

Chapter 711: Peddlers, Vendors, Canvassers and Charitable Solicitations

Do I Need a License/Permit?

The Riverside City Council recently passed Ordinance 13-0-510 which enacted a new Chapter 711; Peddlers, Vendors, Canvassers and Charitable Solicitations and repealed the existing Chapter 711. As a result, any individual who wishes to vend, solicit, peddle or request contributions must obtain a license from the City Manager. The Ordinance also creates a “Do Not Solicit List”; residents can call, email or stop by City Hall to add their address to the list. Residents are required to re-register their address on the list every five years. The list is available at City Hall or on the City’s website, www.riverside.oh.us.

All door-to-door contact is not alike so please read the following summary to determine your next steps.

Canvassers

Canvassing is defined as house-to-house distribution of ideas, pamphlets, literature, and the like, or the collection of signatures or support for any purpose or cause. Canvassers are able to request contributions if those requests are made in conjunction with the house-to-house distribution of ideas, pamphlets, literature or the collection of signatures or support for any purpose or cause.

Canvassers are further divided into two categories:

- **Contact Canvassers:** are those people that intend to make face-to-face contact with individual residents. Contact Canvassers are not required to obtain a license but **must** obtain and adhere to the current copy of the “Do Not Solicit List.” Contact Canvassing is allowed daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- **Non-Contact Canvassers:** are those people who will not attempt face-to-face contact to individual residents and will just leave pamphlets/flyers pertaining to ideas or causes (NOT advertisement for goods or services). Non-Contact Canvassers are not required to obtain a license or adhere to the “Do Not Solicit List.” Non-Contact Canvassing is allowed daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Vendors, Solicitors, or Peddlers

Any individual that intends to sell goods and services door-to-door is required to obtain a license from the City Manager. This license requires a background check and is good

for ten (10) days. License holders are required to carry photo identification, the license and a current “Do Not Solicit List” with them at all times when performing these licensed activities. Sale of goods and services is not permitted to residences on the “Do Not Solicit List.” License holders are allowed to operate daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Requesting Contributions (for charitable purposes or otherwise)

Any individual that intends to request contributions (not associated with canvassing) is required to obtain a license from the City Manager. This license requires a background check and is good for ten (10) days. License holders are required to carry photo identification, the license and a current “Do Not Solicit List” with them at all times when performing these licensed activities. Contribution requests are not permitted to residences on the “Do Not Solicit List.” License holders are allowed to operate daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Distribution of Advertisement on Private Property

Any organization or individual that wish to leave advertisements or sample merchandise on private property is required to obtain a permit from the City Manager. The permit application includes filing of an address and telephone number where the permit holder may be contacted by property owners and lessees. The organization is only required to obtain one permit for all employees. All items that are distributed must include the name address and telephone number of a responsible person to whom requests for discontinuance of distribution may be given. Employees of the organization must carry a copy of the permit, photo identification and a current “Do Not Solicit List” at all times when performing the permitted activities. Distribution of advertisement is not permitted to residences on the “Do Not Solicit List.”

Appeals

Any individual or organization that is denied a license or permit under this code will be provided a written notice of refusal. Applicant can appeal this decision to the City Council by filing written notice to the Clerk of Council.

Penalty

Those who violate any provisions of this chapter are guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree and shall be fined not more than \$250.00 (per day that violation activities continue) or imprisoned not more than thirty days.