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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 12, 2024**

**Beware: Scammers Impersonating Law Enforcement Target Businesses Over PPP Loans**

**Boise, Idaho...** The Idaho Department of Finance (IDOF) urges the public to be aware of a recently reported scam targeting small business owners. Scammers impersonating various law enforcement agencies are contacting business owners claiming they are being investigated for fraudulently obtaining Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, regardless of whether or not they have been repaid or forgiven.

In the report IDOF received from a local financial institution, a business owner was contacted via phone by a purported deputy, claiming to have an active arrest warrant against them due to a missed court date related to the investigation of their PPP loan. To legitimize the claim, the scammer provided elaborate **phony** court and/or legal documentation, including documents describing an arrest warrant that purports to require the posting of a cash bond and then instructions to make a payment (through a cryptocurrency kiosk) to resolve the warrant and avoid jail time.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR DISTRICT OF IDAHO**

<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Plaintiff vs. Defendant [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Case No: [REDACTED] Loan No: [REDACTED] Forgiveness Date: [REDACTED] False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733, Review of Requested C.I.D</p>
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

**Summons to Appear**

You are hereby summoned and required to appear before the United States District Court for the District of IDAHO on February 8, 2024, at 9:30a.m. in Courtroom 190, located at the James A. McClure Federal Building And UNITED STATES Court, to give an oral statement of the Civil Investigations Demand requested within the complaint filed by the IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, the plaintiff named above a copy of the Defendant's Civil Investigations Demand is attached hereto.

The complaint alleges that you may have violated the provisions of the [CARES ACT LOAN] by submitting fraudulent information on forgiveness loan application and or documentation submitted for the forgiveness of your Paycheck Protection Program Loan, as set forth in the complaint under the False Claims Act. The plaintiff seeks damages and other appropriate relief under the law. If you fail to appear and answer the complaint, a judgment may be entered against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Although the PPP is not accepting new applications, scammers leverage publicly available information to target, intimidate, and exploit small businesses.

**Here is what you need to know:**

- ✓ These scammers use tactics including, but not limited to, impersonating law enforcement agencies, threatening legal action, arrest, or financial penalties, and pressuring the victim to act quickly.
- ✓ Law enforcement will never contact you by phone, email, or text to demand money or personal information. Never share personal or financial details over the phone or in response to unsolicited emails or texts.
- ✓ Always verify the caller's identity by contacting the agency they claim to represent using a verified phone number.
- ✓ Report suspected scams to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>. For more information on PPP scams, visit the Small Business Administration website at <https://www.sba.gov>.

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*Consumers can obtain information about financial firms, professionals or products, as well as view more Department press releases and other information on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> or by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.*