



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Prevent parking ticket fraud

March is Fraud Prevention Month, and the City of Vernon's Protective Services are reminding residents to be alert to new and evolving phishing schemes.

"We have recently seen some interesting ones, where an official looking email is sent indicating that the individual owes money to a municipality or private parking contractor for a parking ticket," said Clint Kanester, Manager of Protective Services.

The email includes a fine amount, options to pay by credit card, and links to photos claimed to have been taken by a bylaw officer. Kanester would like to remind citizens that municipalities do not send out emails for payment in this manner.

"The hope is that when someone sees they owe money, they will just pay it using their credit card or they will click on the picture link to see if it actually was their vehicle," said Kanester. "Clicking on the link may download a virus or malware that can you're your computer or records, putting your personal information at greater risk.

"A good way to determine if an email is false is to hover your mouse pointer over the email address or the link to payment or photo sites, You should never click on a link without knowing exactly where it is going," added Kanester.

To report a suspicious email, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre by calling 1-888-495-8501 or visiting the website at [www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

For more information on frauds, scams, and how to prevent yourself from becoming a victim, please contact the City of Vernon's Community Policing Office in person at 2900-32 Avenue, by phone at 250-550-7840 or online at [www.vernon.ca/government-services/contact-directory/community-safety-office](http://www.vernon.ca/government-services/contact-directory/community-safety-office).