RILEY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

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Released By: Detective Brek Jager

For Immediate Release

◇ Rental Property Scam ◇

A scam is currently taking place in the Manhattan area that involves residential properties being posted on the internet for rent at an extremely low rate. The way the scam works is once there is an interested party in the rental property an appointment is arranged at the property. An individual that is part of the scam will, meet with the interested party. The individual involved in the scam will tell the interested party that work is currently being done on the inside of the residence and they are unable to show them the inside at this time. In some incidents pictures of the interior of the houses are provided to the interested party. The individual involved in the scam will tell the interested party that there are several other parties interested in the property and that if they are interested in it they need to act now. The individual involved in the scam will tell the interested party that the first month's rent is due before they will receive a key to the residence. The individual involved in the scam will have the interested party sign fictitious paper work and take the interested parties money or check and inform them they will receive the key to the residence in the mail in a few days.

The residences that are being used in these scams are houses that are for sale and are vacant, where the for sale sign in the front of the residence has been temporary removed, which makes this scam believable. If you are currently looking for a residence to rent please be aware of the scam and verify the property is either owned or managed by the individual showing it to you.