



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Follow-up investigation into a possible phone soliciting scheme reveals the identity of the individual responsible.**

Since last week, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office has investigated three incidents involving a telephone solicitor that was attempting to fraudulently obtain monetary donations by false pretenses. This individual has represented to our citizens that he was collecting funds on behalf of the Hanover Sheriff's Office in order to purchase bullet-proof vests. After being alerted by several of our citizens to this suspicious situation, a comprehensive investigation was conducted. This investigation has determined that the suspect placing these calls works for Courtesy Call Inc.

Courtesy Call Inc. is a Las Vegas, Nevada, based firm that conducts telephone solicitations for the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association, which is a legitimate charitable non-profit organization. However, the Hanover Sheriff's Office does not participate with this organization or receive any benefits from them. Our investigation found that an unscrupulous employee of Courtesy Call Inc. was solely responsible for all three incidents. While no money was actually donated to the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association by any of the victims in these cases, the employee has been terminated from his employment with Courtesy Call Inc. Although the suspect in this case could be charged with a misdemeanor, the costly extradition process makes the arrest of this suspect fiscally irresponsible and, as a result, no criminal charges will be forthcoming.

"During my tenure as the Sheriff of Hanover County, I have always encouraged our citizens to never contribute any funding to anyone soliciting under the names of or representing any law enforcement agency. While the members of the Hanover Sheriff's Office appreciate the willingness of many of our citizens to assist us in our efforts to keep our County safe, we receive funding and equipment through the budgetary process and never by soliciting funding from our citizens via telephone or through professional solicitors. Please, when you receive such a telephone call, take the time to get all of the information from the person/company doing the solicitation and then immediately call the Sheriff's Office to make us aware. We are pleased that this happened in the current case and do not want our citizens to be victimized while attempting to help their Sheriff's Office," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff.

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