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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF PHONY COPS

WAKE FOREST, NC – April 13, 2012 – Wake Forest police are urging citizens to be on guard against phony police officers. The warning comes after recent reports of a bogus lawman in Johnston County who has stopped several motorists since late March and robbed them of hundreds of dollars.

The Wake Forest Police Department wishes to remind residents that it utilizes unmarked vehicles. Additionally, although Wake Forest Police officers are in uniform a majority of the time, motorists should be aware that police detectives in plain clothes may stop them.

Police officials say anyone who is approached by an officer, especially one in plain clothes, and has doubts about the person's authenticity should ask for identification. A person who feels threatened can also call the Wake Forest Police dispatcher at (919) 556-9111 because the dispatcher generally knows where officers are and can confirm if the person is genuine.

Anyone being stopped by an unmarked police car can turn on their emergency flashers to acknowledge a law enforcement officer is behind them and drive slowly to a well-lit, public area.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.