

New rules on door-to-door salespeople

Written by

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The Minneapolis City Council unanimously approved new rules for door-to-door sales that will protect consumers and make it more difficult for out-of-state companies to exploit youth workers. A series of changes to City ordinance affect salespeople who travel from place to place, either selling merchandise door-to-door, taking orders for future delivery of merchandise, or setting up a temporary business at one location to sell merchandise. Under the new rules, door-to-door salespeople and transient merchants will be required to wear a City-issued photo identification card. To make things easier for schools and youth groups doing fundraising, the City will approve group identification cards at no cost.

“Travelling magazine sales is one of the top-five most dangerous jobs for youth,” said City Council Member Gary Schiff, who authored the ordinance changes. “If a youth comes to your door this summer, look for a photo ID. If you don't see one, don't buy a magazine. Instead, offer the 24 hour phone number for Parent Watch at 917-579-4641 so these youth can get a bus ticket home. And then call 911 so we can catch the companies that are exploiting youth.”

The photo identification rule does not apply to canvassers, including people who advocate for religious, social, or political causes.

The City has regulated traveling vendors since 1960 as a way to provide consumer protection. These ordinance revisions are intended to create reasonable rules that protect youth and consumers while supporting the rights to freedom of speech, religion, and interstate commerce.