



## *Office of Paula S. O'Neil Clerk & Comptroller Pasco County, Florida*

### FRAUDULENT CHECK ALERT

Counterfeited items are appearing more and more sophisticated, often appearing authentic, as if issued from trusted businesses. Scammers are now attempting to print checks from accounts of the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. The Office of Paula S. O'Neil has been notified that counterfeiters are using fake, Pasco County look-a-like checks to scam victims out of thousands of dollars. The checks are issued for the payment of non-existent supplies and services. After depositing the check, the victim is left responsible for the amount withdrawn when the funds fail to clear his or her account.

In its performance of the duties of the Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer for the Board of County Commissioners, the Office of Paula S. O'Neil is responsible for overseeing of all County expenditures as well as monies collected through the court system. Numerous safeguards and levels of oversight are in place to ensure that tax dollars and other revenues are only used for their intended purposes. The Clerk & Comptroller's Office was recently made aware of the scam and will be cooperating with the investigation. It should be noted that no County funds have been lost as a result of this fraudulent activity.

The Federal Trade Commission provides tips about check fraud:

1. Know who you're dealing with, and never wire money to strangers.
2. Be skeptical of business opportunities that seem too good to be true.
3. It is best not to rely on money from a cashier, business, or personal check until the check has cleared the account. You are responsible for any funds you withdraw against a check.

In addition, The Internet Crime Complaint Center ([www.ic3.gov/](http://www.ic3.gov/)) a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), accepts online Internet crime complaints from either the actual victim or from a third party.

"It is truly unfortunate that thieves are preying upon the trusted name of the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. Our Office is committed to safeguarding your tax dollars and protecting the interest of our customers," commented the Honorable Dr. Paula S. O'Neil. If you have concerns about the authenticity of a check issued by the Board of County Commissioners or the Clerk & Comptroller, do not hesitate to contact the Clerk & Comptroller's Office at 352-521-4553. Additional phone numbers and contact information are provided on our website at [www.pascoclerk.com](http://www.pascoclerk.com).

If you are a victim of fraud or suspect fraudulent activity, contact the Pasco Sheriff's Office by dialing 727-844-7711 (non-emergency line).