Warning: Exhibitor Hotel Scam!

For the past three years, Joint Mathematics Meetings Exhibitors have been contacted by an outside marketing company to reserve a hotel room, usually at one of the headquarters hotels, at a cheaper rate than the meeting rate. Exhibitors were asked for their credit card information via a credit card authorization form. Exhibitors who provided this information lost money because their credit cards were charged and they never received the hotel rooms they were promised. This company never had a block of rooms at any of the JMM hotels.

THIS IS A SCAM AND AN ATTEMPT TO EXTORT MONEY FROM YOU! DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO ANY COMPANY THAT SAYS THEY ARE REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY OR THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AND OFFERING YOU A BETTER HOTEL RATE. IF YOU ARE CONTACTED BY THIS TYPE OF COMPANY, TELL THEM YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED AND CONTACT THE MATHEMATICS MEETINGS SERVICE BUREAU (MMSB) IMMEDIATELY AT MMSB@AMS.ORG.

This practice is called “Room Pirating” and unfortunately has become a regular and disturbing phenomenon among many meetings and conferences over the past three years. The “room pirates” first find out about an upcoming meeting, usually from the host organization's website, from which they pull a list of exhibitors, if they can. (Last year they pulled a list from a past meeting site.) Once they have key information, they reserve a small room block, if they can, during the same dates at the same hotel. (In the case of the JMM, they were not able to reserve any rooms.)

Then they call the exhibitors and pretend to be agents of the host organization. The pirates will sometimes say sleeping rooms are selling out and the exhibitor needs to provide a credit card number so that a reservation can be made. Or if the exhibitor says he already has a reservation, the pirate may say that a better room rate has become available and the reservation can be changed if the exhibitor supplies a credit card number. The goal is to have exhibitors unwittingly book within the pirates' room block.

IMPORTANT! IN ALL OCCURRENCES OVER THE PAST YEARS, THESE ROOM BLOCKS DID NOT EXIST. THE ONLY WAY TO RESERVE OR CANCEL A ROOM FOR THE JMM IS THROUGH THE MMSB.

We appreciate the loyalty of our long-time exhibitors who alerted us about this scam in a timely manner.

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