

News Release

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs Issues Stickers for Fuel Pump Security and Protection from Credit Theft

On August 22, 2016, Summit County Council passed Ordinance #2016-272. The fuel pump security measure was adopted by County Council to help deter credit theft and fraud from illegal credit/debit card skimmers that are being installed and used by thieves to capture customer information. The ordinance is designed to help protect consumers in the County, it will take effect on January 1, 2017.

A part of the ordinance requires that all businesses located in Summit County that dispense fuel to motor vehicles will be required to affix a security sticker onto the fuel pumps scanning device panel. When an unauthorized opening of the panel takes place and the pressure sensitive sticker is tampered with the sticker will read "void." This will alert store owners and authorities that a skimming device may have been installed in the fuel pump by scammers attempting to steal customer payment card information.

The ordinance also provides several other measures gas station owners may enact to protect the consumer from having their credit card information stolen by people who install the skimmers. Illegal credit/debit card skimmers at gas pumps across the country cost consumers and gas stations millions of dollars each year.

"It is important that we do everything we can to make sure consumers are protected from credit theft. Anyone that has had their credit stolen knows how devastating that can be. This program is one more way to make sure the consumer and businesses are protected," said Jeff Willhite, District 4 County Councilman and legislation sponsor.

Starting the first of this month, the Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs has mailed security stickers, a copy of the ordinance and a letter explaining the ordinance to over 170 gas stations throughout the county.

"I am proud that we are taking such a strong pro-active role in protecting our citizens and visitors traveling through Summit County from these hi-tech scammers," stated County Executive Ilene Shapiro.

For more information on this or other types of consumer issues, please contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 330-643-2879 or visit our website at <https://consumeraffairs.summitoh.net>.

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