

Solicitation of Funds

211.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that fundraising activities associated with the District are consistent with its mission, values and legal status. This policy applies to all fundraising activities involving the District or the use of the District name, insignias, equipment or facilities.

211.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Fundraising - The collection of money through donations, sales or event programming for the purpose of charitable donation or organizational budget enhancement.

211.2 POLICY

It shall be the policy of this District that all fundraising activities involving on-duty members or use of District equipment, and that provide financial benefit to the District, must be authorized by the Fire Chief or the authorized designee prior to initiating solicitations.

Authorized fundraising activities should not indicate or imply that a donation will influence services provided by the District. Members engaged in fundraising activities are expected to act ethically regarding the solicitation of funds, the interaction with donors or potential donors and the maintenance of fundraising records.

Members are prohibited from soliciting any goods or services from local businesses, groups or individuals for the purpose of providing incentives, prizes or give-aways to attendees of District-sponsored or hosted events, or to events when members attend as representatives of the District.

211.3 PROCEDURES

Fundraising activities or events involving the District should incorporate the following elements:

- (a) Compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations
- (b) Compliance with District and governing-body policies
- (c) A benefit to the District that is consistent with the District mission
- (d) An accurate description of the purpose for which funds are requested.
- (e) A limitation on the frequency of solicitations to avoid placing undue pressure on donors
- (f) Identification of the individual soliciting funds as a volunteer, a member of this District or a hired solicitor
- (g) An admonishment that encourages donors to seek independent advice if there is reason to believe that a proposed gift might significantly affect the donor's financial position, taxable income or relationship with other family members.
- (h) The assurance that donor requests to limit the frequency of contacts, to prohibit solicitation by telephone or other technology and to reduce or cease sending printed or electronically transmitted material concerning the District will be honored

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- (i) Respect of the donors' privacy and a commitment that the District will not sell or otherwise make available donors' names and contact information

Commercial or corporate sponsorship of fundraising activities or events may be allowed provided that it has been preapproved by the Fire Chief or the authorized designee.

211.4 DISTRICT-SPONSORED EVENTS

The following also apply to District-sponsored fundraising events:

- (a) Fundraising events should be clearly identified by a sign indicating the name, product, service, price and purpose of the event.
- (b) At least one member should be present during the entire event.
- (c) Individuals participating in the event should be briefed and supervised to ensure their activities are consistent with this policy.
- (d) Individuals participating in the event should not be compensated by a commission or a percentage of the amount collected.
- (e) Funds raised should be deposited no later than the next business day.
- (f) All donors should receive a receipt for the amount of their donation.
- (g) Fundraising activities should not delay emergency response or otherwise compromise the mission of the organization.
- (h) Fundraising that takes place on public-owned or private property will be done with the knowledge and approval of the property custodian or owner.
- (i) Fundraising that occurs on public ways or near roadways will be coordinated with the responsible law enforcement agency for the protection of pedestrians, motorists and event participants.

211.5 FUNDRAISING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

Fundraising for the benefit of a non-profit charitable third party (e.g., blood drive, burn victims, surviving families) having no direct affiliation with the District is permissible provided that the fundraising standards and event prerequisites listed above are followed.

Any materials associated with a third-party fundraising activity shall be approved by the Fire Chief or the authorized designee prior to the activity. In addition, there should be a written agreement between the District and the organizers of the activity that includes:

- (a) Written proof that the event is for a charitable purpose.
- (b) Assignment of responsibility to the organizers for all direct costs incurred for the event.
- (c) Assignment of responsibility to the organizers for the collection and reporting of any applicable taxes.

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- (d) Written instructions regarding the maintenance of funds raised on behalf of others. The funds shall be maintained in a separate fund and not commingled with other District funds.

The District reserves the right to require additional conditions including, but not limited to, evidence of insurance coverage or appropriate indemnification.