



CYBERSECURITY ALERT



FBI & MS-ISAC WARN OF NATIONWIDE PLANNING & ZONING EMAIL SCAM



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) have issued an updated advisory warning State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) governments about an ongoing phishing scam targeting businesses and residents.

Threat actors are impersonating local planning and zoning departments in an attempt to collect fraudulent permit and application fees.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Scammers are sending emails that:



Appear to come from local planning or zoning departments.



Request payment for permit, zoning, or land-use application fees.



Include realistic-looking invoices using publicly available information.



Often direct recipients to wire money after replying to the email.



Frequently use @usa.com email addresses instead of official government domains.



Always verify payment requests by contacting your local government office using a trusted phone number or website.

SHARE THIS INFORMATION



Town Clerks are encouraged to remind businesses and residents that:



Official government correspondence comes from your municipality's official email domain—not @usa.com addresses.



Be cautious of unsolicited invoices or requests for immediate payment by email.



Verify payment requests by contacting your local government office using a trusted phone number or website.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



The FBI and MS-ISAC recommend that municipalities:



Share this alert with businesses, residents, planning boards, zoning boards of appeals, code enforcement officials, and other departments.



Educate staff to recognize phishing attempts.



Report suspected incidents to local law enforcement, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), or MS-ISAC.



READ THE FULL REPORT

View the complete 8-page Operational Cyber Analytic Report here:

[INSERT PDF OR WEBSITE LINK HERE]

Please share this information with your Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Code Enforcement Office, and local businesses.



FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE



866-787-4722



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FOR QUESTIONS



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MS-ISAC
MULTI-STATE INFORMATION SHARING
AND ANALYSIS CENTER®

TLP:GREEN

This information is provided under the Traffic Light Protocol.
For more information, visit <https://www.cisa.gov/tlp>.