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N e w s R e l e a s e

August 19, 2010

For further information contact Sergeant Dwayne LaGrange

St. Charles Detectives Seeking Help In Locating a "Scam Artist"

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is currently searching for Cleveland Verner, Jr. (B/M), 45 years old. Verner is approximately 5'08 and weighs approximately 250 pounds. He was last seen driving a white 2004 Cadillac Escalade (TUM 680).

Verner befriended a Boutte woman and her nephew stating that he was employed by a local company responsible for helping with the British Petroleum Oil disaster and was searching for people in the area that may be interested in employment with the oil clean-up efforts. Cleveland Verner, Jr. informed the woman that he needed as many people as possible to help with the cleanup. He was able to convince the woman that his company would provide gainful employment, provided they submit personal information on an application he provided her, along with the payment of \$150.00 per applicant. Verner informed the woman that the fee would be used to obtain an OSHA certificate and physical examination. As a result of her meetings with Verner the woman began searching for individuals who were interested in seeking employment.

Verner later informed the woman that all those with certificates would be ready to begin working on August 17, 2010, however changed the date due to poor weather conditions insisting that crew report to work on the following day. The woman attempted to contact Verner numerous times the following day, however did not receive a response from him.

Anyone who may know the whereabouts of Cleveland Verner, Jr. should contact Lieutenant Rodney Madere at (985) 783-6807 or CrimeStoppers at (504) 822-1111. You may be eligible for a cash reward of \$2,500.