



# Mecklenburg County Consumer Fraud Task Force

*"One Less Victim" - The first task force in North Carolina  
dedicated to the prevention of consumer fraud.*

## **Scam Alert Archives/Archivos de Alertos de Fraude**

**August, 2010**

### **ENGLISH VERSION**

Hello, this is Fifth Third Bank, a member of the Mecklenburg County Consumer Fraud Task Force. This month's fraud alert is "The Secret Shopper Scam".

How do you become a victim? One way is through the internet. Individuals who are on the web, may be searching websites for jobs that advertise "work from home", or "earn extra cash".

The web site would ask you for your name, phone #, and address. With this information, the fraudulent company can mail you instruction materials on how to be a Secret Shopper.

These documents would also explain the commission that you would receive - usually 10%. The materials would also include a Cashier's check. The check is usually drawn on an out of state bank.

Individuals are instructed to deposit the Cashier's check into their personal account and make several purchases at various retailers. They are then asked to complete a Western Union or Money Gram transfer back to the fraudulent company.

Ultimately, the entire amount of the check is counterfeit and will be charged back to the customer's account. Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

If you feel you may be a victim, please contact your financial institution and visit our website at [www.consumertaskforce.org](http://www.consumertaskforce.org) for further information and links.

Thank you and have a great August.