



# City of Casa Grande Police Department

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Dent Scammer Arrested, Investigation Continues**

**Casa Grande, AZ** – The Casa Grande Police Department has made an arrest in connection with recent reports of individuals and groups scamming citizens by fraudulently offering to repair vehicle dents.

35 year old Randy Thompson was arrested last night and booked into the Pinal County Adult Detention Center for a PCSO Fraud warrant and pending charges of Fraudulent Schemes being forwarded by our agency in connection with previously reported dent scams.

This arrest came after Casa Grande Police Officers observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of Walgreens on Pinal Avenue at Kortsen Road. Officers attempted to contact the occupants of the vehicle when the individuals fled on foot into a nearby neighborhood. Officers were able to identify one of the subjects, a 16 year old male, who led them to a house on North Sweetwater Drive. At this residence, Officers discovered Randy Thompson and several other individuals who may be involved in the dent scams. Thompson was arrested in connection with prior fraudulent schemes involving the dent scams. This is an active and ongoing investigation and Police expect to make more arrests in the near future. ###

**\*Below posted on July 9 as Community Fraud Alert on our Social Media Sites**

\*\*\* Fraud/scam Alert \*\*\*

Beware of a recent trend of scammers who claim to be dent removal experts, but take your money and run!

In the past several months, the Casa Grande Police Department has taken numerous reports of at least two or more people working together to scam victims out of money by offering to fix dents in their vehicles. They often call themselves “Dent Doctors”. These scammers will either dent your vehicle first or find a vehicle with an old dent, then knock on your door or approach you in a public parking lot and offer to fix it for a small fee (anywhere from \$100-\$300).

The majority of victims seem to be elderly, but not all. When denied the opportunity to “fix your dent” the scammers are reported to become belligerent and aggressive. Although no one has reported being assaulted, this has caused sufficient fear in some victims to just give in and pay the fee. The scammers then work on the dent by trying to pull or push it out, apply a wax compound and buff it. They are usually gone by the time the victim has realized the work was not completed or the damage is worse than when they started.

\*\*\* Although not all of these scammers have been identified, CGPD and other agencies are looking for the man in this photograph in connection with this scam. His name is Randy Thompson; he is 35 years old, 5’11” tall, 165 lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes. He may be driving a 2004 Silver Dodge Ram. If you know or see him, please call CGPD at (520) 421-8700 immediately.

As for the scam itself, here are some tips for this one and others like it:

- Know who you are dealing with. Don’t give money to people you don’t know or haven’t had the chance to verify their credibility as a business.
- Ask to see their credentials or business permit.
- Never allow anyone to follow you to an ATM for a payment for services.
- And, of course, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is..

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