



March 9, 2017

Re: No Soliciting Policy in River Wilderness

On Monday, February 27, a vendor who services several homes in River Wilderness visited our community and did door-to-door soliciting for at least a mile along Laurel Court and Little Country Road. As you know, River Wilderness has a "No Soliciting" policy, and there are signs posted at our gate stating the policy. Several of our residents reported this vendor's policy violation to the gate. Other residents actually purchased services and signed agreements with the vendor at their door. One resident called the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, and the responding officer informed the resident that the MCSO could not enforce a soliciting restriction in a private neighborhood.

This particular vendor had solicited in the community in the past. When the HOA contacted him at that time, he had committed to following our "No Soliciting" Policy. The HOA contacted the vendor following last week's incident, and the vendor has now expressed his intent to continue door-to-door soliciting. Our attorney advises us that a contractor/vendor cannot roam the community beyond the clients they are servicing. Such roaming is considered trespassing.

In an attempt to handle this situation, we are amending our gate procedures. We will continue to allow vendor "servicing vehicles" to enter the community based on your contractor list. We will not allow a vendor in a "regular vehicle" to enter unless you have authorized that vendor to enter as a one-time entry.

This procedure is not fool proof, and we need YOUR cooperation for real enforcement. We ask that you:

1. Please inform any solicitor that comes to your door that: "River Wilderness is a NO SOLICITING community. You need to leave our community immediately. Visiting any property other than the customer who allowed you into the community is considered trespassing. You are on my property. The streets and sidewalks are private HOA property." Then call the gate to report that vendor by name and vehicle description.
2. If the vendor leaves your house and appears to be going to your neighbor, please call the Sheriff and report the "trespassing".
3. Please do not reward a soliciting vendor, who does not respect our community, with your business. (This could also help you avoid any of the currently prevalent door-to-door sales scams).
4. Update your standard vendor list with the Islands Guard Gate to ensure that you are not allowing excess vendors into the community.

We are taking this action to protect the privacy and security of our community. We ask for your cooperation.

The HOA Board