# City of Beacon, New York

**Do Not Knock - Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Who is prohibited from coming to my door if I join the registry?**

A:  Commercial solicitors and peddlers are prohibited from coming to your door if you join the registry.  Commercial solicitors are people who go door-to-door selling products or services, such as a wireless vendor or vacuum salesperson.

**Q: Who is exempt from the Do Not Knock law?**

A: Charitable organizations and religious organizations, as well as individuals who wish to conduct polling or surveying, circulate petitions, engage in political or religious speech, or other similar conduct, are not subject to the Do Not Knock law.  However, residents still have the right to post "No Trespassing" signs or signs of similar import indicating that such solicitors are unwelcome as well.  If these persons refuse to leave your property, or if you feel at all threatened or doubt their authenticity, you should call the police department at 845-831-4111.

**Q: How do peddlers and solicitors know they are not welcome at my home?**

A: There are two ways in which peddlers and solicitors are provided notice.  Every registrant under our City Code will be issued a copy of the then-current "Do Not Knock" list simultaneously with the license issued by the City Clerk.  Individuals may also post a sign stating "No Solicitors" or containing a similar message forbidding the entry of any person onto the property. The presence of such a sign shall constitute sufficient notice to any registered canvasser or solicitor of the intent of the occupant of the residence to be free from such solicitation or canvassing.

**Q: How will the Do Not Knock law be enforced?**

A: Enforcement will be primarily through complaints or calls to the Police Department by residents who have been wrongly disturbed by peddlers or solicitors in violation of the local law. The police will respond accordingly to such calls or complaints.

**Q: What will happen to violators?**

A: Any person violating the terms of the Do Not Knock law may be charged under the local law. Violators will be subject to a fine not of note less than $50 and not more than $250 for each violation or to imprisonment not exceeding 15 days, or both.

In addition, licenses issued under the Do Not Knock law may be revoked or suspended at any time for cause by the Mayor or the Chief of Police if the peddler or solicitor is conducting any illegal activity from any location, or if the peddler or solicitor is convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, which in the judgment of the Mayor or Chief of Police renders the licensee unfit or undesirable to carry on the trade or occupation involved.

**Q: Are peddlers or solicitors required to register with the City of Beacon?**

A: Yes, both peddlers and solicitors are required to register with the City. Peddlers and solicitors must come in to the City Clerk to register and are subject to a background check.

**Q: Are there any restrictions against leaving flyers at the door?**

A: Persons leaving commercial flyers attempting to solicit paid customers should follow the restrictions of the No Knock law. Persons providing a flyer for an exempt organization are not prohibited from dropping such literature.

**Q: Why can't the City prohibit all solicitation after dark?**

A: Federal cases interpreting the First Amendment have found that local laws prohibiting solicitation after dark are unconstitutional.

**Q: Why should I display a sign after I've signed up?**

A: Although it is a violation of the local law to solicit or deliver handbills to any residence on the "Do Not Knock" registry, the signs displayed at residences help counter a solicitor's argument that he or she did not have prior notice that the resident did not want to receive information.

**Q: Are solicitors and peddlers required to carry his/her permit on them while soliciting / peddling?**

A: Yes, they must be licensed and are required to carry the license with them.

**Q: How long is a permit good for?**

A: The permit will indicate the date of expiration, which will not exceed one year from the date of issuance.