

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORRECTION

Suffolk, VA (November 15, 2017) Please note that the Sector II Police Precinct located at 3903 Bridge Road in Northern Suffolk lobby hours are Monday thru Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., not 8:00 a.m. as initially noted. We apologize for any confusion.

SUFFOLK POLICE OFFER SAFE TRANSACTION ZONES

Suffolk, VA (November 14, 2017) - A large number of citizens are utilizing online sites, such as Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and OfferUp to buy and sell things quickly and economically. Nationally, there has been an increase in robberies and assaults on citizens utilizing these sites to buy and sell items. Many times these robberies occur during the meetings of the buyers and the sellers of these items. Several robberies have occurred in recent months in which citizens were lured to secluded neighborhoods away from high traffic, public areas and robbed.

The Suffolk Police Department has established two safe meeting zone locations. One of the safe meeting zone locations is Suffolk Police Headquarters, 111 Henley Place. The Suffolk Police Headquarters lobby is open 24-hours a day and is equipped with video surveillance cameras. The other safe meeting place

location is at the Sector II Police Precinct, 3903 Bridge Road in Northern Suffolk. The Precinct II lobby is open Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is also equipped with video surveillance cameras. If you must meet after hours, the Sector II Police Precinct parking lot is well-lit and has video surveillance cameras.

The goal of safe meeting location zones is to reduce the risk of being targeted and possibly becoming a victim, to reduce risky transactions, and to give the public a safer environment to meet and conduct legal transactions.

Below are a few safety tips when setting up a meet location:

- Never meet someone alone; take a friend with you.
- If the buyer or seller is reluctant to give you their name, phone number or wants to meet in a secluded area, do not go to the meeting.
- If at all possible, always meet at a safe meeting location such as a Police Precinct.
- Try to meet in a well-lit and very public place.
- If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

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