

***** FRAUD ALERT *****

August 25, 2005

It has come to the attention of the UWM Neighborhood Housing Office that listings posted to our website have become the target of a scam artist. This person claims to be looking for a place to stay and/or have a child looking for a place to stay near UWM. They will send you a foreign check or money order for more than the amount of the deposit or rent, then ask you to forward or wire money to a third party on their behalf. The funds will initially clear the bank. However, in a week or two when the fraud is discovered you will be held responsible for all funds.

As a landlord or student seeking a roommate, please remember to use caution. If a situation seems strange, unconventional, questionable, or just too good to be true, it probably is. Ask lots of questions, be clear in all of your dealings with potential renters, document everything, and **never EVER act as a financial intermediary for potential tenants.**

For more information on this issue please use the Secret Service website <<http://www.secretservice.gov/alert419.shtml>>. If you have already lost funds in pursuit of the above described scheme, the Secret Service advises you to contact their local field office:

Madison (608) 264-5191
Milwaukee (414) 297-3587

If you would like to learn more about these scams, the U.S. Department of State has put together an exhaustive 33 page pamphlet. This link opens Adobe .pdf format, <<http://www.state.gov/www/regions/africa/naffpub.pdf>>.

