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\*\*\*\*\* For Immediate Release\*\*\*\*\*

## **Waterford Police launch program to combat Crypto-ATM scams**

This week the Waterford Police Department launched a program to alert potential victims to ongoing crypto-ATM scams.

Digital predators are taking advantage of people who answer unsolicited emails, text messages, and phone calls. The scam starts by convincing victims their bank account has been compromised. The thieves direct victims to gather as much cash as possible, in some cases emptying multiple bank accounts holding their life savings, and then to feed that cash into free standing crypto-ATM's which are in many gas stations and retail establishments.

Victims are also directed to download an app on their phone which allows the thieves to take control of their phone, thus granting access to the crypto-currency that was just purchased.

Waterford Police Detectives started this program by locating nineteen (19) crypto-ATM's within the Township and contacting the business owners where those machines reside. An alert warning was created and posted next to each machine.

As technology has advanced, we have all seen an increase in frauds and outright scams related to emails, text messages, and cellular phone calls. These scams often originate in far-away places, making the possibility of identification and prosecution remote. That is why we decided on this community-based approach. We have leveraged our relationships with local businesses to help attack the problem in a proactive way as opposed to waiting until people become victims with little chance of recovering their money and prosecuting those responsible.

Sincerely,  
Scott Underwood  
Chief of Police

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***"to protect and to serve"***