

JANUARY 2019



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

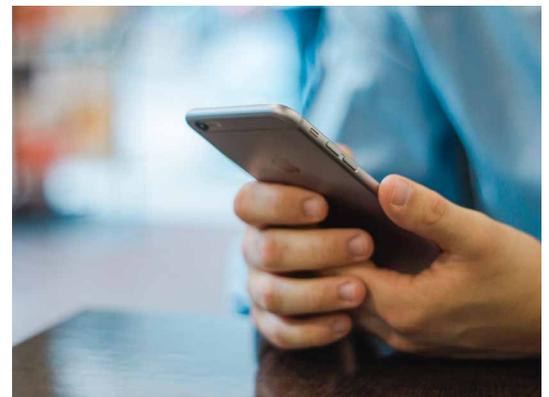
This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

Happy New Year! Each new year brings with it celebrations, excitement, and opportunity. Unfortunately, we can also count on con artists to come up with new scams that may hurt you and your loved ones. This edition of the Community Newsletter features tips on selling and buying on direct selling websites as well as some information about what our officers are doing within the community. We hope you will share this information with your friends, family, and neighbors.

AVOIDING SCAMS ON DIRECT SELLING WEBSITES

The popularity of direct selling websites and apps such as Craigslist, Letgo, and OfferUp show no signs of slowing down. They offer an easy way to make money by selling your unwanted items, or to find a bargain on something you want or need. But as with anything that involves money changing hands, avoiding scams is key to having a good experience using these direct selling platforms. Take a look at some of the warning signs for these scams, and learn how you can protect yourself.

- **Not Willing to Answer Questions**-Someone selling an item should be able to answer your questions quickly and directly. If you ask questions about the product and receive vague, general answers, or the seller tries to change the subject to avoid answering, move on to another seller who can tell you what you want to know.
- **High Pressure to Close the Deal**-An honest seller will understand that you might need to sleep on it before making your final decision. If they seem anxious or agitated that you're not willing to commit immediately, you should take your money elsewhere.
- **Not Wanting to Use Cash**-Paying or accepting cash is the easiest way to complete a transaction. As a buyer, don't give a personal check to a stranger. As a seller, accepting cash protects you from receiving forged or stolen checks or money orders. Either way, if the other party insists on paying with anything other than cash, don't go through with the transaction.
- **Refusal to Meet in Person**-If the other party is reluctant to meet, wants to work through a third-party intermediary, or insists on conducting everything via money transfers and snail mail, don't waste your time. Both buyer and seller should be willing to meet in person. Of course, you'll want to exercise caution any time you're meeting a stranger. Take a friend with you and arrange to meet in a well-trafficked, public area. Residents can always utilize police station parking lots to conduct these transactions to add an extra layer of safety.



Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

THE RALEIGH POLICE DEPARTMENT IS FIRST “BIGS IN BLUE” PARTNER IN TRIANGLE

On January 10, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle and the Raleigh Police Department held the first Bigs in Blue Kickoff event in the Triangle.



The event, held at East Millbrook Middle School, is a partnership designed to impact students’ lives by matching them with police officers. The Bigs in Blue Program seeks to connect youth with police in their communities through one-to-one mentoring and build stronger bonds between law enforcement and the communities and families they serve. The mentees will be exposed to principles of leadership, professional development, and future career options as well as learning important soft skills in their careers and in life. Raleigh Police Officers will meet with students from Millbrook Middle School on-site weekly for one hour.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has provided one-to-one mentoring for children facing adversity throughout its more than 100 year history. The agency serves nearly 630,000 children, families, and volunteers nationwide with 1,000 of those children living right here in the Triangle.

OFFICERS OF THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT PROVIDE CHRISTMAS TOYS TO CHILDREN

In December 2018, through the generosity of the United States Veterans Corp and Tobacco Road Harley Davidson, along with the volunteers of the Raleigh Police Department (Downtown District) and their families, officers were able to provide Christmas toys for more than 300 children in the Heritage Park, Chavis Park, Walnut Terrace, and the Raleigh North Housing areas, several churches and one extended family.



Pictured from left: Officers C.C. Taylor, R.A. Smith, G. Candelaria, M.H. Winkle, Sergeant J.R. Marx, and M.S. Horner