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PRESS RELEASE

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On Saturday July 18th 2009 at approximately 5:55 PM, the Holliston Police Department responded to the area of Mohawk Path for a report of a suspicious male soliciting funds for the American Cancer Society. The calling party, whom is familiar with the fundraising practices of the American Cancer Society, provided a description of the suspect and vehicle, including the registration number, believed to be operated by him. This vehicle was identified by the Holliston Police Department as that used in a similar offence that occurred on June 05th 2009 in which the operator was fraudulently soliciting funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The physical description of this suspect matched that given by the reporting party.

With the assistance of the Ashland Police Department, the male suspect and vehicle were located in the Town of Ashland, near Mohawk Path. After questioning the male suspect at the Holliston Police Station, he admitted to fraudulently collecting funds so that he could acquire cash donations which, were later used for his personal benefit. The male suspect also implicated his girlfriend whom, is the registered owner of the vehicle used in both incidents. The male suspect also admitted to fraudulently soliciting funds in the towns of Ashland, Holliston, Milford, Hopedale, Uxbridge, Mendon and Whitinsville. The female suspect refused to speak with the Holliston Police about the incident.

The male suspect is described as Caucasian, approximately 47 years of age, approximately 5'07" tall, thin build with brown hair (graying on sides) which was cut "crew cut" style. He has several tattoos on both arms and was wearing a dark blue Yankees baseball hat, gray t-shirt and white shorts at the time of the incident.

The female suspect is described as Caucasian, approximately 41 years of age, approximately 5'02" tall, heavy set, with long dirty blonde hair.

The vehicle is described as a 1996 Ford Contour color brown.

The Holliston Police Department is urging residents to confirm, to the best of their ability, the identity of the solicitor(s) and group(s) for which they are soliciting before donating. Solicitors in Holliston are required to register with the police department prior to soliciting. Solicitors should have some identification on their person indicating their identity and who they are soliciting for.

If any resident has already made a donation by way of check, it is important that the account from which the check was written be checked and monitored for fraudulent activity. It is strongly advised to contact your bank and ask them to watch your account and flag any suspicious type of activity either now or in the future.

Additional questions about reporting fraudulent or activity or general questions about this type of scam be answered by calling the Holliston Police department at (508)429-1212.