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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scammers Attempt to Legitimize Information Gleaning Use Well-Known Agencies, Company Names

November 25, 2013- Tamuning, Guam- An employee of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has recently received emails that attempt to glean information under the guise of the United States Department of the Treasury.

The employee received an email at work stating that he had “an outstanding obligation with the federal government” that required his immediate attention. He was then directed to review and sign a document that was attached to the email or call the Department of the Treasury’s “financial management service” at 1-800-304-3107. They gave him a bogus case number of: ODEFY08L621784 and further instructed to email: support@salesforce.com

Knowing that the email and attachments were likely to be a scam, he forwarded the email to the Consumer Unit Advocate of the OAG, Bernie Alvarez, and to the IT department to check for viruses. He then called the listed number to investigate what sort of information the scam was attempting to obtain. He reported that it was an automated answering system that requested his social security number.

The email scam and its contents were forwarded to the local Federal Bureau of Investigation for further examination.

Another scam that seems to be re-circulating around our island community is the “Pay-Pal Identity Issue” scam. In an email that is sent from service@paypal.com to local consumers, the scammer asks for the consumer to confirm their identity “by completing the attached form,” and sending it to verification@paypal.com along with some form of identification such as a passport and a “proof of address such as a bank account statement or utility bill.” A case ID number of PP-84U9KF6Y3FV1 was supplied. Consumers were then informed that they might “limit your account access” and then “apologized for any inconvenience it may cause.”

“Gleaners are attempting to utilize any means possible to achieve their goal of stealing your identity and your hard-earned money; even using well-known government

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agencies such as the Department of the Treasury or online businesses such as PayPal,” said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

Consumers are asked to report any suspicious emails to: **Bernie Alvarez, Consumer Advocate for the Office of the Attorney General at 475-3324 ext. 3340 or to email the information to: balvarez@guamag.org.**

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