

NEWS RELEASE



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REAL ESTATE SCAM



July 14, 2009 -- On Sunday, June 28, 2009, an elderly male was approached by the above female in the parking lot of Publix, 95 South US Hwy 1, Jupiter. She claimed that she had just moved from California and wanted to purchase a home and set up a chiropractic business. The victim stated that his nearby condo was for sale and provided her with the directions. Shortly after returning home from Publix, the suspect arrived along with the above white male and two small children. They entered the victim's home and allowed the children to run throughout creating a distraction as they toured the interior. The male was wearing a New York Yankees ball cap and both subjects had a European accent.

The investigation revealed that the suspects removed the victim's wallet from the master bedroom and used the credit cards at Mobil-Exxon and Wal-Mart, in Jupiter. A second white male was observed at the gas station, exiting the suspect vehicle which is a white full size SUV.

These scam artists are generally nonviolent. They prey on trusting older people who they feel are somewhat gullible and won't put up a fight if the scammer is "caught". They usually try to pass themselves off as legitimate workers, or roof repair persons, or area handymen. By keeping a more vigilant eye out for these thieves we can give our residents, peace of mind.

If anyone has information pertaining to the identity of the suspects or similar incidents, please contact Detective Amy Stites 561-741-2410.

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Prepared by: Sergeant Scott Pascarella
Public Information Officer