



Sheriff Bill Prummell

7474 Utilities Road

Punta Gorda, FL 33982

(941) 639-2101

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Integrity, Professionalism, Trust

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office **E-Commerce Exchange Safe Zones**

(Charlotte County) – The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office encourages you to be safe when conducting business transactions resulting from online commerce. In the past 6 weeks, deputies have responded to three separate theft reports that occurred during E-Commerce transactions for purchase of a cell phone. In one instance, the two suspects also snatched the seller's purse from her hands.

The Sheriff's Office has designated areas at every District Office as E-Commerce Exchange Safe Zones for customers meeting with individuals to transact business resulting from online deals.

Websites such as Letgo, OfferUp, and other mobile apps have been growing in popularity as conduits for transactions of goods, currency, or any type of exchange facilitated by internet services. The E-Commerce Exchange Safe Zone is a proactive program aimed at deterring criminals from preying on victims through fraudulent online transactions. These areas are well lit and equipped with video surveillance cameras. The locations offer an enhanced sense of security, which reduces the fear of crime.

Regardless of where you ultimately decide to meet individuals, following are a few tips to remember when meeting an unknown person to buy or sell an item:

- Tell a friend or family member where you are going and when to expect you back
- If possible, always have someone accompany you
- Bring your phone so you can call for help
- Meet in a public, well-lit place with people around if you choose not to use the Sheriff's Office.



PREPARED BY:

Katie Heck

7474 Utilities Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33982

(941) 575-5227

kheck@ccso.org

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