

**Township of Lawrence
County of Mercer**

Ordinance No. 2298-18

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A “SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE”
FOR RESIDENTS CONDUCTING PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS FROM ONLINE MARKETPLACES**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that it hereby establishes a “Safe Exchange Zone” located in the area of the Municipal and Police Parking Lot of the Municipal Complex located at 2207 Lawrence Road, Lawrence Township, NJ, for conducting in-person, private transactions involving a Township resident that have been facilitated through either online (or other market places), and to be designated the “Safe Exchange Zone”.

Section 1: Exchange of Certain Items Prohibited

The private exchange of the following items will not be permitted:

- A. Motor vehicles**
- B. Weapons**
- C. Illegal Contraband**
- D. Alcohol**
- E. Items that do not fit in a ten-foot-by-ten-foot parking space**

Section 2: Responsibility and Liability of the Township

Township officials will not provide police personnel or Township staff to witness any transactions in person; however, the video surveillance by and in proximity to police personnel is meant to provide a safer place to complete the transaction and to increase the public’s peace of mind when engaging in such transactions with unfamiliar individuals within the Safe Exchange Zone.

The Township of Lawrence makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises with respect to the condition or authenticity of any items exchanged between private parties.

The Township of Lawrence makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises as to the safety or security of any in-person transactions that may take place on Township property.

The Township of Lawrence makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises as to availability of the Safe Exchange Zone at any particular date or time.

The Township of Lawrence is establishing this Safe Exchange Zone to advance the public good; however, nothing in this ordinance is intended to, nor should this ordinance be interpreted in any way, to waive or release the Township’s defenses or immunity from suit under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, NJSA 59:1-1 et. seq.

Section 3: Safe Practices Encouraged

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 Complex.

Section 4: Purpose, Violations and Penalties

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a safe space for the conduct of private transactions involving Township residents facilitated by online (or other marketplaces). Any violation of this ordinance shall be subject to the general penalties established in Ordinance No. 1878-06.

Section 5: Severability

If any paragraph or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudicated to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not, to the extent severable, affect any other paragraph or provision of this ordinance, which shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

Section 6: Repealer

All ordinances and provisions thereof inconsistent or conflicting with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same hereby are repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 7: Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after final adoption and publication thereof in accordance with law.

Adopted: June 19, 2018

RECORD OF VOTE

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X						X
Mayor Bobbitt	X						