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Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:57 PM

To: Victory, Lauren E <levictory@cbs.com>; Kraemer, Daniel A <DAKraemer@cbs.com>

Subject: CBS News Chicago inquiry: federal agent scam

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Good afternoon,

My name is Lauren Victory and I'm a consumer reporter with CBS News in Chicago.

I'm working a story that involves a Chicago area man scammed by someone purporting to be a federal agent on Facebook. In the course of my research, I found several Facebook pages/profiles for someone named "Agent John Williams." This person pretends to have access to government grants.

The pages/profiles have thousands, sometimes tens of thousands of followers which led me to wonder if there are other victims across the USA who are falling for similar scams in which "Agent John Williams" will deliver a "package filled with money" if the individual provides giftcards to pay for insurance, tracking, lockbox code, etc. Of course, there is no package of money and of course, the person loses what they spent on giftcards.

Hoping you can help me figure out how widespread this problem is by checking your log of reported scams. Can you let me know if you've had anyone between 2022 and 2024 file complaints concerning "Agent John Williams?" As many details as you can provide would be appreciated.

My deadline is Friday, February 9 at 12pm CT.

Thank you for your help,
Lauren Victory