

Be Aware of Increased Solicitation Activity During the Summer Months

- June 16, 2017

The Township Office has received several complaints of aggressive solicitors approaching them on their property so far this month. A door to door salesperson in Charlestown must apply for a permit at the Township Office. Keep in mind that a permit only means they registered with the Township; it doesn't imply that their products or services are good.

If they are offering home improvement/contractor services they must also be registered with the PA Office of the Attorney General.

Follow these tips if you receive a welcome (or unwelcome) solicitor on your property:

1. If the solicitor is unwanted, the best thing you can do is **tell them to leave** through the closed door.
2. If you do open the door, or they approach you when you're outside, ask to see their Township permit. If they don't produce one, **say no thank you and close the door** or, if you are outside, go inside and lock your door.
3. Do not let any solicitor into your home, and **keep doors locked** when you are home. Keep your cell phone with you when working or relaxing outdoors. Tell your children to never open the door to a stranger.
4. If they don't leave, call the State Police via 9-1-1 and tell them you have a trespasser.
5. If you are able to do it safely, record the license plate of the vehicle (s) that the solicitors are using.
6. People will sometimes use soliciting as a ruse to commit crimes. If you are outside speaking to them, be aware that there could be another person trying to enter your home while you are distracted. They may also say they are working next door and wanted to be sure they knew where the property line is.
7. If considering the service or product, ask the salesperson to return at a later time before buying. Take that time to **check out their company** online, with the Better Business Bureau or others.
8. **Do not pay with cash.** Pay by check to ensure payment can be stopped, or the transaction can be tracked later if needed. Don't pay in full, and get a receipt for the purchase.
9. Be wary of a person who uses high pressure sales tactics.
10. Just because they use the name of a recognized company doesn't mean they represent them.