



City of Nevada City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nevada City Warns Residents of Planning Application Invoice Scam

Fraudsters Target Planning Applicants with Fake Email Invoices Demanding Wire Transfers

Nevada City, Calif. — The City of Nevada City is warning residents and business owners about a fraudulent invoice scheme targeting individuals who have recently submitted planning applications. Scammers appear to be harvesting publicly available information from planning documents and using it to send convincing fake invoices via email that demand immediate payment through wire transfers.

The City has taken proactive steps to address this issue, including emailing current applicants to inform them about the potential issue and advising them not to open suspicious emails and to disregard phishing emails. Additionally, the City will no longer include email addresses and phone numbers from applications in the Planning Commission agenda packets.

"The City takes the protection of our residents and business applicants very seriously, and we're notifying our residents about these fraudulent schemes targeting planning applicants," said Sean Grayson. "We're working to prevent scammers from exploiting public information while maintaining our commitment to transparency. We encourage anyone who receives suspicious invoices or payment requests to immediately contact the Police Department at 530-265-4700."

Warning Signs of Fraudulent Invoices:

- Unsolicited invoices received via email
- Demands for wire transfers or other non-standard payment methods
- Urgent payment requests with threats of application delays or penalties
- Official-looking documents that claim to be from the City
- Requests for immediate payment

How the City Handles Planning Fees:

- All legitimate planning application fees are paid directly to the City at the time of application

- Official billing is conducted through established City procedures with proper documentation
- The City does not send invoices via email.
- Payment processing occurs through the City's website: <https://nevadacityca.gov/>

Protective Measures for Residents:

- Never send money or provide financial information based on unsolicited emails
- Do not click on links or download attachments from suspicious emails
- Report fraudulent communications to the Nevada City Police Department
- Use only official City contact information found on the City website:
<https://nevadacityca.gov/>

Residents who have received any invoice from the City related to planning applications should immediately contact the Nevada City Police Department at 530-265-4700.

The City encourages residents to remain vigilant for any fraudulent communications and to report suspicious activity to the Nevada City Police Department at 530-265-4700. Also, residents should contact the City's Finance staff directly when questions arise about any official correspondence or billing by calling 530-265-2496.

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