



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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Media Relations Information for 08/12/2013

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Potential scam letters begin appearing in La Porte mail



Front



Back

Pictured: Actual envelope containing “cease and desist” letter received by La Porte resident

During the month of August several La Porte residents have reported receiving suspicious letters via the U.S. Postal Service, which appear to be a scam. Several of the letters have now been pooled together and a particular theme has been easily identified. Markings from various government agencies are depicted among the mailings, advising recipients that they must immediately pay a fine using a credit card over the internet and immediately "cease and desist" particular internet activities. As these letters are clearly not valid, LPPD investigators are making the investigation of the letters a high priority and are asking any residents of La Porte to immediately contact the police should they receive similar correspondence.

So far, the accumulated "cease and desist" letters have arrived in international-style postage envelopes, with U.S. Mail validated stamps, and a postal processing seal from Singapore. Envelopes contain a two (2) page letter ordering the "cease and desist" of particular internet activities. The computer-printed letters appear to have been sent in reference to "Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA)." While the CISPA and National Security Agency (NSA) logos are placed along the letter, both the seals and letter quality are of low quality, appearing as they were likely copied from an open-access internet site.

Letters specifically state that, upon receipt of the letter, the recipient has 60 minutes to pay their fine(s) in order to avoid arrest. A web link is then listed for person(s) to logon to pay fines. Fortunately, none of the La Porte residents having received letters have logged onto the website thus far, and therefore their computers and stored information have not been compromised.

La Porte Police is warning residents who may receive such letters, or any of a similar nature, to avoid looking into any website which demands either payment or personal information. Such scams may be easily prevented by providing the letters to La Porte investigators.

If you have any questions regarding the listed letters, or if you are a recipient of any other type of scam-based mail, please call LPPD's Communications center at 281-471-2141.