



Sumter Police Department
107 East Hampton Avenue
Sumter, SC 29150

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Recent armed robberies linked to internet sales exchanges

Contact: Public Information Officer Tonyia M. McGirt, (803) 436-2737

SUMTER, SC (Nov. 8, 2017) – Area residents are urged to use extreme caution after three armed robberies in the city appear linked to internet sales exchanges.

The most recent happened after 4 p.m. today near Memorial Stadium where someone intending to sell video gaming equipment was robbed at gunpoint.

Of the three incidents reported, all have been during daylight hours at a location arranged by someone posing as a buyer and the person selling goods through Facebook Marketplace.

No injuries have been reported.

The first incident happened after 2 p.m. Nov. 2 at an arranged meeting location at Dillon Park. There the seller of gaming equipment and a long gun was met by two men who held him at gunpoint and took the equipment and firearm before he was told to drive away from the scene.

Later that day after 5 p.m., another seller of video gaming equipment was expected to meet a buyer at a business parking lot of South Pike East. He was met by two men in their 20s who held him at gunpoint and took the equipment before the robbers drove off in a white SUV.

The robbers are described as black males in their 20s. One is about 6 feet tall while the other appears shorter.

Although internet exchange sites are a popular, convenient means to exchange goods, both buyers and sellers should use extreme caution and consider who they're doing business with and where.

Only exchange items in designated locations for internet sales locations that are provided by law enforcement. If not, please meet in areas that are highly visible and well-trafficked.

As a community service, the Sumter Police Department, 107 E. Hampton Ave., provides an exchange site marked as the SPD E-Zone on the west-side parking lot at the corner of Hampton Avenue and Harvin Street.

Anyone with information about these crimes are asked to call the Sumter Police Department at (803) 436-2700 or CrimeStoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

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Approved for media release by Chief Russell F. Roark, III

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