Solicitors Warning

It is against the city ordinance of River Oaks for people to go door to door soliciting to sell services or goods without first obtaining a permit from City Hall.

Scam artist; usually working in pairs, use the door to door sales method to gain entry into the homes, back yards and garages of unsuspecting victims. Once inside, one suspect will occupy the homeowner while the other uses the excuse of "going to the restroom", "getting a glass of water", or "going back out to the car" to then move unobserved throughout the house stealing medications and valuables.

The River Oaks Police Department would like to encourage all residents of River Oaks to begin any conversation with a door to door solicitor by questioning them to see if they have a permit from the city. If they are unable to produce a permit or if you just want to verify that they are actually legitimate, please call the police department at 817-626-1991 ext. 301 and let us know that there are door to door solicitors in the neighborhood.

A legitimate permitted solicitor will understand, an illegal one will flee! Even if you are too smart to fall for their tricks your neighbor might not be! We would much rather respond to 100 suspicious persons calls than have to respond to one involving someone actually victimizing one of our citizens. In the event of an emergency please dial 911.

Sec. 4.02.001 Permit required

It shall be unlawful for any person to peddle, hawk, sell, solicit or take orders for, or offer to take orders for any services, wares, merchandise or goods, including, but not limited to, magazines and photographs, on the streets and sidewalks, or from door to door within the city without having first obtained a permit therefor from the city.

Sec. 4.02.002 Permit application; contents

Each application for a permit, required by this article, shall be in writing and under oath and shall set out the following information:

- (1) Name of the applicant, with his permanent business and residence addresses;
- (2) Name and address of the firm or person he represents;
- (3) The kind, type and character of goods or services he proposes to offer for sale;
- (4) Names and addresses of five persons as references;
- (5) How often the applicant will solicit during the year;
- (6) The names of any cities where applicant has worked within the previous thirty days;
- (7) Whether or not applicant has ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or any violation of any ordinance regulating public solicitation.

Here is a copy of what a City Of River Oaks Solicitor's permit looks like:

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River Oaks Citizens and River Oaks Police, Working Together to Keep Our City Safe!

We are your Police Department!

When in doubt, call us out!

Christopher Spieldenner Deputy Chief of Police <u>cspieldenner@riveroakspd.com</u>