



PRESS RELEASE

September 24, 2009

Contact: City Clerk Kelly Chelin
Desk: 425.921.5732

Solicitors and Peddlers Ordinance Change

Effective September 18, 2009

Since 1994, the City has regulated peddlers (persons who engage in door-to-door retail sales activities) and solicitors (persons who engage primarily in door-to-door religious, fraternal, political, and charitable activities) as well as the hours in which they may operate.

In the intervening 15 years, constitutional law has advanced substantially in this area, specifically by reducing the City's regulatory authorities over any activities of solicitors, and limiting the authority to require permits and licenses even for peddlers.

On September 8, 2009 the Mill Creek City Council unanimously voted to adopt new regulations to streamline the city's municipal code with constitutional law which is based on the policy that peddlers and solicitors should be treated like any other person doing business in the City every day.

Effective Friday September 18, 2009, all Peddlers and Solicitors are required to complete a *Peddler's Information Form (PIF)* prior to commencing their door-to-door activity and will not be issued an identification badge. Hours of door-to-door activity will be between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

Mill Creek Citizens are encouraged to call 911 if Peddlers or Solicitors fail to leave their property after being asked to do so or if they fail to honor posted signs indicating the door-to-door contact is not welcomed such as a no soliciting.

For more information regarding the changes in the Municipal Code please visit the FAQ's on the City's website at www.cityofmillcreek.com or search Municipal Code Chapter 5.08.

Peddler/Solicitor Frequently Asked Questions

"What is the definition of peddler and solicitor?"

"Peddler" means every person who shall sell, offer for sale or expose for sale, or who shall trade, deal or traffic in any personal property at retail in the city, including sales by sample or for future delivery, by going from house to house or from place to place, or by standing in a doorway, or in any unenclosed space or parcel of land, or in any other place not used by such person as a permanent place of business, or by approaching individuals.

"Solicitor" means every person who shall seek contributions, seek signatures on a petition or ballot proposition, seek to support or oppose candidates for public office, seek to disseminate information, or seek to expound beliefs; or who seeks new members or supporters on behalf of any political, religious, fraternal, charitable or similar organization(s); or who shall distribute written or printed materials by going from house to house, or from place to place, or by standing in a doorway, or on any unenclosed space or parcel of land, or in any other place not used by such person as a permanent place of business, or by approaching individuals. Without limiting the foregoing, "solicitor" shall include persons who solicit on behalf of organized soccer leagues and little leagues, youth or senior organizations, girl scouts or boy scouts, and similar organizations.

"What steps can I take to prevent peddlers and solicitors from coming to my door?"

Citizens can post "No Trespassing", "No Peddlers", or "No Soliciting" signs or the like, on their property.

Pursuant to MCMC 5.08.050, no solicitor or peddler shall trespass, nor shall they go upon or enter the property or premises of another where the owner or occupant has indicated his or her desire by displaying signs that state "No Trespassing", "No Peddlers", or "No Soliciting" or the like.

"What do I do if they do not leave my property?"

Mill Creek citizens are encouraged to call 911 if peddlers or solicitors fail to leave their property after being asked to do so or if they fail to honor posted signs indicating the door-to-door contact is not welcomed.

"Are peddlers and solicitors required to carry a City badge?"

As of September 18, 2009, all peddlers or solicitors are required to complete a Peddler's Information Form (PIF) prior to commencing their door-to-door activity and file such form at City Hall. Peddlers and solicitors will not be issued a City badge.

"What are the hours of allowed door-to-door activity?"

The hours of allowed door-to-door activity is 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Per MCMC 5.08.060, no person shall engage in the business or activity of door-to-door solicitation or peddling between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.



Peddler's Information Form (PIF)

Full Name: _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Work Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Business Represented: _____

Business Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Contact Person: _____

Driver's License Information (state and number): _____

Car License No.: _____

Car: (Year)_____ (Make)_____ (Model)_____ (Color)_____

Describe the Nature of the Activity or Business and Goods/Services Offered: _____

Anticipated Dates of Activity in Mill Creek: _____

I hereby certify that the statements furnished by me on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that the statements and information furnished are public records and are available for public inspection pursuant to State of Washington RCW 42.56. I understand that a new PIF shall be delivered to the City Clerk whenever there is a lapse of peddling activities for 15 days or longer. No PIF shall remain valid for longer than 90 days.

Signature of Applicant : _____ Date: _____

For Official Use Only

Date Received: _____ Received By: _____

Mill Creek Business License/Permit #: _____