SAFETY ZONE
West Orange | New Jersey

RULES

Police Headquarters, Washington Street Sub-Station, Valley Sub-Station
8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday (excluding holidays)

• Weapon, drug, and drug paraphernalia transactions are not allowed in our facilities
• Police personnel cannot act as official witnesses to the transaction, they cannot give legal advice, and they will not settle disputes related to any transactions.
• Police personnel are not trained nor authorized to validate the legitimacy of any transaction, item for sale, or the integrity of any product of goods, or legality of a sale
• The West Orange Police Department encourages all residents to engage in such transactions during daylight hours; to bring a cell phone along in case of emergency; to notify friends or family of the intention to meet to conduct such a transaction; to never invite strangers to the home or agree to meet at a stranger’s home; and to reconsider any transaction with someone who refuses to meet at a Police Department.

The West Orange Police Department has no affiliation with any internet-based marketplace, and will in no way be a party to, associated with, or responsible for any online transactions. Residents participating in such transactions are encouraged to abide by the internet-based marketplace through which the transaction originated, and to employ caution at all times. The sole purpose of the establishment of the “SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE” is to provide a safe environment for the exchange of goods.
Effective July 1, 2015, the Township of West Orange and the West Orange Police Department have started the Safe Exchange Zone Program. This program is intended to create a safe environment for the transfer of goods and money for the seller and buyer involved in an internet based, in-person sale.

Recent national incidents have indicated that in-person sales, transactions and exchanges originating from online marketplaces such as Craigslist have experienced an increase in violence, fraud and theft by deception. In an effort to promote safer transactions between strangers, we are encouraging residents to use their local police department parking lots and lobbies as a meeting place for in-person transactions to occur.

Therefore, effectively immediately:

1. The parking lots of Police Headquarters, the Washington Street Sub-Station, and the Valley Sub-Station are open and available to the public as a “Safe Exchange Zone” for conducting in-person transactions that have been facilitated through online marketplaces.

2. The lobby of these three buildings shall be open and available to the public as a “Safe Exchange Zone” from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (holidays excluded), for conducting in-person transactions that have been facilitated through online marketplaces. Access to the Police Headquarters lobby may also be granted during evening hours at the discretion of the Station House Commander and on a case by case basis.

3. The Township of West Orange and the West Orange Police Department make no guarantees, assurances, or promises as to the safety or security of any in-person transactions that may take place on Township property.

4. It is not the intent of the West Orange Police Department to provide police personnel or staff to witness any transaction in person, but the video surveillance by and proximity to police personnel is meant to increase the public’s peace of mind when engaging in such transactions with unfamiliar individuals.

5. It is recognized that Police personnel are not trained nor authorized to validate the legitimacy of any transaction, item for sale, the integrity of any product or goods, or legality of a sale.

6. The West Orange Police Department encourages all residents to engage in such transactions during daylight hours; to bring a cell phone along in case of emergency; to notify friends or family of the intention to meet to conduct such a transaction; to never invite strangers to the home or agree to meet at a stranger’s home; and to reconsider any transaction with someone who refuses to meet at a Police Department.