

This Week



Chief of Police David Farrell



Police Captain Jillian Cabana



Fire Chief Nicholas Marsan

**Westport Officials to Discuss
Scams and Safety**



CURRENT CRIME TRENDS SCAMS

- Captain Jillian Cabana
- (203) 341-6026
- jcabana@westportct.gov

- Sergeant James Baker
- (203) 341-6000
- jbaker@westportct.gov

ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM



METHODS

- CALL
- TEXT
- EMAIL
- IN PERSON
- OFTEN UNORTHODOX PAYMENT REQUEST

COMMON SCAM TYPES

Elder Fraud Scammers: Common Tactics and Techniques



Lottery and sweepstakes scam: You are told you have won a large prize but must pay a fee or taxes upfront to claim it. Legitimate lotteries do not require you to pay before you receive your winnings.

Grandparent scam: A caller, sometimes using AI to mimic a voice, claims to be a grandchild or other relative in an emergency and asks for immediate money. They often plead for secrecy, adding to the urgency.



Home repair scam: Involve unsolicited contractors who use high-pressure tactics to gain access to a home for unnecessary and shoddy work. Be wary of solicitations, never pay a large upfront amount, and always get multiple written estimates from licensed and insured contractors

SOCIAL ENGINEERING

Posts **About** Friends Photos Videos Reels More ▾

About

Overview

Work and education

Places lived

Contact and basic info

Family and relationships

Details About [REDACTED]

Life events

Contact info

No contact info to show

Websites and social links

No links to show

Basic info

Female
Gender

November 14
Birth date

Relationship

[REDACTED]
Married to [REDACTED] since July 31, 2010

Family members

[REDACTED]
Mother

[REDACTED]
Family member

Work

Arbitrator at [REDACTED]

Worked at [REDACTED]
August 2007 - July 2008

Former Litigation Associate at [REDACTED]
September 2005 - August 8, 2012 New York, New York

College

Studied Law at University of Virginia
Juris doctor
2005

Studied at Harvard University
2002

High school

Went to [REDACTED] High
Class of 1998

Went to [REDACTED]
Class of 1998

Another example...

About

I have decided to join Facebook to re-connect with friends from my hometown, ████████ MA, with friends from my alma mater, ████████ College, or people I meet along the way! I now reside in Westport, CT with my wonderful family as a ████████ we also live n Narragansett, RI in summer

Name pronunciation



No name pronunciation to show

Other names



No other names to show

Favorite quotes

You only get one chance to make a first impression

OTHER SIMILAR SCAMS

- UTILITY SCAMS
 - SHUT OFF ELECTRICITY OR WATER
 - USUALLY REQUESTING PAYMENT VIA GIFT CARDS OR CRYPTOCURRENCY
- SOCIAL SECURITY
 - PHISHING FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION
- POLICE/IRS SCAMS
 - IF YOU DON'T PAY, YOU'LL BE ARRESTED

TEXT/EMAIL SCAMS

SHIPPING SCAMS

DELAYED PACKAGE, CLICK HERE TO TRACK

FRAUDULENT BANK ACTIVITY SCAMS

CLICK LINK

LOOKS LIKE LEGITIMATE BANK PAGE

EMAIL COMPROMISE SCAMS

EMAIL APPEARS TO BE LEGITIMATE

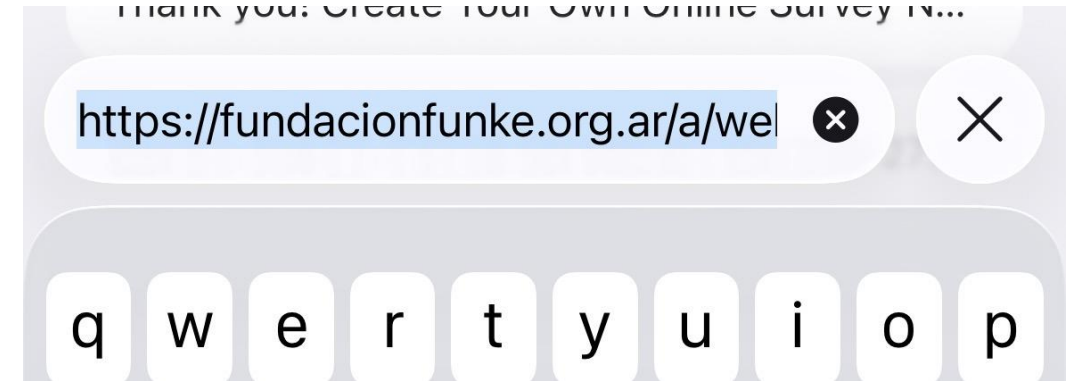
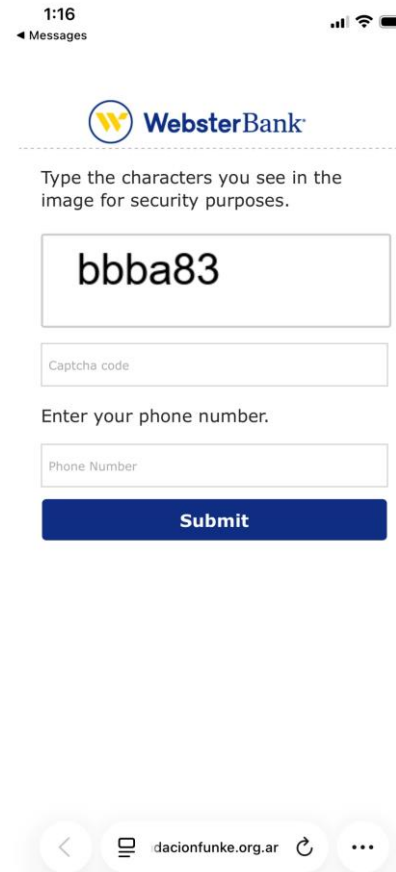
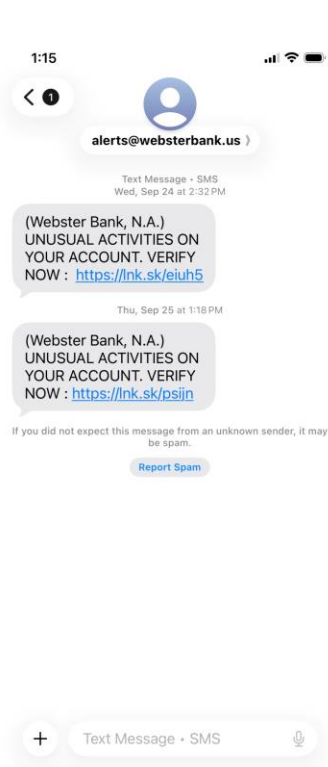
MAY BE ONE LETTER OFF

MAY CHANGE WHEN YOU HOVER OVER THE ACTUAL NAME

HALLMARKS ARE ALL THE SAME

- MANUFACTURED EMERGENCY
- REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION
- SEND MONEY

TEXT SCAM EXAMPLE



Paypal invoice details INV/LJYDG/IQBRLXUGIYQ 07/22/25 ▶ Inbox x

Syliva Gonzales <givedivine543@gmail.com>

to me ▼

Dear Customer,

Kindly refer to the transaction statement, this was included in this email as an attachment.

Kindly Review the attached orders information.

Annie Grajeda

3022 Tangleway Rd, Houston, TX 77005

521 4th Ave NW

Jul 22 2025

Paypal invoice details INV/LJYDG/IQBRLXUGIYQ 07/22/25



Thank You For Your Order!

Bill Receipt No: 838771642126

Invoice No : INV/UDXQK/GAOVRKIVKJCHMH

Date: 2025 22 Jul

Dear JILLIAN.CABANA@GMAIL.COM,

Thank you for using PayPal. Your account has been charged with USD \$351.24 and will be going to deduct from your account within 24 hours. If you didn't recognize this transaction or want to cancel these charges. Please contact Toll Free.

Customer Support: + 1 (323) 729-3051

Transaction Details:

Town of Westport August 2025 Alert



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 13, 2025

Contact: Michelle Perillie, Planning and Zoning Director, Westport P&Z Dept.
PH: 203-341-1030, pandz@westportct.gov

Alert - Fake “Invoices” from Westport P&Z Department

Westport, CT – The Planning & Zoning Department has been made aware of scammers contacting residents regarding zoning/public hearing applications. These individuals are falsely claiming that a *public hearing fee* must be paid directly to them in order for an application to proceed.

Important:

- The Town of Westport will never request payment fees through phone calls, text messages, personal emails, or payment apps (such as Venmo, Zelle, or CashApp).
- All official fees are paid directly to the Town of Westport through established and secure payment methods.
- Scammers may use official-sounding titles, fake letterhead, or spoofed phone numbers to appear legitimate.

If you receive a suspicious request:

1. Do not provide personal or financial information.
2. Do not send payment.
3. Contact the Planning and Zoning Department immediately at 203 341-1030 to verify the legitimacy of any request.
4. Report the incident to the non-emergency line of the Westport Police Department at 203- 341-6000.

Please share this information to help protect others from falling victim to these scams.

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Cryptocurrency investigations

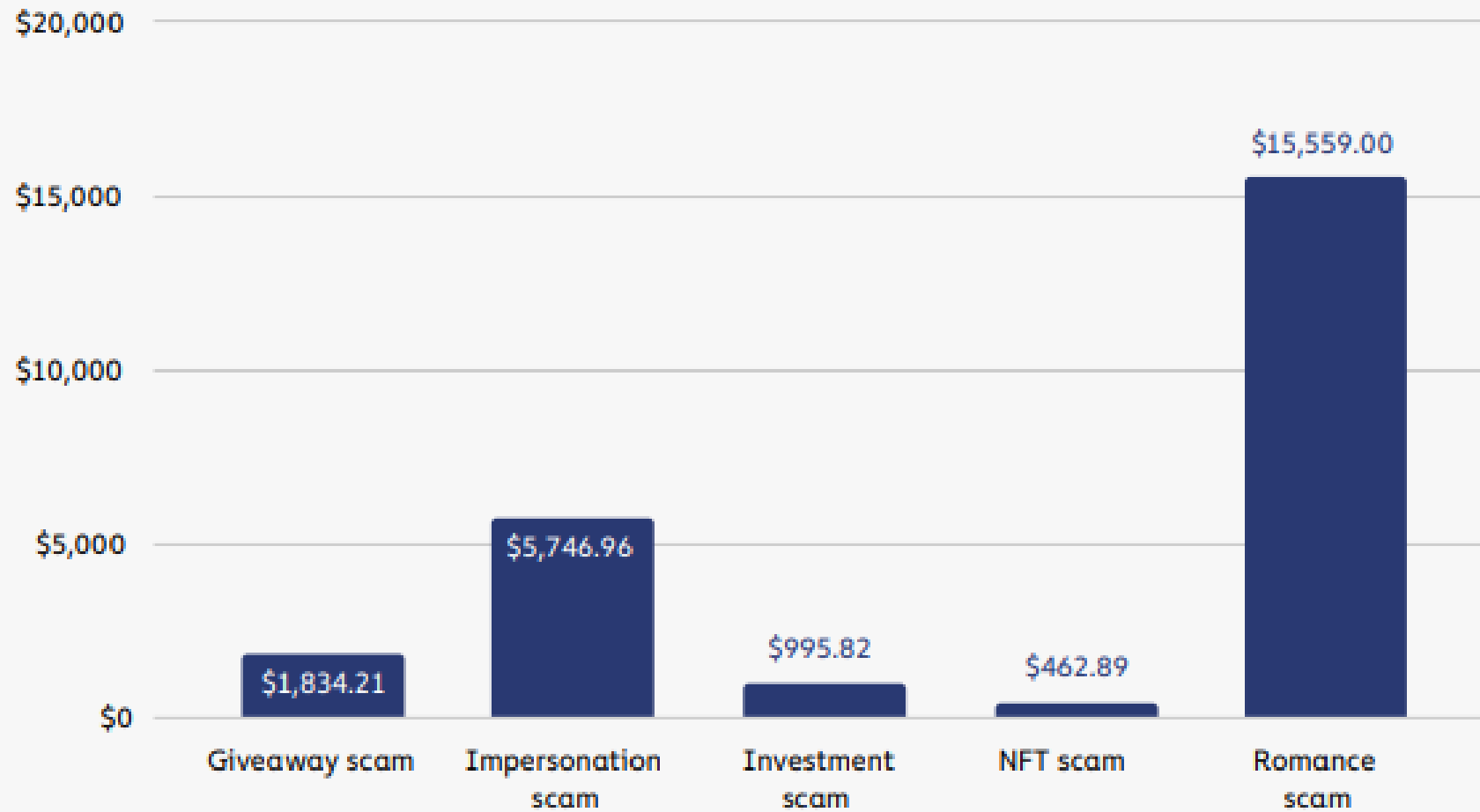
Westport Police
department

Detective james
baker

Common Types of Crypto-Crime

- Stolen funds
 - Account takeovers, stolen private keys, business email compromise
- Investment scams/fraud
 - Often originate from romance scams – “Pig Butchering”
 - Becoming the most popular for US law enforcement
 - Losses often exceed \$250,000 with some cases in the millions
- Ransomware
- Darknet Markets
 - Narcotics, human trafficking, stolen identities, CSAM, firearms, anything!
- Money laundering

Average victim deposit size by scam type, 2022

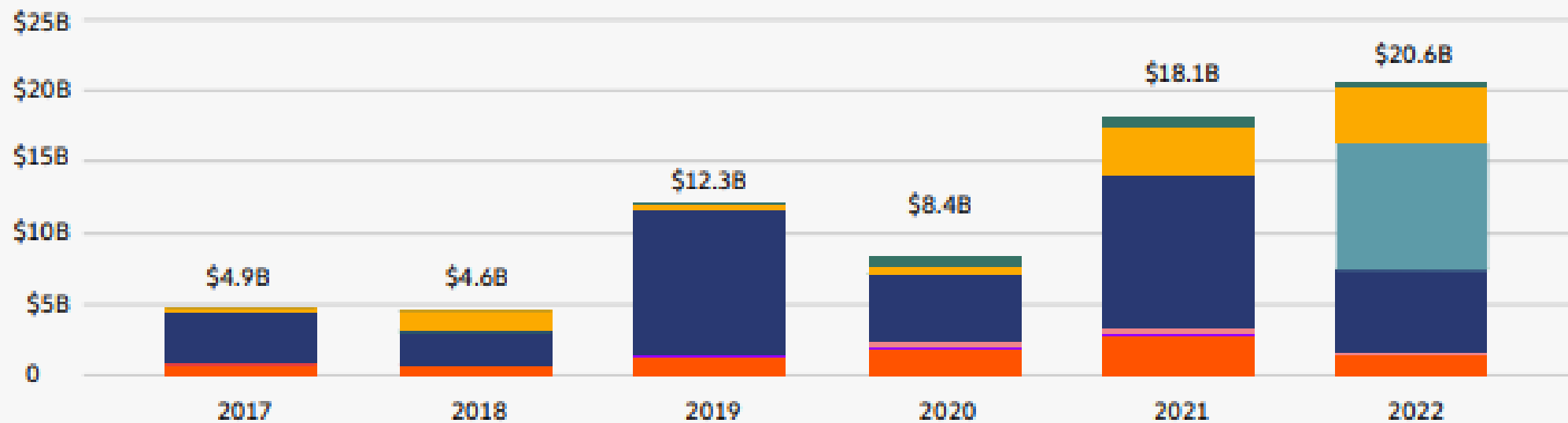


Examples of bad actors

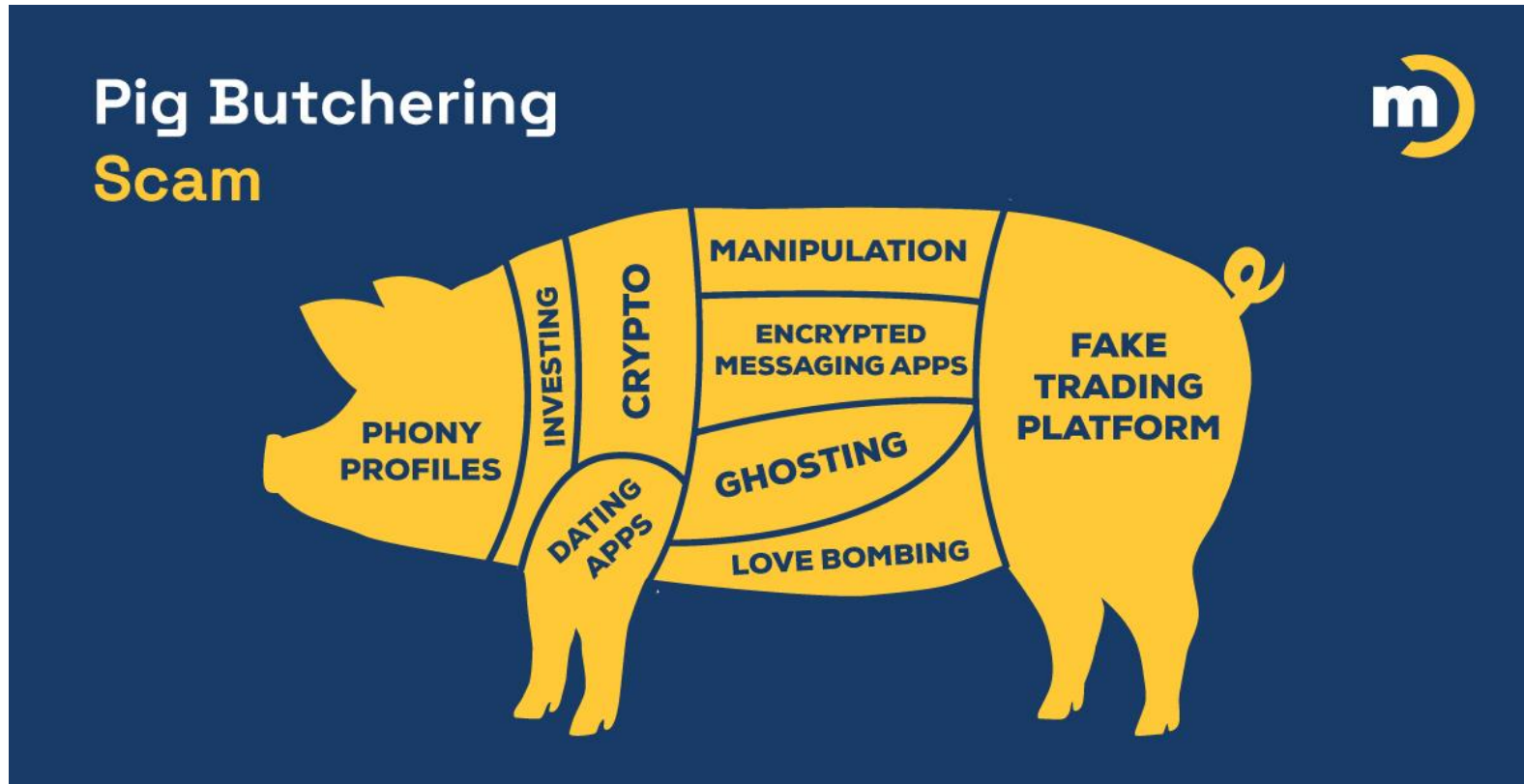
- Russian ransomware groups
- North Korean hackers (state sponsored)
- Drug cartels
- Global scam organizations
 - Most common for cases at state level law enforcement
 - Very common for funds to end up on a foreign exchange
 - Many actors within these organizations are themselves victims of labor/human trafficking

Total cryptocurrency value received by illicit addresses, 2017 - 2022

Child abuse material Ransomware Stolen funds Sanctions Terrorism financing
Scam Cybercriminal administrator Fraud shop Darknet market



Pig Butchering



Pig Butchering

- Name derives from Chinese “Sha Zhu Pan”
- Typical MO for southeast Asian countries, mainly China but also Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar
- Highly organized with hundreds of actors per group
- Many low-level actors are labor trafficking victims
 - Victimization on both sides of the scam
- Accounts for billions of dollars in losses per year

Fattening the Pig

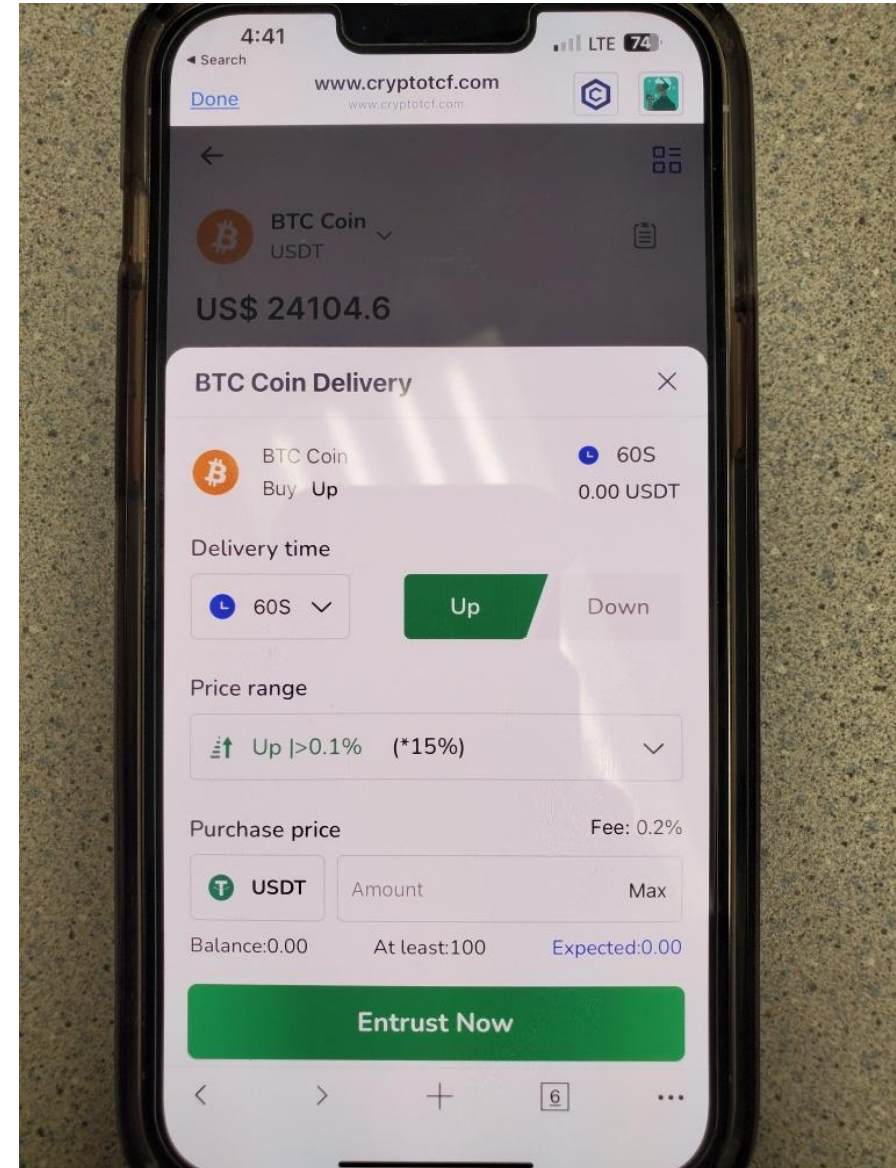
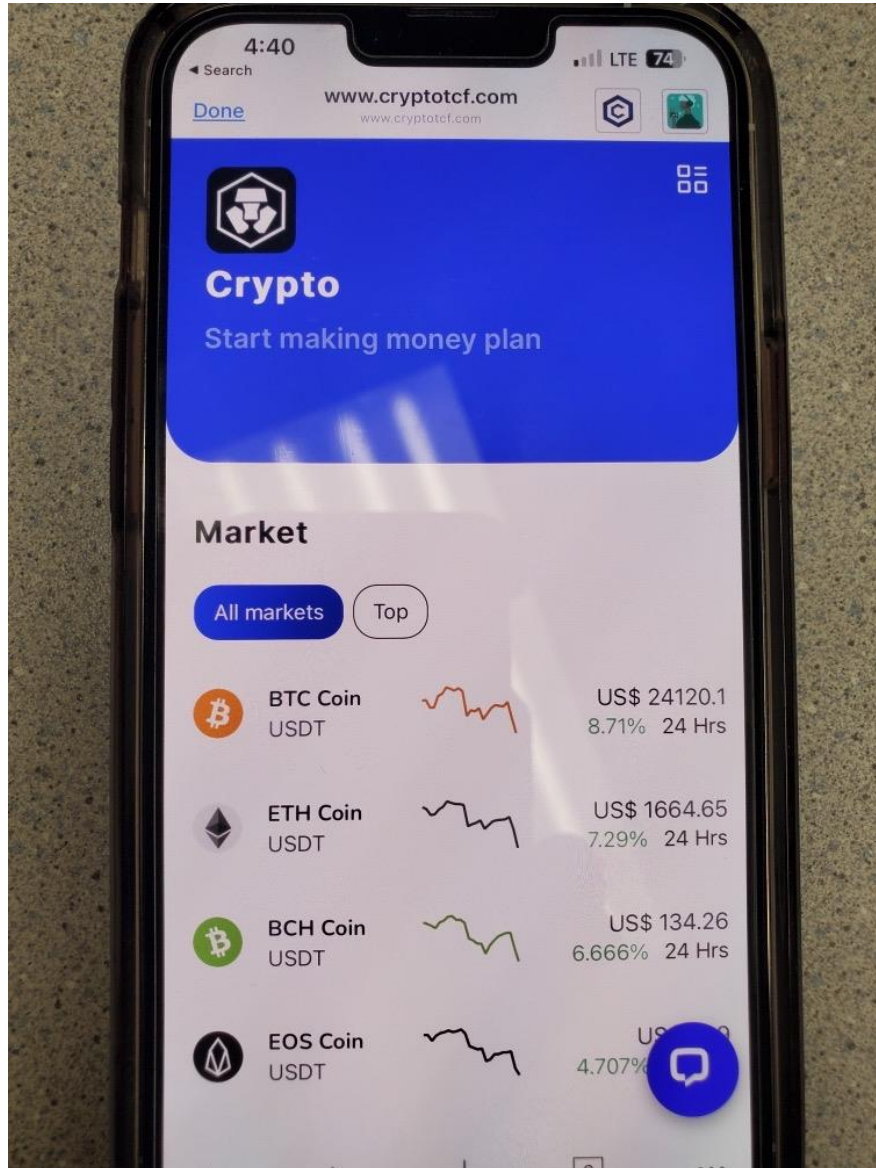
- Often romantic or friendly online relationships take a turn towards investing
- Unlike fear inducing ATM scams, these happen slowly
- Victim is introduced to a phony investment site/app
- Scammer builds trust in the victim and will even put in money of their own
- Victim may even be allowed to withdraw small profits initially

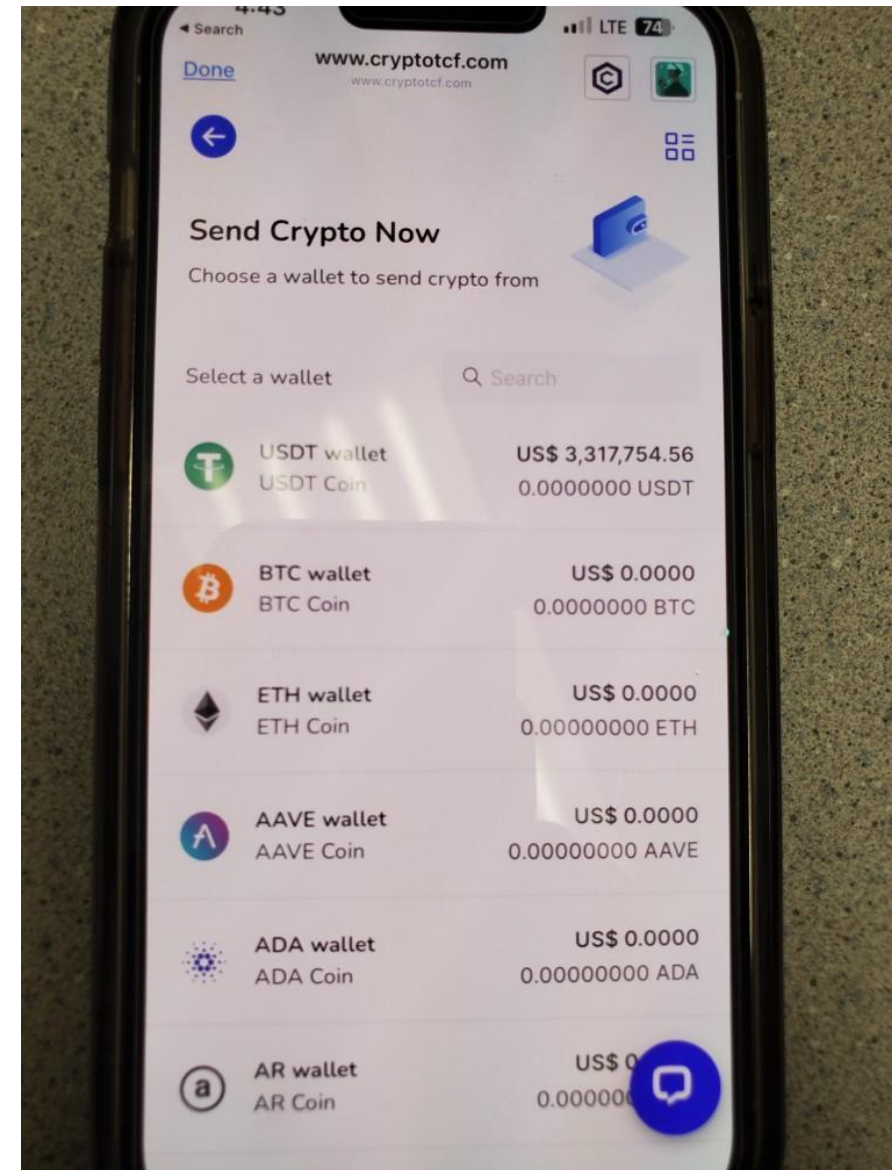
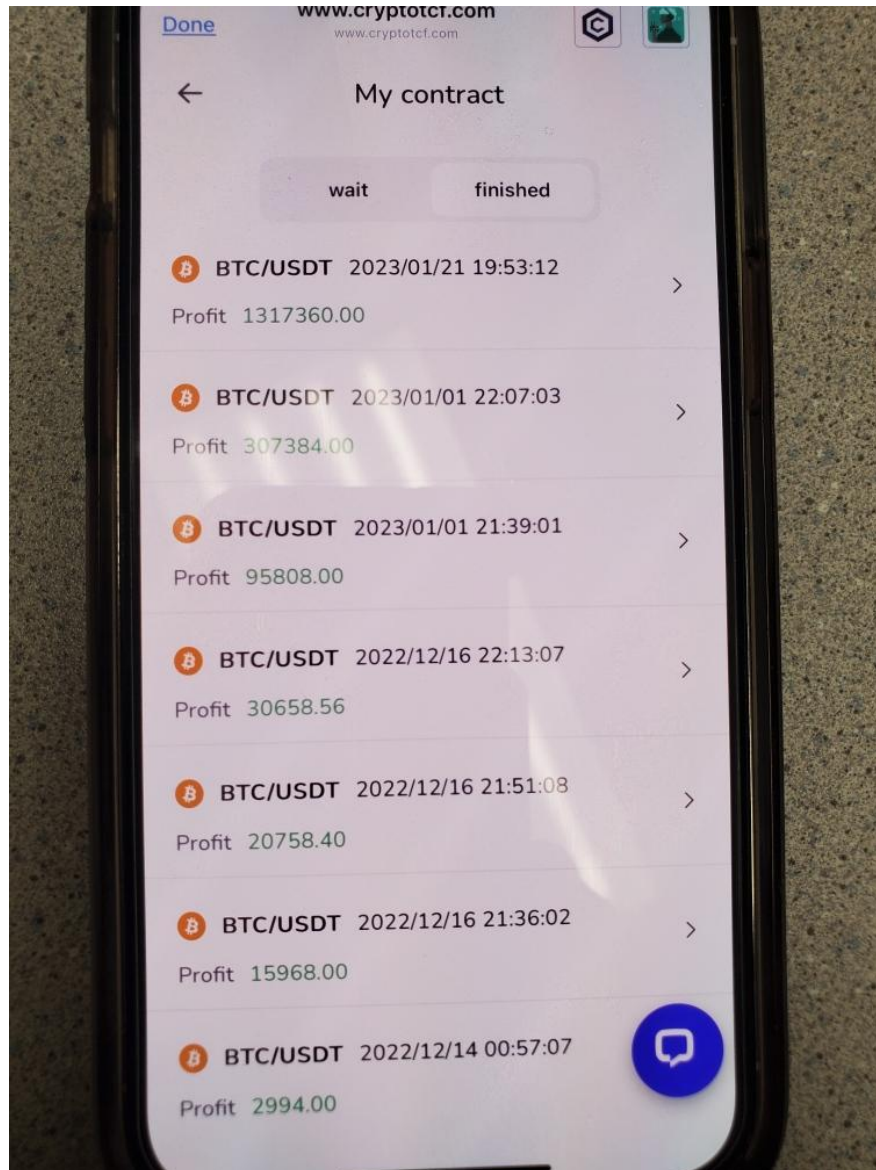
Slaughtering the Pig

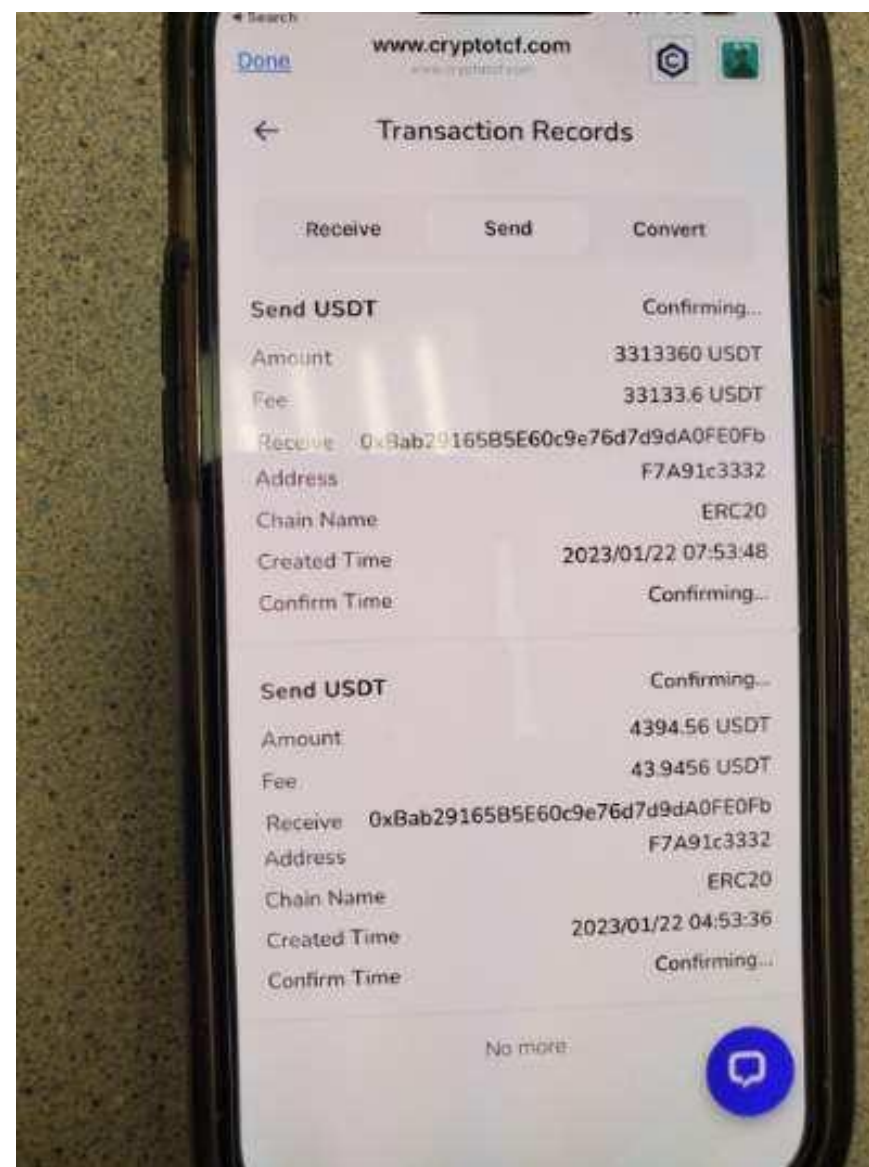
- Victim has “invested” substantial amounts of money
 - Not uncommon to drain savings, retirement assets, refinance home, loans
- Upon attempt to withdraw profits, victim is told they must pay “taxes”
 - Creates a cycle of further monetary loss
 - Scammer may provide a “customer service” number via WhatsApp

Typical Steps

- Victim begins talking with scammer via dating site, social media, or direct message app
- Investing is introduced
- Victim told to set up a legitimate exchange account (Coinbase, Crypto.com, etc.)
- Victim converts USD to crypto (usually Tether)
- Crypto is then “invested” on a fake platform that usually mimics a legitimate platform







US Law Enforcement's Cooperation with Foreign Governments

- An exchange may not comply with the US voluntarily
- We rely on our relationships with international partners
- Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs)
 - Served on a foreign government and then that government serves the exchange/business
- Facilitated by the Department of Justice Office of International Affairs (OIA)

Westport success story

- Westport victim receives a call from “Chase Bank”
- Threat Actor gains the victim’s with fraud alerts that are accurate
- Threat actor moves the line of communication to Whatsapp
- Our victim is persuaded to move money into Kraken to invest in bitcoin (from their Fidelity Investment Account)
- Incident occurs between 2/23 and 3/23
- Initial complaint isn’t made until 5/15/23

Westport success story continued...



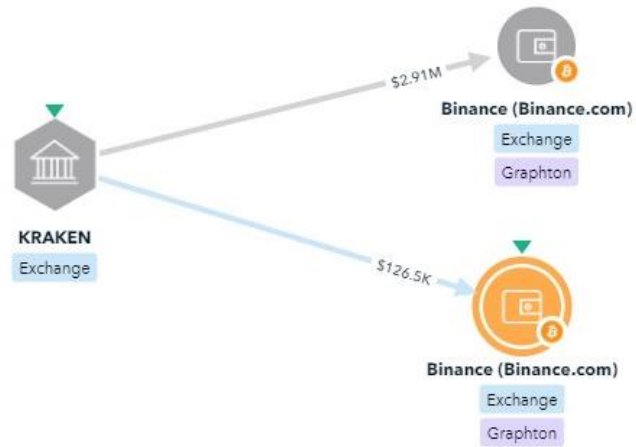
INCIDENT INFORMATION

Name	Imposter named Steve Winder (who identified himself from Fraud Detection Division)
Exchange used	Kraken
Website	
Cryptocurrency	BTC, ETH
Lost cryptocurrency	Approx. BTC 130.0852, ETH 1.09416
Lost amount (USD)	\$ 3,253,730.00

Westport success story continued...

Type	Account	Deposits	Withdraw	Dfirstseen	Dlastseen	Wfirstseen	Wlastseen
Bitcoin	1EsLgKsoWshtRh2WyUvXoS3gsw3fvj5MB9	0	1			2/24/2023 15:44	2/24/2023 15:48
Bitcoin	1LNHX6oQJL7hYj1EyPwbp9dmRmstPnHEk2	0	13			2/28/2023 17:41	3/21/2023 20:42

Westport success story continued...



binance information request

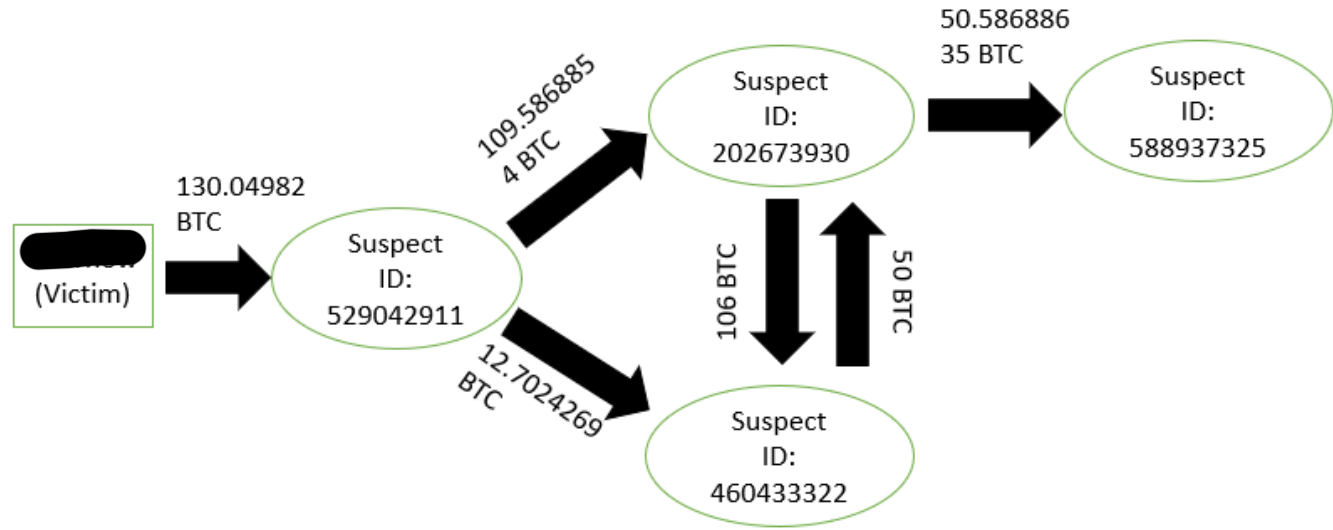
Asset Ticker	Asset Name	Total Position	Estimated BTC Value	Deposit Wallet Address	Label/Tag/Memo
BNB	BNB	0	0		
BTC	Bitcoin	0	0	pQJL7hYj1EyPwbp9dmRmstPnHEk2	
ETH	Ethereum	0	0	4a39abd7edaad00f43d46186cffdcc3d	
USDT	TetherUS	0	0		

Binance pay

User ID	Merchant Name	Transaction Type	Currency	Amount	Transaction Time
529042911		C2C	USDT	-3324	2023-05-09 14:46:10
529042911		C2C	USDT	-10332.2303376	2023-04-16 21:44:15
529042911		C2C	USDT	10000	2023-04-12 22:31:07
529042911		C2C	USDT	35250	2023-04-09 20:08:52
529042911		C2C	USDT	-27	2023-04-09 12:15:23
529042911		C2C	USDT	-199000	2023-04-05 19:21:40
529042911		C2C	USDT	-1000	2023-04-05 19:18:14
529042911		C2C	USDT	4	2023-03-16 18:09:09
529042911		C2C	USDT	-64	2023-03-16 17:55:04
529042911		C2C	USDT	3000	2023-03-16 11:47:21
529042911		C2C	USDT	2000	2023-03-14 17:20:52
529042911		C2C	USDT	4250	2023-03-10 15:37:08
529042911		C2C	BTC	-79.63279	2023-03-10 02:25:29
529042911		C2C	BTC	-17.50018	2023-03-08 18:55:55
529042911		C2C	BTC	-12.70242686	2023-03-07 17:39:32
529042911		C2C	USDT	1757.9604381	2023-03-02 07:13:00
529042911		C2C	BTC	-4.18772	2023-03-02 01:23:33
529042911		C2C	BTC	-8.26619535	2023-03-01 19:39:08
529042911		C2C	BTC	-0.16735176	2023-02-27 18:27:49
529042911		C2C	ETH	-0.72998473	2023-02-27 18:22:08
529042911		C2C	USDT	-2382	2023-02-27 18:09:47
529042911		C2C	USDT	2129	2023-02-23 18:25:17
529042911		C2C	BTC	-1.96268906	2023-02-22 19:59:10
529042911		C2C	BTC	1.96268906	2023-02-16 22:29:20
529042911		C2C	USDT	9	2023-02-15 23:49:29
529042911		C2C	USDT	-2000	2023-02-15 23:42:27



BTC = Bitcoin



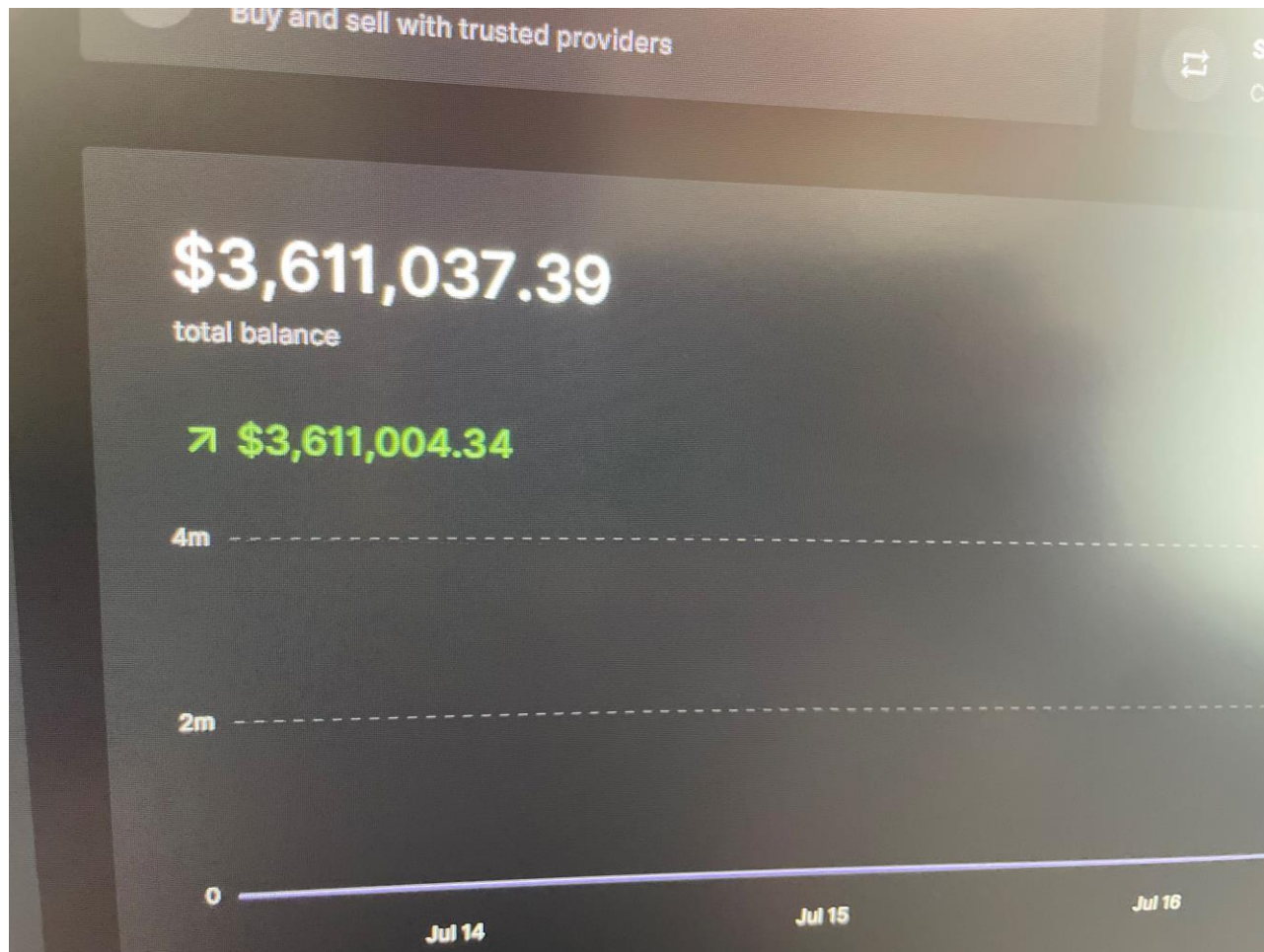
User ID	TotalAsset	TotalAsset BUSD	AssetCode
460433322	71.60428985	1889055.78230792	BTC



User ID	TotalAsset	TotalAsset BUSD	AssetCode
588937325	50.58688535	1311433.63882983	BTC

NEXT STEPS

- The exchange gives a complimentary 7 day freeze
- Need legal process to extend to 30 days
- A follow up seizure warrant is requested and served on 6/26/23



Our victims
money is
back....almost

JULY 20, 2023

Wheels of justice

- Collaborate with prosecutor to return funds to victim
- Provide our suspect with an opportunity to claim the funds as their own
- Our victim needs to apply to have money turned over to him
- After approximately 30 days the motion is added to the docket to return victim funds
- During this time, funds must remain in Bitcoin as they were seized

Conclusion

- September 12, 2023 the Westport Police Department returned approximately 119 Bitcoin to the Victim
- The approximate total returned was \$3,001,156.00

How to protect yourself

- Hang up and verify the information
 - Contact your family member
 - Contact your financial institution directly
- Monitor your credit report and account regularly
- Never grant access to your computer remotely
- Email--- if you don't expect it, don't accept it
- Change your passwords regularly
 - Add a digit you'll remember to your security question answers
- If it sounds too good to be true....
- If you fall victim to one of these scams
 - Contact law enforcement as soon as possible

HOW FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS CAN HELP

How Family Members and Caregivers Can Help

Warning signs of financial exploitation	Proactive Measures to Take
Sudden changes in bank accounts or banking practices, an unexplained withdrawal of large sums	Use direct deposit for regular income and set up automatic payments for bills to create a clear transaction record and minimize risk
The inclusion of additional names on an older adult's bank signature card	Thoroughly check the references and credentials of any new caregiver/financial advisor before granting them access to personal information or finances
Unauthorized withdrawal of the older adult's funds using their ATM card	Review activity in accounts. Set up alerts for large withdrawals or unusual activity
Provision of substandard care or bills left unpaid despite the availability of adequate financial resources	Consolidate accounts, close unused credit cards, and opt out of credit card solicitations
Discovery of a forged signature for financial transactions or for the titles of the older adult's possessions	Use strong and unique passwords with a combination of numbers, letters and symbols
Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming their rights to an older adult's property or possessions	Establish a durable power of attorney (POA) to appoint a trusted person to manage finances if needed
Unexplained sudden transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family	Use strong and unique passwords with a combination of numbers, letters and symbols
The provision of services that are not necessary, contactors asking for large sums of money upfront	Be wary of solicitation, estimates that seem unusually low, and ensure contractors are licensed and insured

Tips for the holiday season

- Lock your car. Take your keys. Remove valuables.
- Have a neighbor, friend or relative check on your home
- Have someone collect your mail, packages or newspapers
 - Or put delivery on hold
- Lock your doors and windows (even 2nd floor)
- Set your alarm
 - Hardwired is best
- Put outdoor lights on a timer
- Do not post pictures from your travel on social media until you are back home

Emergency Management & Community Preparedness Planning, Response, and Resilience

Fire Chief Nick Marsan

Emergency Management Director

December 18, 2025





Why Emergency Management Matters



- FOCUSES ON PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND MITIGATION



- PROTECTS LIVES, PROPERTY, AND COMMUNITY STABILITY



- PREPARED COMMUNITIES RECOVER FASTER

What Is Emergency Management?

- Preparedness

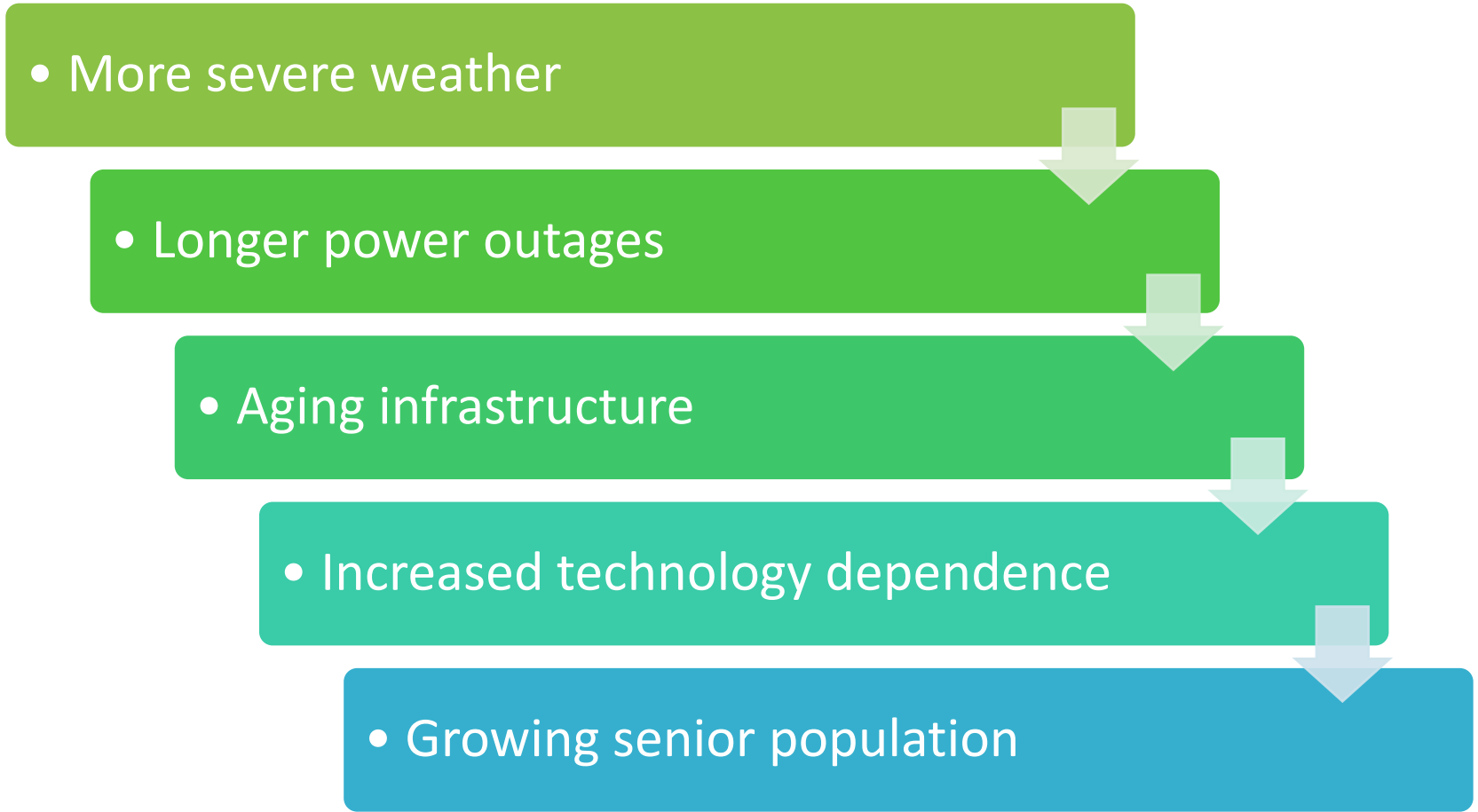
- Response

- Recovery

- Mitigation

How Risks Have Changed

- More severe weather



- Longer power outages

- Aging infrastructure

- Increased technology dependence

- Growing senior population

Role of the Fire Department



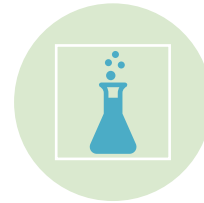
- ALL-HAZARDS
RESPONSE AGENCY



- FIRE
SUPPRESSION &
RESCUE



- EMS



- HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS



- EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
COORDINATION

During a
Major
Emergency

- Incident Command System (ICS)

- Clear chain of command

- Multi-agency coordination

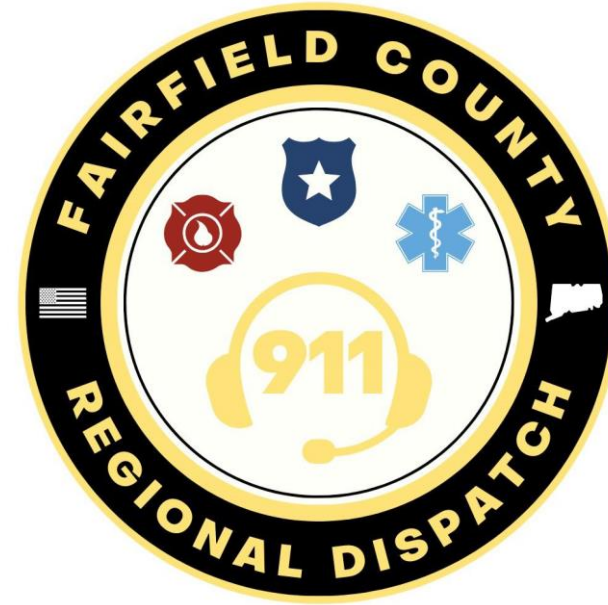
- Scalable response

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Activated for large
incidents

Central
coordination hub

Supports field
responders



Types of Emergencies We Plan For



Severe
weather



Power
outages



Fires &
hazardous
materials



Public
health
events



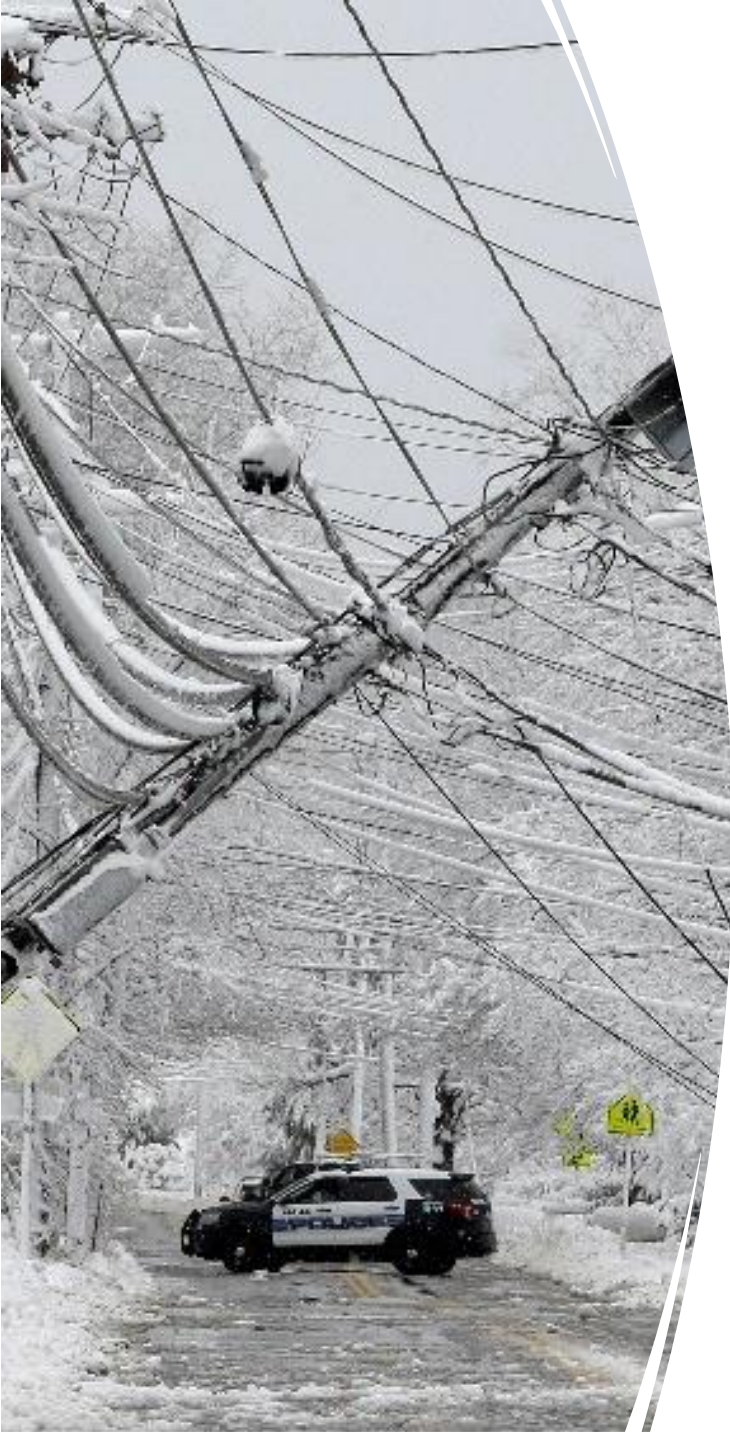
Transportation
incidents

Seniors &
Emergency
Preparedness

- Increased vulnerability

- Medical & mobility considerations

- Planning supports independence



Power Outages

-
- Heating & cooling risks
-
- Medical equipment needs
-
- Communication challenges



Individual Preparedness

- Flashlights & batteries
- Charged phones
- Medication lists
- Emergency contacts





Emergency Communication

- Emergency alerts
- Town website & social media
- Local media
- Senior Center outreach

**Text 06880 to
000777**

How Residents Help Responders



- Follow instructions



- Limit travel



- Keep roads clear



- Call 911 only for emergencies

Recovery After Emergencies

- Damage assessment
- Utility restoration
- Social services support



Preparedness = Independence



Emergencies happen



Planning reduces risk



Small steps matter