

How to Handle Solicitors

**NO
SOLICITING
LOITERING
TRESPASSING**

Have you experienced door-to-door sales people trying to market a product or service? Are you a bit wary of their offers? Beware of offers that sound too good to be true – they probably are just that!

Consider posting a sign indicating "No Soliciting" but in order for Police to enforce there must be a "No Trespassing" sign as well.

Before opening your door, always look through the peep hole or window to see who the visitor is. Make sure you acknowledge the person at the door, even if you are not planning on opening it. Ignoring the solicitor suggests that no one is home and you could potentially become a victim of a residential burglary. It is preferable to speak to strangers through your door. Teach your children what to do if they are alone and someone comes to the home or is looking in your windows. If you are outside and a solicitor approaches you and you do not feel comfortable, say "no thank you," walk back into your home; close and lock your door. If the solicitor does not get off your property when you ask them to, call the police for assistance.

Use good judgment: Never give any personal information to solicitors. During election years many solicitors will come to your home and ask who you are voting for. They should not request any personal information; if they do, ask them to leave and report the suspicious activity to the Police.

Do not give in to high pressure tactics. Never be afraid to say, "No!" If a salesperson tries to pressure you into buying their product, terminate your conversation with them. Contact the company directly if you are interested in the product or service. Avoid making an immediate purchase in order to receive a "free gift." If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, call the non-emergency number: **441-5610** immediately and report it. Next, contact your neighbors and inform them; if you have a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, contact your coordinator as well. If you would like to get a Neighborhood Watch Program started in your area, call the Crime Prevention Section: 664-6901.



**Norfolk Police Department
Crime Prevention Section
2500 N. Military Hwy
Norfolk, Virginia 23502
757-664-6901**

