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For immediate release

For more information, contact Chief Krolikowski at (203) 594-3512

NEW CANAAN PD CREATES E-COMMERCE SAFE ZONES

New Canaan, CT:

The New Canaan Police Department recently created e-commerce “safe zones” in the front parking lot of the police department, and in the lobby of the department. E-commerce often involves strangers meeting in-person after negotiating a price for an item on Craigslist, eBay, Backpage, Facebook tag sale groups, and other websites.

These safe zones provide an area for residents to complete online transactions in-person in a secure place. Police officers are constantly in these areas and both locations are under 24-hour video surveillance.

Our Department encourages residents to conduct these e-commerce transactions at police headquarters.



Although the police will not be involved in any of these private transactions, the program is designed to provide residents with a known and secure location at which to conduct their private business.

Below are some e-commerce safety tips:

- Ask as many questions as you can before going to buy the product. If the seller can't answer your questions, there is a good chance that they do not actually have the product and it could be a scam.
- Criminals often offer to sell/buy expensive items. Use extreme caution when making these deals.
- Don't buy from sellers who only list an email address: This is a HUGE RED FLAG. If they don't list their phone number, the seller usually has something to hide.
- Don't go alone. You should always have someone with you with when conducting these transactions.
- Many e-commerce scams are pretty easy to spot. If the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Never go to a second location. If you arrive at the predetermined meeting place and the seller asks to go to another place, don't. There is no reason for a seller to ask you to go somewhere else.
- Never post online information which can lead back to your residence, like your street address or home telephone number.
- NEVER wire funds such as using Western Union. This is almost always a scam.
- Pay for and request payments in cash. Using a check gives your personal information. Fake money orders or cashier's checks will be cashed by the bank and you will be held responsible.
- Remove any geotags from images before posting. This information could lead criminals to your home by reading the EXIF metadata.

Be better informed, connected, and send anonymous tips to our Department by downloading the “MYPD” application in the iPhone or Android marketplace. After downloading the application search for “New Canaan” and get connected.

Follow us on Twitter@newcanaanpolice for crime alerts and crime prevention tips.