



# CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748  
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756  
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Contact: Elizabeth Watts

Public Safety PIO

[elizabeth.watts@myclearwater.com](mailto:elizabeth.watts@myclearwater.com)

(727) 562-4333

## PIGEON DROP SCAMMERS TARGET SENIOR VICTIMS

**Clearwater, Fla.** – Clearwater Police are warning potential victims about a form of a “pigeon drop scam” that duped a senior woman out of more than \$13,000 in cash and jewelry. Two other cases of attempted fraud following the same method of operation occurred in the last two months, but the victims did not take the bait.

On March 6, 2010 @ 2:40 p.m., an 89-year-old woman was returning to her car in the Sam’s Club parking lot at 2575 Gulf to Bay Boulevard when a black female dressed in black bent down and appeared to pick up a woman’s wallet near her car. She opened the wallet, which contained currency and a lottery ticket and showed the victim as the second suspect approached. The two women began discussing the opportunity to cash it in and make a large sum of money. They convinced the victim to drive to her bank and withdraw money. The victim drove them back to the Sam’s Club parking lot, where she also turned over various pieces of jewelry as collateral for the ticket. The victim realized she was a victim of fraud and contacted police.

Two similar cases were reported on the afternoon of January 29, 2010 in the Target parking lot at 2747 Gulf to Bay Boulevard and the Publix parking lot at 525 S. Belcher Road. The two suspects followed the same method of operation. In one case they asked the victim for money and in the other they did not. Both victims, an 82-year-old female and 79-year-old female, refused to cooperate with the suspects and reported the incident to police.

The suspects are described as two black females in their mid 40’s. Typically, one casually dressed suspect pretends to find the valuable items and the second, nicely dressed suspect approaches afterward. In two of the cases, the women pretended not to know one another.

The suspects may be driving:

- Four-door large vehicle
- Newer model
- Tan or Champagne in color
- Possible Grand Marquise or Crown Victoria
- Possible damage to the right rear quarter panel

Anyone who might have come into contact with this suspects or been a victim is asked to call the Clearwater Police Department.





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In a pigeon drop scam, the suspects convince their victims to give up money or valuables to secure a larger sum of money or more valuable object.

