

Posted on: March 6, 2015

## Orland Park Offers Safe Haven for Completing Online Exchanges



Buyers and sellers using online marketplaces can use the lobby of the Orland Park Police Department to complete transactions from online marketplaces such as Craigslist or eBay.

Public Safety Committee Chair Trustee Dan Calandriello advised that residents put safety first when conducting any online transactions. "It is always better to be safe than sorry," said Calandriello. "The Orland Park Police

Department lobby is available and should be utilized for completion of online exchanges to avoid any possible issues that may arise."

The premise is to conduct business in a relatively safe environment which would deter both sellers from ripping off potential customers and potential customers stealing from the sellers. The Police Department exchange is a growing trend nationwide.

"The use of the lobby is being offered to deter any possible internet-related crime that may come along with such exchanges," said Village of Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy.

"Internet sales are now common practice," said McCarthy. "We just want to be sure there is a safe place to allow for these transactions to take place (if needed)."

Police department staff will not oversee or be responsible for such transactions, McCarthy said. Rather, the space is intended to assist in the safe exchange of goods and money without incident.

Internet marketplace Craigslist offers the following advice for personal safety:

When meeting someone for the first time, please remember to:

- Insist on a public meeting place like a cafe.
- Do not meet in a secluded place, or invite strangers into your home.
- Be especially careful when buying/selling high value items.
- Tell a friend or family member where you're going.
- Take your cell phone along if you have one.
- Consider having a friend accompany you.
- Trust your instincts.

Anyone wishing to use the station as a meeting place to complete transactions is welcome to do so at any time. The Village of Orland Park Police Department is located at 15100 S Ravinia Ave, Orland Park, IL 60462.

For more information contact the Village of Orland Park Police Department at 708/349-4111.

