

Police and Firefighter Solicitations

The BBB suggests you check out solicitations from police & firefighter groups just as you would any other solicitation.

1. Understand that you are not giving to the police or fire department, but to an association of employees or perhaps to an independent association. Also, the word "police" or "firefighter" in an organization's name does not always mean that people in your local police force or fire department are members.
2. Some police & firefighter groups are charities, and some are labor organizations, fraternal groups, or benevolent associations. The name doesn't always tell what type of group it is.
3. Ask for written materials showing what the purpose of the group is and what specific programs it operates to meet that purpose. Also ask how much of your donation will go to those programs and how much is spent for fund raising.
4. Ask about the tax deductibility of your donation. Not all donations to police & firefighter groups are deductible.
5. Don't give cash. Contribute by check made out to the organization. Be wary of pressure to decide immediately.
6. Also, do not believe any promise or inference that your donation will give you "special treatment" from your area's police or firefighters.