

# What You Need to Know About Door-to-Door Solicitation

In 1931 the Town of Green River passed Ordinance No. 175 prohibiting all forms of residential door-to-door solicitation, declaring it a nuisance. This ordinance became known as the “Green River Ordinance” and it was adopted by many other communities across the country. In light of challenges to the Green River Ordinance throughout the country, the City of Green River has amended the Green River Ordinance by adopting Ordinance No. 13-02. The new ordinance brings the city into compliance with the recent court rulings and balances the rights of citizens with the First Amendment rights of the residential solicitors. The following is a summary of important information regarding the new Green River Ordinance.

## What is door-to-door commercial solicitation?

Personal contact with any person at their residence, without prior invitation by, or appointment with, the resident, for the primary purpose of:

- Attempting to sell, for present or future delivery, any goods, wares or merchandise, newspaper or magazine subscriptions, or any services to be performed immediately or in the future, whether or not the person has, carries or exposes a sample of the goods;
- Seeking or attempting to obtain contributions (monetary or other value) for the benefit of any association, organization, corporation, or program, excluding those defined under door-to-door non-commercial solicitation;
- Personally delivering to the resident a handbill or flyer advertising a commercial event, activity, good or service that is offered to the resident for purchase at a location away from the residence or at a future time.

## What is door-to-door non-commercial solicitation?

Personal contact with any person at their residence, without prior invitation by, or appointment with, the resident, for the primary purpose of:

- Seeking or asking for a gift or donation, soliciting the sale of goods, wares, merchandise or service with the entire proceeds to be paid directly to or used exclusively for the benefit of a public entity or non-profit organization;
- Personally delivering to the resident a handbill or flyer advertising a future not-for-profit event, activity, good or service;
- Distribution of religious tracts on behalf of a religious organization;
- Political canvassing or pamphleteering on behalf of a candidate in a recognized election, or on behalf of an issue on an upcoming ballot.

## Are solicitors required to obtain a permit?

Door-to-Door Commercial Solicitors are required to obtain a Door-to-Door Solicitation Permit from the City of Green River. All solicitors authorized under the permit must at all times possess and display their Door-to-Door Solicitation Permit in a conspicuous place while soliciting, and shall produce the permit whenever requested to do so by a police officer or any other person. Door-to-Door Non-Commercial Solicitors are not required to obtain a Door-to-Door Solicitation permit; however, they are still required to follow the general solicitation rules. **Important: Always exercise caution when allowing anyone to enter your residence. The City of Green River does not perform criminal background checks with the issuance of the permit.**

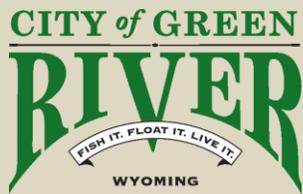
## How can I ban all commercial and non-commercial solicitors from coming to my residence?

Posting a “No Solicitation” sign in a prominent location prohibits all solicitations (Commercial and Non-Commercial).

## How do I ban only commercial solicitors from coming to my residence but still allow non-commercial solicitors?

Posting a “No Commercial Solicitation” sign in a prominent location prohibits only Commercial Solicitors from coming to your residence while still allowing Non-Commercial Solicitors such as non-profits (scouts), religious groups, school fundraisers, etc.





## PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR YOUR FREE "NO SOLICITATION" SIGN!

(See Below for Details)

### What if I choose not to have a "No Solicitation" or "No Commercial Solicitation" sign at my residence?

If you choose not to place a "No Solicitation" or "No Commercial Solicitation" sign at your residence, both Commercial and Non-Commercial Solicitors may come to your residence. The solicitors are still required to follow the general solicitation rules (see below).

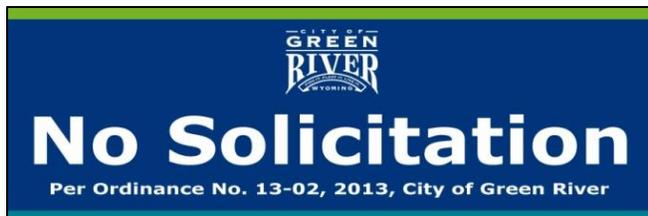


Figure 1:

Available City of Green River "No Solicitation" Sticker

### What are the sign requirements and where can I obtain one?

The sign is not required to be a certain size, but due to zoning requirements, residential signs cannot exceed one square foot in size. The sign must be prominently displayed on or near the main entrance to the premises or on or near the main door to any residence. There are no requirements for the appearance of the sign, provided that the sign clearly states "No Solicitation" or "No Commercial Solicitation". Therefore, you have several options for obtaining a sign. You can create your own or you may contact any sign vendor of your choosing. **Upon request, the City of Green River will provide at no cost a City of Green River "No Solicitation" (Figure 1) or "No Commercial Solicitation" (Figure 2) sticker. Please contact the Community Development Department at 872-6140 to place your order. Only one per residence, please.**

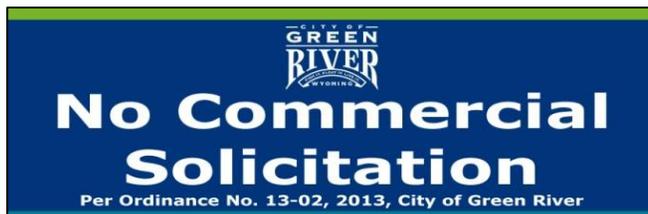


Figure 2:

Available City of Green River "No Commercial Solicitation" Sticker

### What are the general rules that all door-to-door solicitors have to follow?

All solicitors (Commercial and Non-Commercial) are required to abide by the following rules:

- There will be no solicitation upon any residential premises, other than upon prior invitation by the occupant, prior to 9:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m., of any day.
- No person will engage in solicitation upon any residential premises after having been asked by the owner or occupant thereof to leave such premises or residence.
- Not more than two individuals will engage in solicitation upon any residential premises at the same time for the same goods or merchandise, services, or for religious or charitable purposes.
- Every person engaged in solicitation shall, at the time of initial contact with a prospective customer or donor, immediately identify himself and truthfully state the purpose of the solicitation.

### What do I do if a door-to-door solicitor comes to my residence in violation of the ordinance (rules)?

If you have a concern, call Police Central Dispatch at 875-1400 and officers will be dispatched to your location. If possible, try to get a physical description of the subjects selling door to door, or a vehicle description. The Green River Police Department will investigate and determine if there is a violation.



### How can I get a copy of the Green River Ordinance?

This document is intended to be only a summary of the ordinance. The complete Green River Ordinance is available on the City's website ([www.cityofgreenriver.org](http://www.cityofgreenriver.org)) or you may contact the Green River Community Development Department at 307-872-6140.