

Police: Package With \$10,000 in It Arrives at Darien Address, Sent by Elderly Victim of a Scam

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The arrival of a package on the steps of a house for sale on Middlesex Road and the discovery of \$10,000 in cash in it when it was opened led to the arrest of a man in Haverstraw, New York in connection with a scam of an elderly woman in Maryland, Darien police said.

Darien police described what happened with this account. While no arrest or formal accusations were made by Darien police, it's worth pointing out that nothing said about this case has been proven in court; Haverstraw police have made an arrest in the case (Darienite.com has asked that police department for information about it):

Sometime last Tuesday morning, March 19, a package arrived on a doorstep of 174 Middlesex Road, despite the house being vacant.

A real estate agent found the package, with the Middlesex Road address and the name "Thomas McKnight" as the recipient. The return address was in Pheonix, Arizona.

Neither the real estate agent nor the homeowner recognized either of the names on the package. Assuming that there might have been an error, since the address itself was correct, the homeowner told the realtor to open it up.

Inside was \$10,000 in 100 hundred-dollar bills.

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Then a man showed up and said he came for the package.

He came to the door while the real estate agent was showing the home to prospective buyers that morning. He's a tall, thin black male with dreadlocks and a tattoo on his neck, according to the description later given to police.

The realtor's suspicions were raised.

She told the man that the homeowner had taken the package from the house. The man returned two more times, demanding to know where the package was.

At 11:36 a.m., the realtor called police and met with police detectives, handing over the package to them.

Investigating detectives found that the cash had come from an elderly woman in Maryland who said she had been told over the phone that her son had gotten into legal trouble. She thought she was sending the cash to a lawyer for her son's legal defense.

The person who called her told her that a "gag order" had been imposed, so she wasn't supposed to tell anyone about the matter, including her own spouse.

The woman had also been asked to send another \$5,000 in cash to an address in [Haverstraw, New York](#) (in Rockland County, on the other side of the Hudson River from Westchester County). She sent it.

Darien police detectives were able to get tracking information for that package, and they contacted Haverstraw police, who then arrested the person who came to get that second package.

[This article will be updated when further information becomes available.]

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