

UNDERSTANDING REGULATIONS FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATIONS



As a result of case law in both the state and federal courts, Stow City Council passed legislation years ago revising Stow regulations for door-to-door solicitations. To be in line with both state and federal law, the City must allow both commercial and non-commercial entities to perform door-to-door solicitations in our community. Citizens have the constitutional right to engage in door-to-door solicitations, both of a commercial and non-commercial nature, and the City cannot infringe upon this right.

The City of Stow realizes that unregulated door-to-door solicitations can seem to be an invasion of privacy for the homeowner. Thus, the City can and does regulate door-to-door solicitations with reasonable laws that fit within a constitutional analysis. Local regulations for commercial solicitors allow the City to maintain greater visibility on solicitors.

Stow regulations, as stated in legislation, require the following from door-to-door solicitors:

- Commercial solicitors must file application for and obtain a permit from the Mayor's office.
- All commercial solicitors may not commence solicitation without first receiving a permit.
- All commercial solicitors must carry this permit at all times while soliciting, and must produce the permit for inspection upon request by the resident. Solicitors must wear their permit on a lanyard (which is provided) around their neck where it is clearly visible for residents.
- Non-commercial solicitors need not apply for, carry or display a permit.

DAYS & HOURS OF SOLICITATION:

COMMERCIAL:

Mon.-Sat, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. ONLY.*

NON-COMMERCIAL:

9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. (or dusk, whichever occurs first)

**No commercial solicitation on a State or National holiday, or on Sundays.*

A **commercial solicitor** is defined as any person who calls on residences without an invitation for the purposes of seeking to obtain customers, orders, subscriptions or contributions, etc.

A **non-commercial solicitor** is defined as any person who calls on residences without an invitation for the purposes of:

- Seeking to obtain an indication of, or to influence the resident's beliefs with regard to religious, political or social matters,
- Seeking to obtain contributions or goods for the support or benefit of non-commercial entities,
- Taking a poll or census by an entity other than a governmental body, excluding commercial polls.

Residents who do not desire any door-to-door solicitations are encouraged to post a sign near the main entrance of their residence that says, "NO SOLICITORS INVITED". Solicitors are prohibited from soliciting at residences that bear the "NO SOLICITORS INVITED" sign. According to the City's legislation, the sign must be at least two inches by three inches in size and not more than one square foot in total area. Letters on the sign must be at least 1/3 inch in height.

Residents who do not desire door-to-door solicitations may also register their address on the City's "Do Not Solicit" list. This registry will be given to each registered door-to-door solicitor as a database of residences they SHOULD not call upon. To have a residence added to the City's "Do Not Solicit" list, residents should call the **City of Stow Mayor's Office at 330.689.2800**. Residents will need to provide their name and address, but only the address of the residence will appear on the registry list given to solicitors.

Anyone who violates the regulations set forth by the City of Stow for door-to-door solicitations shall be guilty of a third-degree misdemeanor and each subsequent offense will be deemed a first-degree misdemeanor.