

## **WHO'S THAT AT THE DOOR?**

We recently had some people going door to door in our community. That brought up questions about what to do if that happens. We asked Neighborhood Watch leader Joe Petrycki for advice.

### **What to do if a "solicitor" comes to your door?**

This is covered in the Codified Ordinances of Mansfield (COM) in Chapter 737. If you would like to read in-depth on it do a Google search > City of Mansfield Ohio ordinances.

"Peddler or Solicitor or Canvasser" shall mean and include any person, either as principal or agent, volunteer, independent contractor or sub-contractor, who goes from place to place, selling or offering to sell, barter, or carry for sale or barter, or exposing therefore, upon any street, road, alley, doorway, sidewalk, vacant lot(s) or other tract of land, any goods, wares, merchandise, samples, food or drink for human consumption, services or other commodity, carried by hand, from portable stands, tables, containers, display stands or any other materials brought to the location, to the consuming public whether or not the material is actually delivered at the time of sale.

If you choose to engage with a solicitor, ask them for their identification as it should be prominently displayed on their person. Once you are satisfied they are who they say they are, you can decide to listen to their sales pitch or politely ask them to leave.

**Generally speaking, I suggest that you do not engage them by not answering the door, but I understand that is difficult to do when the door is open.**

Even though we have a "No Soliciting" sign posted, this is hard to enforce as our streets/sidewalks are public. There will be people/ organizations conducting knock and talks for various topics such as civic, patriotic, and political groups, recreational, fraternal, charitable, religious, or cultural organizations. Again, you can decide if you want to listen to them or politely decline and ask them to leave.

### **Summary:**

- 1. Do not answer the door unless you feel comfortable doing so.**
- 2. ALWAYS ask for identification regardless of who it is, solicitor, Columbia Gas, City of Mansfield employees, etc.**
- 3. Politely decline and ask them to leave your property if you do not want to speak with them.**
- 4. If they fail to leave, call 419-522-1234 to report Trespassing and give the dispatchers a description.**

