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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 21, 2016

## Safe trade zones in Little Elm provide added security

LITTLE ELM (April 21, 2016) More and more retail transactions are taking place online with many of the exchanges occurring on a face-to-face basis, causing some people to worry about the safety and security of the encounters, says Assistant Town Manager Joe Florentino.

“There is no information indicating that this is a chronic problem. We’re certain that the majority of these types of encounters occur without any difficulties,” he said. “Nevertheless, we’ve established a pair of E-Commerce Exchange Zones where people can conduct these exchanges with the confidence that comes from knowing someone is watching.”

When finalizing a purchase or exchange from a private individual conducted on Craigslist, eBay, Facebook, Nextdoor or any other social media site, it’s best to conduct the actual face-to-face transaction in a public place, monitored by a third party. That’s what the two safe exchange zones in Little Elm offer. The sites are located in the parking lot of the Public Safety Building, 88 West Eldorado Parkway and in the parking lot of Fire Station No. 2, 2301 Walker Lane.

“Signs that designate the parking spots as E-Commerce Exchange Zones have been erected and cameras have been installed,” he said. “The lots are well-lit and there is constant traffic at both locations.”

The 24-hour surveillance system sends the images directly to the Town’s internal closed circuit system.

Both locations are also available for child custody exchanges.

“People can find some exceptional deals online, and we certainly encourage that. What we want is to ensure that the connections between the buyer and the seller occur in a safe and secure manner,” he said.

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*Note: A photo file accompanies this release.*

**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.