

Palos Park Door-To-Door Solicitors and Peddlers- Frequently Asked Questions

The Village of Palos Park frequently receives questions regarding persons going door to door and soliciting. Please review the following Frequently Asked Questions regarding door to door solicitors:

Does the Village regulate “door-to-door” solicitors?

Yes, solicitors within the Village of Palos Park must apply for and be approved for a permit to solicit in the Village. Solicitors must also adhere to specific guidelines and rules regulating door-to-door solicitation.

Do solicitors need to identify themselves?

Yes, per Village Code, all solicitors should have a Village solicitor’s badge visible on their outer garment at all times when they are engaged in soliciting within the Village. If a solicitor does not display and cannot produce a solicitor’s badge or permit, they may not be licensed to solicit within the Village and may be reported to the Palos Park Police Department by calling 911.

Why can’t the Village ban “door-to-door” solicitors?

The First amendment and the U.S. Constitution protect the rights of door-to-door solicitors and preclude the ability of a community to ban door-to-door sales. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld free speech for commercial purposes and the Village’s ability to restrict commercial door-to-door solicitation is limited to local regulations restricting the time, place and manner of door-to-door solicitations. Homeowners and occupants, however, do have the ultimate right to determine whether solicitors shall or shall not be invited to their residences or property.

The person who came to my home was not selling anything. Does the Village regulate door-to-door advocacy?

The Village does not regulate or license door-to-door advocacy of a position or cause, with or without the distribution of pamphlets, handbills or literature, unless the person is otherwise peddling or soliciting for commercial sales or funds. Solicitors who are not engaged in peddling, commercial sales or fund soliciting are required to comply with the Village Code rules as detailed above and "No-Solicitor" signage, but are not required to pre-register or obtain a permit from the Village to engage in door-to-door advocacy or canvassing.

What can I do if I do not want solicitors to come to my home?

Prominently display a “*no soliciting*” notice on or near the main entrance by way of a sign measuring at least 3” x 4” in size. “*No soliciting*” notices should read in letters at least 3/8” in height:

“Only Solicitors or Peddlers Registered in Palos Park Invited”

or

“No Solicitors or Peddlers”

or

“Charitable Organization Solicitors Only”

Or

“Not For Profit Organization Solicitors Only”

Please Note: “NO SOLICITORS” stickers are now available to Palos Park residents.



What rules apply to “door-to-door” solicitors in the Village of Palos Park?

Per Village Code, solicitors:

- Must cease solicitation upon owner or occupant request;
- Must obey posted “*No Solicitor*” signs;
- Must display their permit/license conspicuously on their outer garment at all times while they are engaged in soliciting;



- May only ring bells, knock or engage with residents for solicitation between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday (at no time on Sundays or holidays)

The solicitor that came to my home was pushy or rude. Is there something the Village can do?

Beyond the restrictions listed above, the Village of Palos Park does not directly regulate demeanor or style of individual sales employees or solicitors. Remember however, that as a homeowner or occupant you may at any time ask a solicitor to leave your property and if they refuse, call 911 for assistance.

Every resident has the right to feel secure in their own home and should you ever feel threatened or unsafe based upon the behavior of a solicitor or peddler, please contact the Police immediately. Further, citizens who feel they have been the victim of unlawful solicitation or believe a solicitor is violating the law are urged to contact the Police immediately so that officers may locate the individuals involved and investigate.