

SCAM ALERT: Fraudulent Payment & Bill Emails Targeting Applicants

The Village has received reports of scam emails targeting residents, contractors, and business owners who have pending permit, planning, or zoning applications. These fraudulent messages may look convincing, use the official seal, or include real details about your property or application found in public records. They often claim you must urgently open a link, download an attachment, or pay an outstanding village fee to process your application.

The Village will never email you a direct link to pay a fee or demand payment via wire transfer, peer-to-peer apps (like Venmo or Cash App), or cryptocurrency.

How to Protect Yourself

- **Do Not Click:** Never click on links, open attachments, or reply to suspicious payment emails.
- **Check the Sender:** Look closely at the actual email address. Official Village emails will only come from an address ending in @HeadoftheHarborNY.GOV. Scammers often use lookalike domains or free services.
- **Verify Independently:** Do not use any phone numbers listed inside the suspicious email.

Unsure if a Fee is Owed?

If you receive an unexpected bill or believe you genuinely owe a fee to the Village:

1. Hang up or close the message.
1. Look up the trusted contact number for Village Hall or the specific department (such as the Building or Village Clerk Department) directly from our Official Village Website Contacts.
1. Call us directly to confirm whether a balance is actually due on your account before taking any action or sending money.
2. If you already sent money or shared financial information via a scam email, please contact your bank immediately and report the incident to our police department or the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center