

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****August 15, 2023**

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SUBJECT: REPORT ON DOOR-TO-DOOR VENDORS

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding Door-to-Door Vendors, including the registration process, enforcement procedure and an overview of similar regulations in other cities.

The Door-to-Door ordinance was adopted on September 17, 2002, and subsequently amended on March 3, 2015, requiring door-to-door vendors to register and prohibiting door-to-door solicitation and the placement of handbills on residential property before 9:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, and after 8:00 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time, unless specifically requested by the occupant. The ordinance's primary objective is to promote the general health, public safety and welfare, as well as the comfort, convenience and protection of the City and its residents by addressing when and under what circumstances solicitation may occur to limit the intrusion on the privacy and personal property rights of residents.

Door-to-door vendors are required to register with the City. The registration process is managed by the Development Services Department. Registration may be completed online, in person or via an email through the MyFW Customer Relationship Management System. Applicants are required to provide individual or company name, address, a government-issued identification, the name of the business or principle, a description of the nature and character of the goods, services or merchandise to be offered for sale or delivered, the make, model, year, VIN, and the plate number of the vehicle that will be used by the vendor, the vendor's sales tax identification number and the hours during which the vendor intends to operate. The registration is valid for six months.

Door-to-door vendors are prohibited from engaging in solicitation activities when the following circumstances are applicable:

- (a) At any residence or business that has a "No Soliciting" or "No Trespassing" sign posted on the property.
- (b) At any residence or business where the door-to-door vendor has been verbally informed that solicitation of food, goods, services or merchandise is not allowed.
- (c) At any residence before 9:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time and after 8:00 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time, unless specifically requested by the occupant.

Below is the permitting activity as recorded in the Accela permitting system and MyFW Customer Relationship Management System.


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| Development Services Door-To-Door Permit Applications and MyFW CRM | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 YTD | FY23 Projected |
| Accela Applications | 598 | 441 | 348 | 158 | 308 | 411 |
| MyFW CRM DSD | | 4 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 7 |

The table below provides information on the solicitation ordinances in different Texas cities including Fort Worth based on data collected from each city.

| Door-To-Door Regulations | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| City | Registration Required | Regulations* | Criminal Check | Fee** | Fines |
| Fort Worth | Yes | T/L/N | No | No | \$500 |
| Arlington | Yes | T/H/N | Yes | \$10A | \$500 |
| Austin | No | T | No | No | No |
| Burleson | Yes | H | Yes | No | No |
| Dallas | Yes | T/D/H/L/N | Yes | \$50A/\$10R | \$500 |
| El Paso | Yes | R | Yes | \$100A/\$40P/\$70V | \$200 |
| Grand Prairie | Yes | T/D/H | No | \$50A | No |
| Irving | Yes | T/D/H/N | No | \$50A/\$10P | No |
| Mesquite | Yes | T/D/H | Yes | \$25A | No |
| San Antonio | Yes | T | Yes | \$25B/\$60C/\$120F/\$180T | \$500 |

*D= Days of Operation, H=Holidays, L=Leave when asked, N= No Solicitation Sign, R=Report of Activity, T=Time of Operation

**A=Application, B=Background Check, C=Canvasser, F=Foot Peddler, P=Person, R=Replacement Card, T=Truck Peddler, V=Vehicle

In summary, all the Cities mentioned have implemented some regulations, with nine of the them including Fort Worth imposing restrictions on operating hours, holidays and requiring registration. Additionally, four cites have regulations requiring compliance with “no solicitation” or “no trespassing” signs, as well as solicitor to leave if asked. Six cities require a criminal history report or a background check and eight of the cities including Fort Worth have entrusted their police departments with the enforcement of their ordinance.

For questions regarding this information, please contact Janie Scarlett Morales, Development Services Assistant Director at janie.morales@fortworthtexas.gov or 817-392-7810.

David Cooke
City Manager