

ORDINANCE # 2-2017

CREATING AN “ON-LINE EXCHANGE ZONE” FOR INTERNET-BASED
TRANSACTIONS AT THE TOWNSHIP OF ABERDEEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and security of Township residents is a critical concern for the Township of Aberdeen’s Mayor, Township Council and Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, in-person sales, transactions and exchanges originating from on-line marketplaces have experienced an increase in violence and fraud; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to promote safer transactions between strangers, municipalities across the country have encouraged residents to use municipal parking facilities as a meeting place for the in-person transactions to occur; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council believe it to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Township’s residents to establish an “On-Line Exchange Zone” in the Aberdeen Township Municipal Building parking lot to facilitate a safe and neutral location for making in-person transactions; and

WHEREAS, the parking lot outside of the Aberdeen Township Police Headquarters is lighted and under surveillance 24 x 7 which provides for a safer area for such transactions to be conducted.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Aberdeen, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Township of Aberdeen hereby establishes an “On-Line Exchange Zone” for conducting in-person private transactions involving a Township resident that have been facilitated through on-line marketplaces to be located in an area of the Municipal Parking Lot of the Municipal Building located at One Aberdeen Square, Aberdeen, New Jersey to be designated (the “Exchange Zone”).
2. Before conducting any transaction within the Exchange Zone, the Aberdeen resident party to the transaction shall register the buyer and seller with the Township. The registration shall be valid for the day of the proposed transaction only. Registration may be accomplished on line via the Township Website.
3. This registration shall be for the legal sale or transfer of items only.
4. Private exchange of motor vehicles, weapons or items that do not fit in a 10 x 10 parking space shall not be permitted.
5. Township officials will not provide police personnel or Township staff to witness any transaction in person, but the video surveillance by and proximity to police personnel is meant to increase the public’s peace of mind when engaging in such transactions with unfamiliar individuals in the Exchange Zone.

6. The Township of Aberdeen makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises with respect to the condition or authenticity of any items exchanged between private parties.
7. The Township of Aberdeen makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises as to the safety or security of any in-person transactions that may take place on Township property.
8. The Township of Aberdeen makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises as to availability of the Exchange Zone at any particular date or time.
9. The Township encourages all persons to engage in such transactions in daylight hours, only; to bring a cell phone along in case of an emergency; to notify friends and/or family of the intention to meet to conduct such a transaction; to never invite strangers to the home or agree to meet at a stranger's home; and to reconsider any transaction with someone who refuses to meet at the Municipal Building.
10. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a safe space for the conduct of private transactions involving Township residents facilitated by on-line marketplaces. The conduct of any such transaction on the grounds of the Municipal Building is strictly prohibited in the absence of a prior registration. Any violation of this ordinance shall be subject to the general penalties established in Section 1-5.1 of the Code of the Township of Aberdeen.
11. This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance with applicable law .

ADOPTED:

KAREN VENTURA
MUNICIPAL CLERK

FRED TAGLIARINI
MAYOR

Dated: