

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cerritos Sheriff's Station is safe zone
for online transaction exchanges**

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station lobby and parking lot are available as safe locations for buyers and sellers to meet to complete online transactions. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station lobby is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

While online buying and selling can be easy and convenient, the practices also come with risks. Allowing a stranger to come to your home or other location to pay for and pick-up an item can be a threat to your safety.

When meeting people to buy or sell items, heed the following tips:

- Meet at a reasonable time of day, preferably during daylight.
- Don't meet alone or with children present. Have someone accompany you.
- Don't hand over the item until you have the cash in hand.

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- Avoid meeting at your home. If the item is too large to transport easily, consider placing it in the garage or on the porch/entry way. Arrange a meeting in a public place first (and bring a friend) to see proof of identity. If you're comfortable, allow the person to follow you home. If the buyer has brought someone, keep them together in your presence. The less they see or have access to your home and personal belongings, the better.
- If you agree to meet at a neutral location, consider a well-lit area with people around and video surveillance cameras, such as the Cerritos Sheriff's Station lobby or parking lot. Don't meet in an area that's unfamiliar or uncomfortable to you. If the other party is not willing to meet you in a place you feel safe, don't meet.
- When purchasing items, inspect them for accuracy and be sure you're getting what you want. It's okay to change your mind and not purchase the item(s).
- If a deal seems too good to be true, it usually is. There are a lot of stolen items sold online. Drug users may sell things at extremely discounted prices just so they can get money for a fast high. Contact

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the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044 if you think something is stolen.

- Be careful with your money. Don't open your wallet and pull money out in front of the seller. Have the exact amount agreed upon in a specific pocket.
- If paying online, use credit cards or secure payment services instead of debit cards.
- When making online purchases in public, use your mobile phone network instead of WiFi.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station is located at 18135 Bloomfield Avenue, next to City Hall. The phone number is (562) 860-0044. For more crime prevention and safety tips, visit safercerritos.com.

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