



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

DATE: June 4, 2012
SUBJECT: Door-to-door scam

Over the weekend we received a solicitation complaint from a South Hall citizen. The situation was similar to some that we've seen in the past for a company that sells floor cleaning products, but it was unusual in more than one aspect. Our concern is that it may have been a cover for criminal activity. Fortunately, the citizen was smart about the encounter and avoided becoming a victim. Here's a brief synopsis of the event:

At approximately 7:30 PM on Friday, our citizen answered the door to a young, somewhat provocatively dressed female who appeared to be under the influence of some substance. The female was offering **free** house cleaning services. Our resident declined, despite the solicitor's persistence. She had a flyer with her business information on it (South Carolina based), but refused to let the resident keep it. She eventually gave up and departed. Several problems come to mind here:

- 1) A legitimate business person isn't going to show up at your house while under the influence (unless they're a liquor salesman, perhaps).**
- 2) Nothing is free. They may tell you this up front to gain entry into your home and get their hooks into you, but trust us on this one. Why would someone drive from South Carolina to clean your home for free?**
- 3) The solicitor refused to leave her business information. A legitimate business person has nothing to hide and normally would like nothing more than to pass out as many flyers as possible.**

To be fair, these individuals may have been legitimately trying to solicit cleaning / cleaning products, albeit in an unusual manner. At the very least, they were illegally soliciting (see the county business license office [Solicitation Ordinances](#) for those specific requirements). Our main concern here is that these techniques are sometimes seen in connection with thefts. Here's how it works:

Attractive and/or friendly person makes initial contact with the resident at the door and gains entry. While they are chatting up the homeowner with the sales pitch, the remainder of the crew comes inside to perform a "service assessment" (or something along those lines) throughout the home. But what they are really doing is stealing jewelry, wallets, cash, prescription medications, etc. If the homeowner accepts any of the sales offers, that's just gravy for them.

This particular crew is described as two white females in their 20's and one black male, driving a white Ford full-sized van with South Carolina registration. The back of the van appeared to be loaded with miscellaneous boxes (see photo on page 2). If you observe these individuals soliciting in your neighborhood, please call dispatch at 770-536-8812 so a Deputy can investigate the matter and document their identities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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Vehicle involved in suspicious activity in South Hall area

If observed soliciting door-to-door, call Hall County Dispatch at 770-536-8812