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PUBLIC SAFETY POINT – TRADE SAFE PROGRAM

Due to the rising popularity of online exchange forms and the need for a safe area for child custody exchanges, the Norfolk Police Division has initiated a new Trade Safe Program. Trade Safe encourages the use of the front parking lot and lobby area of the police station, located at 202 N. 7th Street, as a meeting place for making exchanges. This initiative is an attempt to minimize frauds and thefts, which have occurred when meeting with a stranger, and to facilitate a safe area for child custody exchanges.

The physical exchange of items and children can be done in the front parking lot and lobby area of the police station between the hours of 6:00 am and 11:00 pm. All sales, trades, transactions, and child custody exchanges are purely civil matters, which must be agreed upon by all involved parties prior to arriving on city property.

Police Division employees or officers will not act as arbitrators, mediators, witnesses or supervisors of the exchanges. The Norfolk Police Division also cannot guarantee the absolute safety of any person utilizing these areas for exchanges and will not be liable for any criminal activity that may occur during the transaction or exchange. All buyers and sellers are encouraged to verify the identity of persons they are interacting with. In the event of an emergency during the exchange, parties must call 911 to receive assistance.

There are some guidelines that all parties must follow when utilizing the designated areas. No weapons, drugs, medication, or hazardous items will be allowed to be traded at this location. Under no circumstances may any children or items be left unattended on Norfolk Police Division property.

Upon request, Norfolk Police Division employees may check to see if an item has been reported stolen. If the item is found to be stolen, it will be seized. No refunds or compensation by the Norfolk Police Division will be provided for the items found to be stolen.

Video surveillance of the front parking lot and lobby area inside the police station will be retained for 30 days. Any requests for video from the “Trade Safe” area must be made within that time frame and must be submitted in writing. Any request beyond 30 days cannot be accommodated.