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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

More Than $3 Million In COVID-19 Related Recoveries Secured for Consumers



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today announced more than $3 million in recoveries for consumers regarding cancellations, purchases and scams related to COVID-19. The Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline remains active and the office's Consumer Protection Division continues to assist consumers and review complaints related to price increases on commodities essential to slowing the spread of COVID-19, along with other concerns related to the pandemic's impact on consumer transactions.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Throughout this health emergency, my Consumer Protection Team has remained vigilant in its effort to prevent fraud and protect Floridians—and it shows, with more than $3 million recovered so far. Even as millions of Floridians receive COVID-19 vaccinations, my Rapid Response Team will continue to assist Floridians who encounter scams or unfair practices that target consumers trying to make purchases to protect their health and the wellbeing of their families."

In addition to recovering more than $3 million for consumers, the Florida Attorney General's Office:

- Received approximately 5,400 consumer contacts about the price of essential commodities;

- Made more than 11,700 referrals and contacts to merchants about allegations of price gouging, refunds and scams;
- Issued 108 subpoenas to further price gouging investigations; and
- Worked with online platforms to deactivate 290 posts offering items for outrageous prices.

Violators of the price gouging statute are subject to civil penalties of $1,000 per violation, up to a total of $25,000 for multiple violations committed in a single 24-hour period and additional penalties for violations of other applicable laws. For more information on price gouging, please click here.

For a list of the commodities covered under the state's price gouging laws during the COVID-19 state of emergency, click here.

Floridians can report price gouging to the Attorney General's Office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM, visiting MyFloridaLegal.com or downloading the NO SCAM smartphone app, available in both English and Spanish.

For tips on reporting price gouging, click here.

Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration, Attorney General Moody has issued more than 40 Consumer Alerts with information about emerging scams and tips to avoid fraud. To view the latest alerts and to stay up to date on COVID-19 related scams, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Alert webpage by clicking here.

For all of the Attorney General's COVID-19 related releases and additional COVID-19 tips and resources, click here.