

**MAHONING TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT, DANVILLE, PA**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE REPORT**

1. INVESTIGATING OFFICER <b>Chief Frederick C. DYROFF, III</b>		2. INCIDENT NO. <b>Several</b>
3. NATURE OF INCIDENT <b>Check Washing Fraud</b>	4. DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT <b>January - present</b>	
5. LOCATION <b>Mahoning Township, Montour County</b>		
6. PERSONS INVOLVED  <b><i>Have you ever sent a check that was cashed, but the recipient said it never arrived? You may be the victim of check washing. Check washing scams involve changing the payee names and often the dollar amounts on checks and fraudulently depositing them. Occasionally, these checks are stolen from mailboxes and washed in chemicals to remove the ink. Some scammers will even use copiers or scanners to print fake copies of a check. In fact, Postal Inspectors recover more than \$1 billion in counterfeit checks and money orders every year, but you can take steps to protect yourself. – United States Postal Inspection Service</i></b>  The Mahoning Township Police Department (MTPD) have investigated several incidents since January wherein victims have placed issued personal and or business checks in their mailboxes made payable to certain persons or businesses for specific dollar amounts. After the checks are placed in the mailboxes, unknown person(s) removes the checks and “wash” them, changing the payee and dollar amount on the check for thousands more dollars, leaving the victims and their financial institutions with significant losses.  MTPD is working with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) with these investigations. USPIS recommend residents do not leave outgoing mail, particularly checks in your personal mailboxes, especially overnight. Deposit your outgoing mail in blue collection boxes before the last pickup or at your local Post Office™. If you’re going on vacation, have your mail held at the Post Office or have it picked up by a friend or neighbor.		