



# FRAUDULENT SCAMS

There are a number of fraudulent scams we see time to time pouncing on our residents within the community. Here are a few options to consider about some of the most common scams out there.

We've all heard, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Fraudsters make their living by making sure the deals they campaign appear to be both good and true. These scammers try to operate through multiple medias whether it's over the phone, door-to-door solicitation, or perhaps by mail/email.

They're masters of persuasion and have their perfectly prepared pitches to gain some type of profit (usually some form of monetary value) at the expense of you or your loved one. They could be inquiring on several different topics to include your health, home, family, financial, political, governmental, hobbies, and/or prior and current employment.

## PHONE SCAMS

**-Don't answer calls you don't recognize.** Often times these criminals have savvy speeches with great sales and marketing tactics that can keep you stringing along. You must deny them the opportunity to do so. If the call is important enough they will leave a message. If they leave a message and are representing a corporation, agency, firm etc. follow up yourself on how to contact them directly outside of the number they left for you to call them back. If they are claiming to be here locally respond to their building or office to seek out further information and verify if they are truly trying to get in touch with you for whatever the reason may be.

**-End the conversation.** If you do happen to answer the call and don't have caller ID, practice saying "No." Simply tell the person, "I am sorry, I am not interested. Thank you." Or tell anyone who pressures you, "I never make these decisions without first consulting my \_\_\_\_\_. I will contact you if I am still interested." Fill in the blank with whomever you choose—your spouse, close friend, family member, investment professional, attorney, accountant, police, etc. Knowing your exit strategy in advance makes it easier to leave the conversation, even if the pressure starts rising.

## DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION

**-Don't answer the door.** Again, by not giving the solicitors the opportunity to give their prepared speech this could eliminate any further problems.

**-Signage.** Purchase and install a "No Solicitation" sign or sticker that's well marked near the front of your property. If you happen to open the door to greet them DO NOT allow them into your home. Point out your signage and tell them you are not interested in door-to-door solicitation. If they refuse to leave, secure your door and you can then notify law enforcement to respond. If they are soliciting sales specifically, they must have a city solicitors/peddlers license acquired from the city along with their ID on them and available to show at all times.

**\*\*\*Use these other helpful resources to report or obtain further information\*\*\***

**For complaints about fraud, scams, phishing, identity theft, unwanted telemarketing, credit or debt issues, or other unfair business practices**

- Visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://www.ftc.gov>
- Visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to make a report at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov> or call 1-877-FTC-HELP

**Additional information on scams and different types of reported scams out there:**

- Visit the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force at <https://www.stopfraud.gov>
- <https://www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds> Call 1-844-USA-GOV1 (1-844-872-4681)

**Tax Fraud:**

- Visit the Treasury Inspector General to report any IRS impersonation scams at <https://www.treasury.gov> or By Phone: Call toll free: 1-800-366-4484

**For investment assistance, verification, or advisement:**

- Visit the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) at <http://www.finra.org>
- Visit SaveAndInvest.org or call (888) 295-7422.
- FINRA Securities Helpline for Seniors™ at 844-57-HELPS (844-574-3577) or learn more at [www.finra.org/seniorhelpline](http://www.finra.org/seniorhelpline).

**Pueblo City sales tax solicitation/peddlers license verification:**

- Visit [www.Pueblo.us](http://www.Pueblo.us) then select the government tab at the top, then sales tax to see a list of current licensed businesses in town. Or call during normal business hours 719-553-2659

**Pueblo Police Department:**

- Main phone line during regular business hours: 719-553-2538
- Non-Emergency line: 719-553-2502
- Emergency: 911