

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT "POLICE" TELEPHONE SOLICITATIONS

One issue that is often brought to the attention of the Winnetka Police Department is fundraising attempts through telephone solicitation of residents and businesses. Many of these fundraisers imply that the Winnetka Police Department in some way benefits from the donation. In fact, it does not. The Winnetka Police Department does not authorize, nor does it want, any organization to solicit on its behalf. The Department is funded through municipal taxes and fees that are authorized and budgeted by the Village of Winnetka Board of Trustees.

If a fundraiser states that he represents the Winnetka Police Department, they are being deceitful. You may notify the Winnetka Police Department so the incident can be documented. When reporting these solicitations, residents are asked to provide as much information as possible, including the name of the person calling, the name and address of the organization, and any telephone numbers provided. Illinois law requires paid fundraisers to identify themselves as such and to name the organization for which they are soliciting.

In some cases, organizations, such as the Fraternal Order of Police, the Metropolitan Alliance of Police, and other organizations may, in fact, have members that are also members of the Winnetka Police Department. However, no one at the Winnetka Police Department has enlisted telemarketers to solicit funds on behalf of the Department. The decision to solicit funds through this type of telemarketing is being made by persons outside of our community.

The Winnetka Police Department receives no direct benefit from these solicitations, nor would it accept any. Some telemarketers may not only imply that they are the Winnetka Police, but they may also suggest that donating will somehow improve the donor's service level. This could not be further from the truth. The Winnetka Police Department prides itself on the high level of service it provides to all of its customers.

Residents seeking to curb telephone solicitations may register their phone numbers on the National "Do Not Call Registry". Click here to be taken to that site: <https://www.donotcall.gov/>

To learn more about Illinois laws regarding charitable solicitations, you may also visit the Illinois Attorney General's Office website at: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.