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Fight Fraud Taskforce Checks into Free Government Cell Phone Offer

Las Vegas – The Nevada Fight Fraud Taskforce has looked into a free government cell phone offer that some worried could be a scam.

After receiving inquiries about a free government cell phone program, the Fight Fraud Taskforce performed research to try to determine if the program was legitimate or a scam. The Taskforce discovered that there is a federally-supported program called Lifeline. Lifeline provides one member of eligible low-income households with a free cell phone as well as mobile emergency coverage and over an hour of airtime minutes at no cost, for up to one year.

The Federal Communications Commission started the Lifeline program in 1984 and has continued to update it to keep up with technological advances like cell phones. The cell phone program is offered by TracFone through its Safelink Wireless service. The free cell phone includes features like voice mail, text, call waiting, international calling and caller ID.

The program is not currently available to Nevada residents, although service here is expected soon, according to Safelink's website. For more information, including how to qualify for the program, call 1-800-723-3546 or go to <http://www.safelinkwireless.com>.

To learn more about how to protect yourself from all kinds of scams, visit the Fight Fraud website at <http://fightfraud.nv.gov> or find a fraud event in your area at <http://fightfraud.nv.gov/calendar.htm>.

About the Fight Fraud Taskforce and Website

The statewide Fight Fraud Taskforce includes members from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies, the I.R.S., the Department of Justice, the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, the Secretary of State, the Better Business Bureau in Las Vegas and Reno, the Department of Business & Industry, the Division of Mortgage Lending, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Trade Commission, U.S.P.S., and experts from the private sector among others. The group acts as a clearinghouse for fraud information and works to educate the public on how to avoid the latest scams.

The Fight Fraud Taskforce also ensures that the latest fraud information is available on the Fight Fraud website. Consumers are encouraged to visit the site, which includes extensive tips on how to prevent fraud and provides downloadable complaint forms to help you respond effectively if you become a victim. Visit it regularly for the latest fraud alerts.

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