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This morning I received a phone call from the 800 number listed on the back of my American Express card. The very helpful gentleman said he was calling from the American Express fraud department and wanted to confirm a couple of charges that looked suspicious. He then asked if Carolyn (my full name) or Charles was the primary account holder. This raised a red flag for me since Charlie has been removed from the account, but I let him go forward. The two charges were for Home Depot and Walmart in Akron, Ohio, and I shared I had not authorized them. He then sent me a text and asked me to confirm the number. I replied saying, "It says I should never give that number out," and he said only the fraud department would ask for it. He reminded me again he was calling from the number on the back of my credit card. At this point I told him I was hanging up and I would call American Express directly. He pushed back for a bit, and I hung up. My call directly to American Express revealed there had been no fraudulent charges and my card was not compromised. I can see how easily it would have been to fall for this phishing scam.

[Here](#) is some information on what we do and what you can do to prevent fraud and [here](#) is a piece on protecting yourself from email scams. Be careful, as scams are becoming more sophisticated...

Lyn Cameron

"The best ability is availability. When you work with and for the best people in the business and you love what you do, showing up every day is a joy, but more than that, it is a privilege." -Charlie Cameron

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