

SOLICITOR AWARENESS

TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

Peddlers, solicitors and canvassers are individuals who distribute flyers or handbills or attempt to make personal contact with a resident at his/her residence without prior specific invitation or appointment from the resident for the primary purpose of attempting to sell goods or services. While political and religious activities, newspaper carriers, and public or private school sanctioned fundraisers are exempt from permit requirements, the City of China Grove requires all other peddlers, solicitors and certain canvassers to register and obtain a permit from the Police Department, which includes a criminal history check as part of the process. Ordinance No. 150507-1

Other things to know about solicitors:

- ✓ Individuals must display a valid Peddler's/Solicitor's/Canvasser's Permit issued by the City of China Grove Police Department on their outer clothing when conducting solicitation activities.
- ✓ All solicitors must respect  signs (or signs to that effect).

AS A GENERAL PRACTICE, RESIDENTS SHOULD TREAT SOLICITORS LIKE THEY WOULD ANY STRANGER: WITH CAUTION AND AWARENESS. HELP STOP UNPERMITTED SOLICITING ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME WITH THE TIPS BELOW.

- **ALWAYS VERBALLY RESPOND** to a knock or doorbell ring, and DO NOT automatically open the door. Keep in mind that the only way to assure an ill-intentioned "solicitor" does not peek or barge into your home is to not open the door.
- **OBTAIN A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF HIM OR HER** — Use your peephole or windows. Look for suspicious behavior such as looking in car windows, testing doors for locks or entering backyards.
- **INFORM YOUR NEIGHBORS** — Share descriptive information about soliciting activity you encounter or witness. Remind neighbors to report suspicious persons and situations to the police.
- **STOP PASSIVE SOLICITATIONS** — If solicitations come in the form of annoying handbills, flyers, or door hangers left on your porch or signs left in front of your house, contact City Hall at (210) 648-4923/24 or scan and email them to cq.permits@att.net.
- **CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES** — **CALL CHINA GROVE POLICE AT (210) 837-3700 or (210) 648-4923/24 AND ASK POLICE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ANY SOLICITOR WHO**
 - does not have a permit or is not displaying an ID badge.
 - behaves aggressively or acts threatening.
 - asks personal questions, makes personal/sexual comments, or makes demands.
 - exhibits suspicious behavior such as nervousness and furtive glances around your home.
 - makes you feel uncomfortable for any reason.

IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911