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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF PHONE SOLICITATIONS

WAKE FOREST, NC – November 19, 2008 – The [Wake Forest Police Department](#) and the [Wake Forest Fire Department](#) have recently fielded calls from area citizens who were contacted by police and fire charities soliciting donations over the phone. The telephone solicitors imply they are raising money for local police and fire programs.

Although a number of legitimate charities solicit phone donations, neither the Wake Forest Police Department nor the Wake Forest Fire Department solicit contributions by phone, mail, e-mail, or door-to-door.

The police department raises money for its annual Shop-with-a-Cop program by sponsoring several fundraisers each year, including a raffle sale at the annual Fourth of July celebration. The police department also accepts personal donations from area citizens but never solicits donations over the telephone. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Wake Forest Police Department's Shop-with-a-Cop Program should contact Detective [K.C. Warren](#) at (919) 554-6171.

The fire department also raises money through various fundraisers, including an annual Fish Fry each April.

The Wake Forest Police Department and the Wake Forest Fire Department urge residents and businesses to beware of unsubstantiated solicitation efforts and to take precautions to ensure your generous donation achieves the purpose you intended.

The following guidelines are provided to assist you in determining if the organization soliciting your support is legitimate:

- Request the full name of the organization/association;
- Ask questions about their purpose for fundraising and determine who specifically will benefit from your donation. The solicitor must also provide, if you request, the percentage of donation that goes to the charitable cause.

- Watch out for similar sounding names. Scam artists often try to take advantage of names that sound or look like those of respected, legitimate charities.
- Do not donate to telephone solicitors. Instead, choose a charity you support and donate directly to the charity. Many “charity” telephone solicitors keep as much as 85% of your donation as their fundraising fee. Some are simply fraudulent and not connected with a charity at all. They keep all of the money you give.
- If the telephone solicitor uses abusive or rude language or makes numerous telephone calls after being rejected, call the Wake Forest Police Department at (919) 554-6150 and file a police report;
- Use your best judgment. If you have doubts, donate to organizations that you know and trust.

For more information, contact the Wake Forest Police Department at (919) 554-6150.

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For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.