

# The Ongoing Problem with Solicitors

They show up at your front door. **Some are criminals casing your home.** Others are local businesses who want you to set up appointments for an expert to meet with you at a later date. Etc., etc.; they are SOLICITORS!

- Recently, a Sheriff's Deputy stopped a solicitor after being called by our Neighborhood Watch team. The solicitor was **arrested** because he continued to give **false ID** information to the Deputy.
- A Deputy **arrested** another solicitor in Buckhorn who **refused to leave a homeowner's property.**
- Two other solicitors drove to our Buckhorn County Park and left their truck while they went door to door peddling their service of painting home street addresses on the street this past summer. They even engaged some homeowners to come back to their homes later to do various types of home maintenance. The Sheriff's Deputy discovered their parked vehicle at the park had a home-made license plate, and that these two solicitors had no valid driver's licenses. Moreover, they **both had a plethora of fraud, larceny and other similar misdemeanor crimes** in their files.



The Buckhorn HOA has discovered that **Florida State Law (updated in 2008) allows soliciting on private property.** The State of Florida law can be accessed at the below link, if you are interested in the legal statutes:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0500-0599/0501/0501PARTIContentsIndex.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0500-0599/0501/0501PARTIContentsIndex.html)

Since our community is not gated, and that the roads and sidewalks are owned by the county, **you cannot bar solicitors** from approaching your home **unless you post signage at your home stating something like 'No Trespass, No Soliciting'.**

Every solicitor, by law, must carry & present his **Permit & Certificate** to you when coming to your door. Here is the Florida State Statute: *"Every permit-holder shall carry the permit and certificate required by this section at all times while engaged in home solicitation sales and shall display the same to all prospective buyers before initiating the solicitation of a sale, lease, or rental."*

Hillsborough County does have an ordinance that only prohibits the posting of handbills on private property, if you have signage that says 'No Advertising'.

**If a solicitor does not show you their Permit & Certificate, or a solicitor appears to you to be questionable or shady, please call the Sheriff Department's Non-Emergency Phone Number at 813-247-8200. Immediately after you call this number, please E-mail the Buckhorn Homeowners Association at [BEHA@Buckhorn.us](mailto:BEHA@Buckhorn.us) (which is immediately received by a Buckhorn Volunteer).**

Tell the Sheriff's Department and the Buckhorn HOA the description of the solicitor(s), their direction they were traveling from your home, and any information about their vehicle. The Sheriff's Department will respond as they are available, and Buckhorn HOA Neighborhood Watch will call you or visit your home. The solicitor will then be checked-out for legitimacy.

**Let's keep Buckhorn a SAFE neighborhood. Be alert and report all issues.**