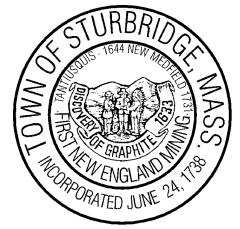




**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Office of the Chief of Police
THOMAS J. FORD, III



346 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Office (508) 347-2525 · Fax (508) 347-7904
Sturbridgepd.org



Media Advisory

**For Immediate Release
July 6, 2015**

**Contact: Lt. Mark G. Saloio
508-347-2525 ext 339**

Sturbridge Police Announce a new “Safe Zone” for Online Transactions

Police Chief Thomas J. Ford III is pleased to announce that the Sturbridge Police Department is implementing a new program designed to increase the safety of online purchases and transactions for Sturbridge residents.

Sturbridge residents may now utilize the Sturbridge Police Department as a public “online safe zone” to meet and conduct purchases and sales of items from various websites such as Craigslist. The location, directly in front of the entrance to the Sturbridge Public Safety Complex lobby, is monitored by security cameras, and the police station is staffed 24/7.

While the Sturbridge Police cannot guarantee the quality or authenticity of any items purchased online, this “safe zone” was created to provide residents with a safe, secure and public meeting place for online transactions.

“Our duty, first and foremost, is to ensure public safety. There have been instances all over our country of in-person meetings pertaining to online purchases going wrong. With this new “online safe zone,” we are hoping it provides a sense of comfort to residents of our community, and contributes to an overall safer experience for online transactions.” This new “Online Safe Zone” was implemented by Lt. Mark G. Saloio, at the request of Chief Ford.

“We recognize that as things change in our society, we in law enforcement also need to adapt and think of more creative ways to help residents of our communities stay safe,” Lt. Saloio said. We hope this provides our community with another tool to utilize to increase their safety and security and are happy to provide it.”

####

The Mission of the Sturbridge Police Department is to work in partnership with the Community to protect life and property, solve neighborhood problems, and enhance the quality of life in our town.