



Office of the
City Manager

CityManager@bristolva.org

300 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia 24201 · Phone: (276) 645-7333 · FAX: (276) 821-6278 · www.bristolva.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Bristol, Virginia Urges Caution Amid Scam Involving Fake Invoice Emails

Bristol, VA – June 26, 2025 – The City of Bristol, Virginia is urging the public to exercise extreme caution after learning of a recent scam involving a fraudulent invoice sent via email to a local property owner. The scam, which used publicly available information and impersonated city officials, successfully defrauded a citizen of \$5,000.

Earlier today, Director of Planning Jay Detrick reported the incident to the City Manager's Office and the Bristol Virginia Police Department. The fraudulent email was sent from the address planning.bristolva@usa.com, a non-governmental and unsecured domain not affiliated with the City of Bristol. The message included a counterfeit invoice and instructions to wire funds to a bank located in Beaverton, Oregon.

The targeted individual had recently participated in several publicly broadcast Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and the scammer appears to have used that information to craft a convincing message. The City believes this was a targeted effort by a malicious actor using details readily accessible through public channels.

The citizen has reported the incident to his local law enforcement agency in Centerville, Virginia, and the City of Bristol has also referred the matter to the FBI and the Virginia Fusion Center.

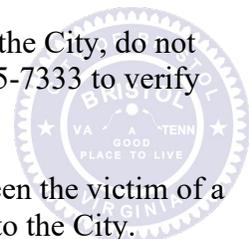
Important Reminders for the Public:

The City of Bristol, VA will never request wire transfers or sensitive financial information via unsolicited email.

Official City email addresses end in @bristolva.org or bristolva.gov. Emails from other domains, such as @usa.com, should be treated with suspicion.

If you receive an unexpected invoice or payment request claiming to be from the City, do not respond or send money. Please contact the City of Bristol directly at (276) 645-7333 to verify any such communication.

Citizens who believe they may have received a fraudulent message or have been the victim of a scam should report it immediately to their local law enforcement agency and to the City.



“We take this matter very seriously,” said the City Manager. “Although we cannot always prevent these types of criminal schemes, we can work together to identify them quickly and protect our citizens through timely communication and public awareness.”

For more information or to report suspicious activity, contact the City Manager’s Office at (276) 645-7333.

Randall C. Eads
City Manager/City Attorney

