



# Ft. Pierce Police Department News Release



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## **Police warn residents of scam paying big bucks**

FORT PIERCE – Detective Zoila Simmons cautions residents to beware of offers promising high pay for customer service evaluators for secret shopping.

Detective Simmons was assigned to two cases involving letters received from Canada asking the recipient to evaluate local stores, but more specifically the Money Gram service at Wal-Mart.

The correspondence includes and an “official check” from a bank or financial institution. The recipient is then instructed to cash the check at their local bank and then go to a money transfer station and rate the person who waits on them. An evaluation rating form is included for the mystery shopper’s to complete.

As part of the “deal,” the majority of the funds received from the cashed check is transferred Canada and the smaller portion of what is left is kept by the recipient. To make the letter look authentic, the logos of several stores including, GAP, Sears and Pizza Hut have been placed along the bottom of the document.

Because this scam uses the mail service, the investigation will be conducted at the federal level by the post office.

Anyone receiving this mailing should take the envelope and its contents to the post office.

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