

Once again, the Sykesville Police Department has seen a dramatic increase in calls for service regarding solicitors, throughout Carroll County. These salespeople are typically trying to sell books, magazines and CD's. These high-pressure salespersons may or may not be legitimate. They will tell you names of people you know that they claim to have done business with.

It is against the law to solicit in the Town of Sykesville without a permit. Each time the solicitors are contacted, they claim no knowledge of the Town ordinance prohibiting it, and advise they will stop. We have no record of contacting the same solicitor twice.

In this modern age of shopping centers, ease of travel and the Internet, the idea of a need for door to door salesmen is ridiculous. They appear to be successful, however, primarily due to their high-pressure sales techniques.

If you are contacted by someone that you don't know trying to sell something, here are some tips:

- As soon as the pitch is started, give a firm, "Not interested" and shut the door. It's O.K. in this instance to be a little rude. This is your HOME.
- NEVER allow this person into your house. No matter what they say. They WANT to look around at your possessions.
- Do not divulge any personal information, including marital status, number of children, employment, income, or credit card information.
- If you feel you MUST conduct business with this person, do it through a chained door or a screen door. That transaction would be at your own peril.
- Pass this information on to any "latch-key" kids that are home alone.
- Lastly, report any such solicitors to the Sykesville Police at 410-795-0757. Try to give a description and a direction of travel. If neighbors look after each other, the quality of life in our town will naturally improve.

As always, some general crime prevention procedures are, keep your doors and windows locked, keep your garage door closed, keep your car doors locked, remove keys and valuables from cars, and report any suspicious behavior.

All the Best,
Cpl. Dave Lewis
Sykesville Police Department