Get a "Do Not Knock" Sticker for Your Door

Do They Properly Registered? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Know Your Rights!

Town of Oyster Bay

JOSEPH SALADINO

Town Supervisor

Town Clerk

James Altadonna Jr.

54 Audrey Avenue
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
Dear Resident,

The business of door-to-door peddling and soliciting has become “big business” all across Long Island, drawing new groups, organizations and companies from all over the country into our communities. As Oyster Bay Town Clerk, I oversee the licensing of door-to-door peddlers. While I do not want to inhibit anyone from making an honest living, I do want to protect our residents as much as possible. I believe if people are aware of the licensing procedure and follow certain guidelines, it will help them avoid the pitfalls of being taken in by a fast-talking peddler or solicitor.

The first thing you should do before conducting business with any door-to-door peddler or solicitor is check for a current Town-issued photo identification badge. If the peddler does not have one, do not conduct any business with him or her. Send the person away and call the police immediately with a description.

The photo I.D. issued by my office is a good form of protection because it is issued only after an in-depth background check of the individual has been made. Applicants must complete forms that ask the nature of the business, as well as answer questions pertaining to any criminal history. The applicant is fingerprinted and a formal search is conducted for his or her criminal history, if any. Applicants also have to obtain a Certificate of Authority from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to insure that they are going to pay their fair share of taxes.

While not-for-profit organizations are not required by law to have permits, they are requested to inform the Town Clerk’s Office about when and where their members are going to be soliciting. My office forwards a copy to the local police precinct along with a list of solicitors’ names. This provides residents with a way of checking any official status a solicitor may have.

If you do not want to be bothered by solicitors and peddlers, post a sign that reads “No Soliciting.” To obtain a FREE, WATERPROOF, VINYL “No Soliciting” sticker for your door or window, please contact my office at 624-6333 or e-mail me through the Town’s Web site, www.oysterbaytown.com.

The bottom line for dealing with anyone coming to the door to sell or solicit is better safe than sorry. And remember, if the deal sounds too good to be true, chances are it is.

If you have any questions about door-to-door peddlers or solicitors or to check to see if a peddler or solicitor is properly registered, contact my office by the above listed phone number or e-mail address.

Very truly yours,

JAMES ALTADONNA JR.
Town Clerk