



LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME ALERT NOTICE
ONLINE SAFETY AWARENESS NOTICE

SAFETY TIPS WHEN RESPONDING TO ONLINE ADVERTISING

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is distributing the *Crime Alert Notice* which is intended to advise you of criminal activity that may affect you or your community. While there have been several reported robberies linked to online exchanges, there are steps buyers, sellers and potential job seekers can take to stay safe during face to face meetings.

Websites like Craigslist and other online *want ad* websites are great places to buy and sell items locally or even to find a job. The main thing to remember when dealing with people you do not know when meeting face to face is to take precautions and stay safe during the meeting or transaction. Please follow these safety tips when responding to any online advertising.

- Pick an open for business public place to meet like a coffee shop or grocery store parking lot.
- Criminals don't like an audience so your chances of having a problem with someone in person are greatly diminished if you meet in a public place.
- Do not list a home phone number or address in your listing or on your profile
- Set a specific time and place to make the meeting/exchange
- If the object is particularly large, consider using a consignment shop to show it
- Use Common Sense; Do not let people in your home during the meeting/exchange
- Take your cell phone with you
- Don't go alone and have a friend accompany you or tell a friend or family member where you're going
- Don't give out personal information (SS number, home address, date of birth) when meeting for a job and always verify the business first.
- Trust your instincts
- Don't meet in a secluded place
- Don't invite strangers into your home
- Don't go visit a stranger at their home
- Be especially careful when buying/selling high value items
- Use common sense when dealing with people and if something doesn't seem right, walk away
- Always take payments in cash when selling your item to avoid fraudulent payments with a fake money order, bank check or cashier's check.
- To be extra safe when dealing with cash, carry a counterfeit money detector pen with you and check every bill. Counterfeiters create money in all denominations so make sure you protect yourself against fraud.
- Bring exact change when making a purchase and ask that your buyers do the same.
- You don't want to open your wallet and let someone know how much money you have on hand
- Immediately place the money you receive in your pocket until you can get home. You don't want to get distracted while finishing the transaction.

Please be aware of these crime prevention tips and take steps to ensure your home and vehicle are safe by using common sense practices. If you see any suspicious activity, be a good witness and call **3-1-1** for a **Non-Emergency** and **9-1-1** if there is a **Life Threatening Emergency**. If you have any information on these crimes please call Robbery Section 702-828-3591.

You can remain anonymous by calling **CRIME STOPPERS 702-385-5555**