



**** MEDIA RELEASE ****

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT



160 Lake Street North, Big Lake MN, 55309

Incident Number: N/A

Date/Time: 1/13/2016

Big Lake Police Introduce Safe Exchange Zone

With the rise of sales and trading through sites such as Craigslist and Facebook, the need for a location for these transaction to take place comes about for those involved. There is often anxiety associated with meeting a stranger to exchange goods for cash. In some instances these transactions have given rise to crimes occurring. The Big Lake Police Department wants to provide our residents a safe environment for these transactions to take place. This gave rise to the concept of creating an E-Commerce Safe Exchange Zone.

The Big Lake Police Department is located at: **790 Minnesota Avenue**. The main parking lot on the west side of the building is covered by a video surveillance and recording system. This is also the location all of our Officers come and go from the building on a frequent basis, so there is a strong law enforcement presence in the area.

This parking lot is available to use for meeting and arranging exchanges and trades for these types of transactions. There are signs posted at each entrance designating this as an E-Commerce Exchange Location. As a suggestion when undertaking these types of transactions;

- Insist on a public meeting place.
- Do not meet in a secluded place, or invite strangers into your home.
- Be especially careful buying/selling high value items.
- **Consider making exchanges at the Big Lake Police Department.**
- 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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-263-2500, or in an emergency 911.