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Released by: Wendy Rose

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Citizen Advisory: Suspicious Male Soliciting Money

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office is warning residents to be cautious of a suspicious male who has approached several people in the Mira Lago neighborhood to ask for money.

In an incident that occurred yesterday at approximately 8:00 p.m., on Rue de Palisades in Sarasota, a man claimed to be the grandson of a neighbor and pretended to be familiar with the people he approached. He was seen checking mailboxes so he could call residents by name. He asked for money to pay a tow bill so he could visit his wife in the hospital. He later asked for a ride to a nearby location.

If approached by a stranger at their home, citizens are advised the following:

- Never let a stranger into your home.
- If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call yourself. Do not open the door to hand the phone to the stranger.
- Don't hesitate to report suspicious activities.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to call Criminal Investigations at 941-861-4900 or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers by calling 941-366-TIPS (8477), or online at www.sarasotacrimestoppers.com or via text message by texting TIP109 plus a message to CRIMES (274637).