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CITY OF AUBURN

Department of Police
Gary J. Giannotta
Chief of Police

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Deputy Chief

****CONSUMER ALERT****

Asphalt Sealing/Paving Scam

The City of Auburn Police Department would like to alert area residents concerning a group of individuals soliciting home owners to do asphalt paving and driveway sealing. The Auburn Police Department was alerted by a local bank employee and advised that an elderly customer of the bank came into the bank and withdrew a large sum of money. After the bank employee inquired about the withdrawal the customer stated it was for a driveway repair she was having done at her home. The money was withdrawn but the bank employee was still suspicious and followed the customer outside where the customer was met outside by two awaiting white males. The bank employee wrote down the vehicle license plate and vehicle description and then reported the incident to Auburn Police to further investigate.

When Auburn Police Officers interviewed the elderly woman she told officers she was solicited at her home by an individual concerning repair to her driveway. The elderly woman ultimately agreed to have the work done to her driveway but paid over \$5,000 for the work. It was reported that the group of men were at the home for less than an hour and did not perform the work as described on the work order. Auburn Police Detective Christopher McLoughlin tracked down the men who operate under the name "**Cooper Seal Coating and Asphalt Repair**". Officers were able to recover all of the money and assisted the elderly woman in re-depositing her money back into her account. The men were advised that their tactics were illegal and they were not to continue business in the City of Auburn without the proper permits established by City and the State of New York.

The Auburn Police Department has learned that this group has also conducted such business practices in the City of Geneva using the same method of operation. The Auburn Police Department would like to remind citizens to only hire an established local company that has a reputation of being credible and trustworthy.

Attached to this release is a list of tips to help citizens avoid being caught up in one of these home repair scams.

*Prepared by: **Lt. Shawn Butler**
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