

Crime Prevention

As we all gear up to enjoy this nice warm weekend, I want to send out our annual reminders about solicitors. As the weather gets nicer, more calls and emails to the Police are generated concerning aggressive or unlicensed solicitors.

Boise Police want to remind residents to be cautious of suspicious or aggressive door-to-door solicitors. In some cases, offenders pose as solicitors or delivery people, knocking on doors to determine if anyone is home. If no one answers, the criminal could then move to the back of the home (out of sight from the street), and locate an unlocked window or force their way in. If someone answers the door, they may pose as a legitimate company or act as if they have the wrong address.

City Licensing:

All Boise City door-to-door solicitors must be licensed by the City and display their official license when interacting with home owners. Boise City Solicitors Licenses have the individual's name, picture, and the Boise City logo.

Representatives from non-profit 501c(3) organizations (certain charities), local service groups such as Boy or Girl Scouts, and political groups are not required to have a city license. However, even if a solicitor claims to be a non-profit organization you should still ask for identification to confirm they are an actual representative, and if you feel threatened, call 911 immediately. Solicitors are allowed to engage in their licensed business only between 9:00 a.m. and one hour after sunset unless located in a commercially zoned area.

NOTE: A flyer taped to the door or slid under a doormat where no actual selling has occurred is considered advertising and not soliciting. However, if the person handing out the flyers engages in conversation trying to sell the product or service, it would then change their role into a solicitor and a license would be required.

Crime Prevention Tips:

- Do not allow or invite solicitors into your home.
- Be cautious about giving out any personal or financial information.
- Report aggressive or extremely suspicious solicitors to law enforcement immediately by calling Police Dispatch at 911. Provide a description of the solicitor and what direction they were headed.
- Alert other neighbors in the immediate area.
- Contact your Neighborhood Watch Chairman, Victoria Nelson, at 208- 891-9112 and report the interaction.

During the Daytime:

- Keep exterior doors and windows locked, including both back and side garage doors. Don't forget to secure your pet door!
- Turn off outside lights (not motion sensors).
- Make the home look occupied by picking up your newspaper and removing flyers from your front door; consider leaving a radio on while gone.
- Keep landscape trimmed to prevent hiding places.
- Don't leave spare house keys under a flower pot or doormat – give a spare to a trusted neighbor or friend.

Solicitors operate all year and reports regarding non-licensed solicitors are common. Education will help you, your family and your neighborhood stay safe from crime.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk, Boise Licensing at (208) 972-8150 or visit <https://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/Boise.ID> to review the Boise City Code on Solicitors.

Example Solicitor Badge:

CITY of BOISE

VENDOR LICENSE



Jane Doe

EXPIRATION DATE: 2/25/2022

LICENSE NUMBER: 066150L

SOLICITOR

