



# CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Mike Lewis, Chief of Police

December 31, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

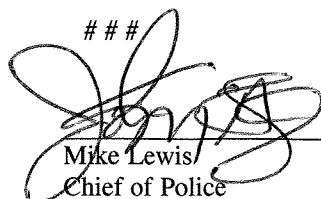
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## **“Knock-Knock Burglars and Aggressive Solicitors”**

The Simi Valley Police Department would like to make the citizens of Simi Valley aware of two types of recently reported residential crimes. The first involves residential burglars who often knock on a homeowner’s front door to determine if anyone is home. If no one answers the knock at the door, the burglars break into the residence through a door or window and burglarize the home. This type of crime has occurred over the last several months and the Department would like to remind citizens to be aware of suspicious behavior by individuals who do not appear to live in the neighborhood. Several recent arrests have been made in similar cases involving individuals who live outside of the City and County. By maintaining neighborhood awareness, these crimes can be prevented and suspicious activity quickly reported to the police.

The second involves extremely aggressive solicitors who use physical intimidation and high-pressure tactics when attempting to sell products or services through door-to-door sales. It has been reported by several homeowners that the salespersons will place their foot in the open doorway and attempt to prevent the homeowner from closing the door to end the sales pitch. Homeowners should know this tactic is illegal and the behavior should not be tolerated. The Police Department is encouraging anyone who has been the victim of these crimes to call and report them immediately.

All solicitors in the City of Simi Valley are required to have a city issued solicitor’s permit. Always ask to see a permit. If a solicitor does not possess this permit, they are not licensed to conduct business in Simi Valley and should be reported to the police. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity in their neighborhood to the Simi Valley Police Department at (805) 527-2911.

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Mike Lewis  
Chief of Police

For MTL