



BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

704 Mayflower Street • Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Jeff LeDuff – Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE

January 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BE WARY OF TELEPHONE SOLICITATIONS

The Baton Rouge Police Department has received reports of an organization called “Puppy Patrol” conducting telephone solicitations in the area and possibly claiming to be affiliated in some way with our department’s K-9 division. The Baton Rouge Police Department is not affiliated in any way with this organization, nor do we endorse them, nor do we receive funds or assistance from them.

There are many organizations that may claim some sort of police affiliation in soliciting citizens for contributions. Many are legitimate and may do good work. But they are all private organizations or associations. Under no circumstances will the Baton Rouge Police Department ever solicit money from citizens.

Citizens should also be aware that most telephone solicitations are not made by the actual organization itself but are contracted out to a telemarketing company. As their compensation, most of these companies keep over 50% of every dollar you donate, and many keep 75% or more.

If you are solicited for donations, don’t hesitate to ask questions. What organization exactly is the caller claiming to represent? How can you get in touch with an officer of that organization? What is their phone number and mailing address? What is their web site address? What specifically is the money going to be used for? What percentage of the money collected will be kept by the solicitor? You have a right to know this information before you decide to donate.

Most importantly, never allow a solicitor to falsely convince you to donate to any cause by implying or stating that your contribution will somehow benefit the Baton Rouge Police Department, or that if you choose not to donate that the Baton Rouge Police Department will somehow know about it.

If you do decide to donate money to any organization, always do so by mail and with a check. Never give cash and never allow a caller to come to your home to collect the donation. If you believe you are dealing with a con artist or a solicitor who is misrepresenting himself, contact your local law enforcement agency.

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Contact: Sgt. Don Kelly
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