

Soliciting – How to Stop It

There is only one good way to stop soliciting.

Recently a homeowner in Woodlands wrote to WLCA complaining that a salesman had rung her doorbell despite the “Do Not Disturb” sign on her door. When she answered and pointed to the sign, the salesman said that his employer requires him to ring every doorbell. When she then told him that there is a sign stating no soliciting in this neighborhood, he replied that his company has a permit and that soliciting IS permitted despite the sign, with a permit.

The homeowner later asked whether WLCA gives permits to solicit in the neighborhood. The answer is: no. There is apparently some misunderstanding that the HOA provides “Permits” for solicitation, but the fact is that Orange County, not WLCA, supplies permits for solicitation.



The only way to stop soliciting is for the homeowner to install a sign on the homeowner’s property that reads “No Solicitation.” If the solicitor still solicits, the homeowner may contact the police and have the offender removed. In fact, if you are unsure of what is going on and someone is loitering in the vicinity, don’t hesitate to call the police. Neither the neighborhood HOA nor WLCA has jurisdiction over people walking through the neighborhood. The roads and sidewalks of the neighborhoods and Waterford Lakes are owned and maintained by Orange County, not the neighborhood HOA or the WLCA. Folks are free to park on the streets and conduct their business.

Safety is a legitimate reason to call the sheriff’s office, and OCSO will send someone out. By calling, you might stop a serious crime from happening.

*By Ken Zook and Dennis Horazak
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