators

Pitkin County, Colorado – September 23, 2011 – Sheriff Joe DiSalvo would like to warn the citizens of Pitkin County about criminals posing as DEA special agents working as part of an international extortion scheme.

Residents have reported to the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office that they have received phone calls from a person posing as a DEA special agent. According to the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) website the calls are most likely placed to people who have purchased drugs over the internet or by telephone. Over the phone, the imposters "inform the victims that purchasing drugs over the internet is illegal, and that enforcement action will be taken against them" states the DEA website. The victims are told to pay a "fine" via wire transfer, usually to an overseas location. If the victims refuse to pay the fine they are threatened with possible arrest or a search of their property.

The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office reminds residents not to provide personal or financial information over the phone. Additionally, anyone that receives a call from someone purporting to be a DEA special agent or other law enforcement official seeking money should immediately report it to local law enforcement at (970) 920-5300 or to the DEA directly at 1-877-792-2873.

For more information contact:
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Our Mission: Guided by constitutional, community, and professional standards, the mission of the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office is to respect human dignity and provide the highest level of service to all. We are committed to the preservation of a peaceful, safe, and healthy environment in the spirit of openness, fairness and tolerance.