

Internet Purchase Exchange Zone Guidelines

(Resolution adopting Exchange Zone Guidelines)

“Exchange Zone” Policy

The City of West Columbia, South Carolina, joins with other communities across the State and the United States in designating an “Exchange Zone” where members of the public are free to meet face-to-face to buy and sell items traded on Craigslist and other online marketplaces. The “Exchange Zone” is located at West Columbia Police Department, 200 N. 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. The Rules of Operation of the “Exchange Zone” are as follows:

1. Hours of Operation – The “Exchange Zone” will be open for use by the public free of charge, daily from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2. No appointment is necessary for use of the “Exchange Zone.”
3. Sales of alcohol, drugs, guns, other weapons, heavy machinery, or other large items or equipment are not permitted in the “Exchange Zone.” If there are any questions regarding what is permitted please call: 803-794-0721.
4. Police officers and other municipal employees or officials will not oversee or become involved in the details of any transactions. Nor will the City keep or maintain any record or log of transactions conducted in the “Exchange Zone.”
5. No marketing or other display of items “for sale” is permitted in the “Exchange Zone.” The “Exchange Zone” may only be used to conclude transactions previously arranged online or by telephone.

By designating the above location as an “Exchange Zone,” the City of West Columbia hopes to minimize the incidence of crime associated with the face-to-face conclusion of online transactions, but makes no explicit or specific assurances of safety to those buyers or sellers who choose to trade items in the “Exchange Zone.”