



# City of Los Banos

*At the Crossroads of California*

## LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**PRESS RELEASE**

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August 30, 2012

### Police Warn Public of Potential Phone Scam

On Tuesday, August 28, 2012 a local elderly woman contacted Officer Surina Gonzales to report that she received a phone call from a woman claiming to have information about her medicare and social security accounts. The caller said she wanted to send the woman information about a new social security and medical card which would lower her premiums, prescription costs and allow her to receive more money each month from social security.

The caller asked the woman to verify bank account and personal identifying information to complete the transaction. Officer Surina Gonzales was able to confirm that this was a scam and no such program is being offered.

The Los Banos Police Department would like to remind residence that similar identity theft phone scams are attempted daily all over the county and personal information should not be given to callers over the telephone.

“A simple internet search of the caller’s telephone number can often provide you with information posted by other victims as to the intent of callers asking for your financial and personal information.”

*-Ray Reyna, Commander*

Anyone wishing to report a similar incident should contact the Los Banos Police Department at (209) 827-7070. More information regarding protecting yourself from identity theft can be found on the city website at [www.losbanos.org](http://www.losbanos.org)

To leave an anonymous crime tip call **209-827-7070 Ext. 288**. If you have access to a computer and the internet you can also leave an anonymous tip at the Police Department’s web page at [www.losbanos.org](http://www.losbanos.org). At the bottom of the “Contact” page

simply click on the “report graffiti and other crime” link or visit the Merced Area Crime Stoppers by telephone at 1-855-725-2420, or at [www.mercedarecrimestoppers.org](http://www.mercedarecrimestoppers.org)

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