

# **SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE**

## **The Hackensack Police Department is pleased to offer a new Safe Exchange Zone.**

The Exchange Zone is a designated space in our parking lot for community members to conduct private party transactions and safe custody exchanges at the Hackensack Police Department. The zone is in the parking lot adjacent to the police station at 225 State Street. There are two designated spaces under 24-hour surveillance. Our parking lot has been quietly used for years and we are now publicly inviting and encouraging online sellers and buyers to utilize our new Safe Exchange Zone.

## **Location and Hours**

Our parking lot is accessible from either the Central Avenue or Union Street. While video will record the area, the optimal transaction time of Monday-Friday, between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Department public lobby hours), is recommended.

The available spaces are on a first come, first serve basis. No reservations will be taken.

Police Officers will not be present during transactions and video will not always be monitored in real time. Department members will not get involved or actively monitor transactions and employees of the City of Hackensack will not be able to act as official witness, provide legal advice, or settle civil disputes.

## **Rules**

- The exchange of weapons, controlled dangerous substances, or controlled dangerous substance paraphernalia is illegal and not permitted on our property.
- The exchange of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on our property.
- The Safe Exchange Zone is meant for person-to-person transactions. Property may not be dropped off and left unattended.
- Sellers are required to take their property with them if the buyer does not show up.
- The Police Department encourages the use of Safe Exchange Zones for buyers and sellers of OfferUp, Craigslist, LetsGo, and other online marketplaces as well as private sales and safe child custody exchangers.
- This location is monitored by the Police Department's 24/7 video surveillance system. If you have an emergency dial 9-1-1 or for non-emergency (201)646-7777.

## Safety Tips

- Only conduct transactions with local buyers/sellers.
- Insist on meeting in a public place.
- Do not invite strangers into your home, and do not go to theirs.
- Take your cellular phone with you.
- If you are selling a large piece of furniture, move the piece to an open garage or front porch.
- Tell a friend or family member about your intentions. Tell them when and where and with whom you are meeting, if possible, bring them with you.
- Complete transactions during daylight hours.
- Only use cash or money orders.
- Be cautious of scams.