



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE
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New Auction Method for Property

Typically, this is the time of year when local residents might plan on attending a county, city and school district combined auction at the fairgrounds, however, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department has recently made a change that will bring more bidders to the auction.

Last fall, the Bureau of County Commissioners signed a contract with "PropertyRoom.com" which is an agency that specializes in online auctions of surplus and unclaimed property for Sheriff's Departments, Counties and Municipalities across the country. This contract allows the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department to use this online auction method to sell unclaimed property as well as items seized in drug cases.

PropertyRoom.com is an online auction that is similar to EBay, but specifically works with government agencies. This on-line auction service picks-up property items and sorts, cleans and researches each item prior to putting it on the auction site for sale. This opportunity saves many man-hours used to prepare for auctions and is a space saver for evidence and property storage as items are regularly removed for auction, rather than on a once-a-year basis. The PropertyRoom.com personnel come to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department on a schedule throughout the year to pick up typical items for auction, such as: bicycles, tools, jewelry, electronics and many other miscellaneous items. Vehicles will also be sold online, but will be left at the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department lot until the sale is final. Buyers must make arrangements at the time of sale to pick-up their purchased vehicles. All items are sold online and the buyer pays all costs (shipping, tax, delivery of vehicle, etc.) through PropertyRoom.com, which also saves time for Sheriff's Department personnel.

We anticipate an opportunity for higher earnings on auction items as the bidder base is increased from a local market to a World Wide Web market. As far as costs go, PropertyRoom.com takes a portion of each sale, as any auction company does, but there is no cost to us.

Items from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department are online now.

Although items cannot be searched individually by which agency they came from, the website: www.PropertyRoom.com can be viewed and searched for specific items. If any person locates an item on the website which they believe was stolen from them, PropertyRoom.com also offers a service listed on each item page called "Steal-it-Back." This recovery service is offered free of charge to victims who can enter their property information by serial number on the website and it will be cross checked with items being posted for auction around the country on the PropertyRoom.com website, or to cross check a specific item on a live auction at that time.

Changes such as this are very important for our future as we continue to deal with resource issues related to space and personnel.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff
By: Lt. Kim Edmondson