

**BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R15-169**

**CREATING A “SAFE ZONE” AT BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK’S
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FOR THE PUBLIC TO MEET FOR
INTERNET-BASED TRANSACTIONS**

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and security of Borough residents is a critical concern for the Borough of Woodland Park’s Mayor, 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 local police department parking lots and lobbies as a meeting place for the in-person transactions to occur; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Borough’s Police Chief, the Borough’s Mayor and Council believe it to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Borough’s residents to establish a “Safe Zone” in the Woodland Park Police Department’s parking lot and lobby to facilitate a safe and neutral location for making in-person transactions; and

WHEREAS, the parking lot outside of the Borough of Woodland Park Municipal Complex is well-lit and under 24 hour video surveillance and the lobby is also open seven days a week 24 hours a day, which provides for a safer area for such transactions to be conducted.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Woodland Park, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. Effective immediately, the parking lot of the Woodland Park Municipal Complex is open and available to the public as a “Safe Zone” for conducting in-person transactions that have been facilitated through online marketplaces;
2. Effective immediately, the lobby of the Woodland Park Police Department is open and available to the public as a “Safe Zone” 24 hours a day, seven days a week for conducting in-person transactions that have been facilitated through online marketplaces;
3. The Borough of Woodland Park makes no guarantees, assurances, or promises as to the safety or security of any in-person transactions that may take place on Borough property;

4. It is not the intent of the Borough officials to provide police personnel or Borough 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 at the Woodland Park Municipal Complex; and
5. Borough officials encourage residents 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 police station/municipal complex.

Record of Mayor and Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Kallert					Pascrell				
DeCesare					Spinelli				
Gatti					Mayor Kazmark				
Holloway									

This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Woodland Park at a special meeting held on the 17th day of June, 2015. Signed and sealed before me.

 Kevin Galland, Municipal Clerk

 Dated