



**St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
Special Services Department**

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Greg Champagne
Sheriff

News Release

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Sheriff Champagne warns residents of a hoax.

On November 9, 2009, an alleged 18 year-old male knocked on a Destrehan Man's door and identified himself as a Destrehan High School Baseball Player. The male stated that he was part of a club that was selling magazines to raise money for United States Troops. The male indicated that if the victim did not want to purchase magazines he could also make a donation to benefit the troops. The Destrehan Man then made a donation.

The victim, who later felt uneasy about the transaction, checked his receipt and realized that he was given a false address. The victim then called Destrehan High School and learned that this person was not a student at Destrehan nor were they having any fundraisers to benefit the troops.

"We all want to help when it comes to sponsoring athletic booster clubs, academic clubs, Veteran Organizations, and/or other Charitable Groups. However, it is important to understand that these can sometimes be fraudulent attempts to scam citizens", said Champagne.

These are a few tips to protect yourself from door-to-door sales scams:

- Use common sense: the offer may be a scam.
- If someone comes to your door, ask him or her to see their identification. You do not have to let them in, and they must leave if you ask them to.
- Do not agree to offers or deals right away: tell the person(s) that you want to get some independent advice before making a decision.
- Always get independent advice if the offer involves money, time, or some type of commitment on your part.
- Read the terms and conditions of any offer very carefully: claims of free or very cheap offers often have hidden costs.
- Make certain that the person(s) have proper "Form Letters" from the organization they represent: in some cases they will need a permit.
- Contact the Sheriff's Office should you feel uneasy about the person(s) involved.

St. Charles Parish Ordinance No. 05-5-3 prohibits door to door solicitations of any residence after the hours of 6:00 p.m. and before 10:00 a.m., prohibits the solicitation of any residence on Sunday, prohibits the solicitation of any residence having signage

clearly posted “No Solicitation”, and the solicitation of any residence without the solicitor being in possession of a valid solicitors permit is prohibited.

Solicitation permits, issued by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s, are designed to fully identify those solicitors operating in St. Charles Parish, however there are some instances whereby permits are not required or not applicable.