

# Assemblyman Charles Fall & Law Enforcement Protecting Residents From Theft and Fraudulent Scams



New York State Assembly  
Albany, New York 12248

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**“In today’s digital age, safeguarding your personal information and belongings has become increasingly difficult. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection, I recognize that our senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to theft and scams, but no demographic is immune to these threats. It is imperative that we all take proactive measures to ensure our safety. By staying informed and cautious, we can collectively work towards a safer environment for everyone. Let’s prioritize security and look out for one another.”**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Fall".

**Assemblyman Charles D. Fall  
61st Assembly District**



# Protecting Residents From Theft and Fraudulent Scams

Mobile payment apps like Venmo, Cash App, and PayPal provide a convenient method for cashless transactions, accessing funds from your bank account, debit, or credit cards. While perfect for splitting bills or making purchases, their simplicity also makes them prime targets for scammers.

You will be asked for money through various means:

## 1. Venmo/Zelle

Scammers may request payment through peer-to-peer payment platforms like Venmo or Zelle. Be cautious when sending money to unfamiliar individuals or businesses, as these transactions are often irreversible.

## 2. Western Union and Wire Transfers

Fraudsters may pressure you to send money via wire transfer services such as Western Union. Once the money is sent, it's challenging to retrieve, and scammers often use these methods to quickly access funds anonymously.

## 3. Gift Cards

Beware of requests for payment using gift cards, such as iTunes or Amazon gift cards. Legitimate entities typically do not require payment in this form, and it's a common tactic for scammers to ask for gift cards as they are difficult to trace.

## 4. Cryptocurrency

Scammers may also demand payment in cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin or Ethereum. Cryptocurrency transactions are decentralized and irreversible, making it easy for scammers to remain anonymous and escape consequences.

## Be Wary and Stay Informed

Stay vigilant and educate yourself about common scam tactics. Remember, legitimate organizations and businesses will never pressure you into making immediate payments or threaten consequences for non-compliance.

If you suspect you're being targeted by a scam, refrain from sending money and report the incident to the appropriate authorities immediately. For more information and assistance, contact the NYPD at (646) 610-SCAM.



## Additional Helpful Links:

- New York State Department of Tax and Finance: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/help/contact/fraud/>
- New York City Consumer Worker and Protection: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/scams.page>
- New York State Attorney General Office: <https://ag.ny.gov/smart-seniors>