



**May 2021**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer have identified an ongoing fraud scheme intentionally targeting small businesses, large corporations, government vendors, and contractors for the purpose of obtaining electronic equipment such as laptops, mobile phones, hard drives, digital projectors, solar panels, and other high-value merchandise. The email phishing attempts entice vendors to ship high-value merchandise and equipment to suspicious addresses and locations that are frequently either public storage companies or abandoned commercial properties.

The fraudsters' methods vary from using facsimile to sending emails with attachments or links to direct vendors nationwide to a counterfeit HUD Request for Quotation (RFQ). The RFQ uses the name of a legitimate government procurement official and will include a spoofed email and phone/fax numbers associated to the fraud scheme. Subsequently, a counterfeit Purchase Order is emailed or faxed from the fraudsters to the vendors, giving the appearance that an official Purchase Order has been awarded. Vendors who believe they have a legitimate Purchase Order from a government agency ship the merchandise and realize substantial loss.

### **BE ON THE LOOK OUT!**

Business email compromise (BEC), also known as email account compromise (EAC), is one of the most financially damaging on-line crimes. The following fraudulent domains have been used to carry out the illicit impersonation of department officials:

- 1) [@ocpo-hudgov.us](mailto:@ocpo-hudgov.us)
- 2) [@hudgov.us](mailto:@hudgov.us)
- 3) [@hud-gov.id](mailto:@hud-gov.id)
- 4) [@hudgov-bid.us](mailto:@hudgov-bid.us)
- 5) [@govhud.us](mailto:@govhud.us)
- 6) [@hudgov.org](mailto:@hudgov.org)
- 7) [@huddgov.com](mailto:@huddgov.com)

Notice that slight variations on legitimate addresses can deceive vendors into thinking fake accounts are authentic. In a BEC scam, criminals send an email message that appears to come from a known source making a legitimate request. The criminals then use a spoofing tool to direct email responses from the victim to a different account that the fraudsters control. The vendors believe they are corresponding with government procurement officials but in reality they are not. Additionally, copies of procurement official's signatures are being used and attached to counterfeit emails and purchase orders.



### PREVENTION MEASURES

- HUD's Office of the Chief Procurement Officer **WILL NOT** send you a Request for Quotation, Request for Proposal, or Purchase Orders via email or facsimile. U.S. small businesses, corporations, suppliers, and contractors seeking procurement opportunities with the U.S. Government register with The System for Award Management (SAM) and/or GSA eBuy. If you have any questions about the authenticity of an apparent solicitation from HUD, you may contact the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer at the following website to authenticate the action:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/cpo/about/OCPO\\_Contacts#cpo](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/cpo/about/OCPO_Contacts#cpo)

#### Vendors should:

- Be aware of typographical errors, misspelled words, unusual procurement language, distorted U.S. government seals and other graphics;
- Ensure that your shipments clearly indicate on the outside of all boxes that the contents are the property of the United States Government;
- Beware of any purported procurement officials who refuse to communicate by email and/or behave suspiciously over phone calls;
- Not provide any personal or business information to unknown individuals;
- File a report on [www.hudoig.gov/hotline](http://www.hudoig.gov/hotline) or call the **HUD OIG Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 (toll free)**.





U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

5th Floor  
451 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410  
(202) 407-9127

Unofficial contacts and False contact numbers

False RFQ/PO numbering

**PURCHASE ORDER**

PO Number: UD9310028UD

Order Date: [REDACTED]

Quote Number: RFQ:357929UD

Uneven formatting

Released

**MAIL INVOICE TO AGENCY BELOW**

U.S Dept. of Housing and Urban Development  
ACCT PAYABLE.  
5th Floor  
451 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

Unofficial U.S. Government locations and suspicious delivery units and locations

Instruction: Do not use this purchase order to order stationery, computer hardware or general office supplies from any vendor.

**Delivery Location**

Procurement General Service  
Receiving Center Units  
LT Storage, Warehouse  
[REDACTED]  
POC: [REDACTED]

**Referenced Source or Vendor**



Description: Computer Hardware & Pheripheral

Typographical errors and misspellings

**Line Items**

Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Start Date	Delivery Date	Total
Microsoft Surface Book 3 13.5" Touchscreen 2 in 1 Notebook - 3000 x 2000 - Intel Core i7 (10th Gen) i7- Part #: SLU-00001	30	EA	\$3,363.00	04/06/2021	04/15/2021	\$105,990.00
HP EliteBook x360 830 G7 LTE Advanced, UMTS, DC-HSPA+, HSPA+ 13.3" Touchscreen 2 in 1 Notebook - Full HD - 1920 x 1080 - Intel Core i7 (10th Gen) i7 10810U Hexa-core (6 Core) 1.10 GHz - 16 GB RAM - 512 GB SSD SKU:36D34UT#ABA	29	EA	\$3,519.43	04/06/2021	04/15/2021	\$102,063.40

False and unofficial contact numbers

Sub-total tax lines

SUB-TOTAL \$211,053.40

TAXES (VAT 20%) \$00.00

SHIPPING AND HANDLING \$ 00.00

**Grand Total \$211,053.40**

False invoicing standards

Questions or concerns regarding this transaction or service should be directed to:  
U.S Dept. of Housing and Urban Development  
Procurement Division, Phone: (202) 407-9127  
(The mailing address for U.S Dept. of Housing and Urban Development is at the top of this purchase order.)

Agency	HUD
Fiscal Year	2021
Division	Executive Information Systems
Program	Systems
Phone	(202)407-XXXX
NET TERMS	15Days

**Invoicing Standards**

To facilitate payments from U.S Dept. of Housing and Urban Development please follow the invoicing standards set forth below.

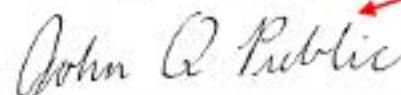
The invoice should include, but not limited to including:  
(1) the vendors' mailing and e-mail (if applicable) address;  
(2) the vendor's telephone number; (3) the name and telephone number of a person designated by the vendor to answer questions regarding the invoice; (4) the federal agency requisition number; (5) the federal agency's name, agency number, and delivery address; (6) the agency purchase order number, if applicable; (7) the contract number or other reference number if applicable; (8) a description of the goods or services, in sufficient detail to identify the order which relates to the invoice; (9) unit numbers corresponding to the original order, and (10) other relevant information supporting and explaining the payment requested or identifying a successor organization to an original vendor, if necessary.

FOB DESTINATION CASH DISCOUNT: 0% 0 DAYS

ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN OUR BID INVITATION BECOME A PART OF THIS ORDER.  
VENDOR GUARANTEES MERCHANDISE WILL MEET OR EXCEED SPECIFICATIONS IN THE BID INVITATION.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Unapproved image or copy of official's signature

PURCHASER   
John Q. Public