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## A Devious Scam Hitting Radio Stations

Posted by: Carl Goldman in Crime, Santa Clarita Latest News July 18, 2023 - 9:00 am 5 Comments 4,002 Views

There's a new elaborate scam hitting radio stations. It could cost broadcasters millions of dollars. Michael May, representing Hatley Consultants, Inc, a research consultancy agency out of Ottawa, Canada, contacted KHTS radio in Santa Clarita, California.

May said he represented a Vancouver, Canada medical supply company, (we won't mention their name since they're a reputable company and an innocent victim). May said the client wanted to purchase one month of advertising on KHTS for the month of August. They provided a very professional radio commercial and asked for an agreement. KHTS provided them with a month-long commercial schedule for \$4,800.00.

May informed KHTS the client will pay directly in advance, but the only way they'll pay will be to wire the money directly into the radio station's checking account.

The following week May sent an email saying their client sent the money but made a mistake and wired \$40,800.00 instead of \$4,800.00. He requested KHTS reimburse the difference, \$36,000.00. The \$36,000.00 was posted in the KHTS checking account.

May's communication seemed questionable. KHTS contacted their bank. It appears the wire was originally sent from Canada to a US Bank in Washington State, who then sent a check to KHTS instead of a wire. May had the obvious intention of stopping payment on the check once the \$36,000.00 difference was reimbursed. We caught the scheme before it had a chance to cause

KHTS called the only phone number listed on the Hatley website. It matched the number Michael May used when he contacted us. Instead of ringing into a large advertising agency, as given the impression from Hatley's website, the number rings directly into an individual voicemail. Also, in checking Hatley's website more thoroughly, we found many things that seem suspicious.

KHTS spoke with an executive at the large Canadian Medical supplier. They have no connection with Hatley Consultants nor have any knowledge of the scam.

Michael May as bait in his devious scheme.

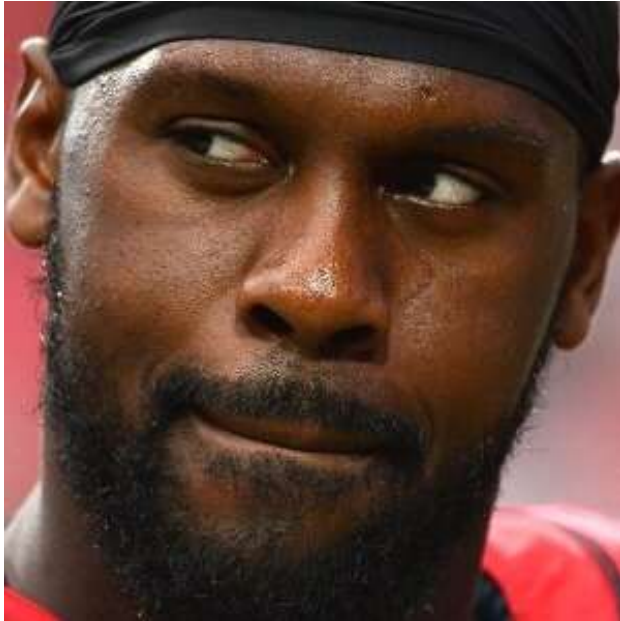
We are sharing this story to warn other radio stations from falling for this elaborate scam.

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