



# One Chief's Perspective

Roseville Police Department  
5/8/2015

## Door- to-Door Sales in Roseville

Now that it's warmer outside expect additional door- to-door solicitors at your home. Door- to-door sales are an honest way to make a living and many reputable companies rely on the technique to increase their sales. But sometimes unscrupulous people use it as a ruse to steal your money or property.

Many years ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that cities could not totally ban door-to-door solicitors. Ordinances vary among suburbs, even in Ramsey County. Some cities grant licenses to those businesses that apply and pass a background check. Roseville does not grant licenses or perform background checks.

The City relies on the homeowner to decide if he or she wishes to entertain door-to-door solicitors and places general restrictions on the activity. As long as the solicitor knocks on your door between 7:00 a.m and 9:00 p.m. and is not overly aggressive they are within their rights to do so. Please take a look at the ordinance for additional information and remember to trust your instincts. You do not need to answer the door if you don't feel comfortable.

At my home in another city with a similar ordinance, I have a small sign on the door banning door-to-door solicitors. If they do ring the doorbell I generally smile through the adjacent window, point to the sign and waive them off. It's a Minnesota nice way of saying, "No Thanks."

<http://www.cityofroseville.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/581>

## Connecting with our Community-

On a recent Sunday Sergeant Matt Brake's crew took some time out of their day to arrange for a littler pickup event at an apartment complex in SE Roseville. This was the second litter pickup day in as many years for the crew and kids. Unfortunately, litter is just one of the livability disparities experienced by a group of Roseville residents living in an area plagued by poverty, crime, and other socio-economic issues, including English language barriers.

The cops and kids picked up litter strewn across the apartment complex that incorporates two city streets.



Afterward the crew passed out candy to the kids who participated.

*I remember candy worked as a great reward for work when I was a kid. It still does today.*

Service



Integrity



Respect



Innovation



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Notice the barren ground in front of their apartment building?



A quote from one of the officers, a father himself, "They are a very polite and respectful group of kids..."

## Update on Pawn America shooting case- The judicial system

The robbers involved in last summer's Pawn America shooting case are career criminals and were federally indicted under the *Hobbs Act*. The *Hobbs Act* is a federal law that prevents the interruption of commerce by robbery. Based upon the overwhelming evidence and a confession, one suspect accepted a plea agreement and will serve 22 - 25 years in federal prison. The shooter accepted responsibility and fully confessed to the crime. One would think the story ends there, but the twists and turns have just begun.

The shooter changed his mind, saying he was not involved and demanded a jury trial. This is a common tactic used by suspects when they realize the severity of the crime and the subsequent punishment for their actions. This is a serious charge and if he is found guilty the defendant is looking at life without parole. This is, of course, his constitutional right and the government has provided him with an attorney without cost.

Now, let us fast forward ten months and see where we are today. The shooter still claims his innocence and after a few motion hearings, fired his first attorney. He has introduced many fabrications as evidence and our detectives have spent countless hours disproving each one. During a meeting with his second attorney, he became so boisterous and aggressive the attorney refused to meet with him alone. During a recent hearing the judge actually said on record, he feared the defendant would hit his own attorney. An empty chair was strategically positioned between him and his attorney to help keep the peace. The suspect fired his second attorney as well.

While we all wait to see the fate of his third attorney, he now wears shackles in the courtroom and two US Marshals watch his every move. The trial has been reset for the third time and despite the many warnings from the judge, he now says he wants to represent himself. This is yet another questionable decision made by the defendant. But, as they say, a defendant who represents himself has a fool for a lawyer. *Still, this is the best legal system in the world.*

Take Care,

Rick Mathwig, Chief of Police

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