

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ELLETTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT E-COMMERCE EXCHANGE POINT**

ELLETTSVILLE, INDIANA (December 12, 2017): In the rapidly evolving world of on-line purchases, property exchanges and barter, opportunities for the criminal element to prey upon the innocent have flourished in recent years. Often times, these purchases lead to face-to-face encounters with strangers to exchange items for currency or trade goods in areas that are rural or without the benefit of security cameras. The Ellettsville Police Department is offering the residents of Ellettsville an opportunity to use our video-monitored front lobby area and front parking area during daylight hours to make these exchanges. While the front lobby is not manned 24 hours per day, our video system is always actively recording activity on the premises.

Please keep the following in mind when arranging any E-Commerce exchange:

1. Obtain as much information as possible about the person you are meeting, their contact info including cellular telephone number and the vehicle they are driving in advance and share that information with a friend or relative prior to the meeting.
2. Take someone with you, if possible.
3. Never agree to meet someone in a rural or deserted area.
4. Meeting times during daylight hours should be the rule, not the exception.
5. Try to conduct these exchanges where there are video cameras in use.
6. If you are a victim of a crime, try to obtain as much information about the suspect, the vehicle and direction of travel as you possibly can and report it to the police as quickly as you can.