



Communications Department

Diane Arthur-Grialou
Public Information Officer
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374
Direct: 623-222-1422
diane.arthur@surpriseaz.gov

For Immediate Release

Council protects resident privacy through Solicitation Ordinance

Surprise, AZ (June 24, 2010) The Surprise City Council approved an ordinance Thursday night to regulate solicitation materials such as door hangers and fliers. The ordinance is meant to provide privacy and security to residents at their homes. According to the ordinance:

- Solicitors, peddlers, and canvassers shall not attempt contact at a residence displaying signs such as: “No Solicitations,” “Do Not Disturb” or “No Trespassing.”
- No person shall act as a peddler, solicitor or canvasser at any residence that is included in the “Do Not Solicit” list to be maintained by the City.

The Surprise Municipal Code currently requires solicitors to be licensed with the City and to possess an identification card.

Utility companies, debt collectors and government employees performing official duties are exempt from the ordinance. Materials containing editorial content, such as newspapers, are also exempt.

“This ordinance will make it a violation to place door hangers and fliers at homes where occupants post signs stating they do not want to receive them, or who are on the City’s “Do not Solicit” list,” says Economic and Community Development Director Jeff Mihelich. “If you want to receive such material or visits, you will still be able to.”

A “Do not Solicit” sign-up list will be posted on the City’s website, www.surpriseaz.gov.

City Council began discussing a solicitation code earlier this spring, instructing staff to engage stakeholders. Staff worked with the HOA Presidents Advisory Board, local businesses, the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce and Western Maricopa County Association of Realtors.