

The Ongoing Problem with Solicitors

They show up at your front door. Some are criminals casing your home. Others are local businesses who want you to set up appointments for an expert to meet with you at a later date. Etc., etc.; they are SOLICITORS!



Recently, the police stopped a solicitor after being called by our Neighborhood Watch team. Last month police asked another group of solicitors in La Jolla to leave the area for soliciting without permits. Groups of solicitors are dropped off in vans and continue to knock doors past dark and past 8pm. Some solicitors went door to door peddling their service of painting home street addresses on the street this past summer. They even engaged some homeowners to come back to their homes later to do various types of home maintenance.

- The City of San Diego requires solicitors and peddlers to have a permit, carry identification, be photographed & fingerprinted at which point they will be issued a Registration Card. Please see San Diego Municipal Code 33.1401 – 33.1411.
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter03/Ch03Art03Division14.pdf>

Some Municipal Codes to highlight:

- No soliciting is permitted between 8pm and 9am
- Any solicitor who has gained entrance to any residence, whether invited or not, shall immediately and peacefully depart from the premises when requested to do so by the occupant.
- Posting a 1/2 inch height sign “No Solicitors,” “No Solicitation,” “No Solicitors or Peddlers,” “Solicitation Prohibited,” or any similar language clearly denying invitation and entry to solicitors constitutes sufficient notice that the residential occupant is denying invitation and entry to solicitors.

If a solicitor does not show you their Permit & Certificate, or a solicitor appears to you to be questionable or shady, please call the San Diego Police Department Non-Emergency Phone Number at 619-531-2000. Immediately after you call this number, please post on Nextdoor that solicitors are in the area and if you have a photo or Ring Doorbell clip, please add that to your post.

Tell the San Diego Police Department the description of the solicitor(s), their direction they were traveling from your home, and any information about their vehicle. The Police Department will respond as they are available. The solicitor will then be checked-out for legitimacy.

Let's keep La Jolla a SAFE neighborhood. Be alert and report all issues.

