



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ALERT FOR STORM CHASERS - SOLICITATION PERMIT REQUIRED

ROCKFORD – April 22, 2014- The City of Rockford Construction and Development Services Division is alerting property owners to be aware of solicitation of unscrupulous roofing contractors and not to be pressured to accept work from unlicensed roofing contractors. The City of Rockford requires all roofing repairs and replacement projects to first obtain a roofing permit from the City.

It is unlawful for a person to engage in commercial home merchandising (door to door) activities in the City of Rockford without having first obtained a Solicitation Permit from the City. The solicitation permit is required to be easily readable on the individual and includes the City of Rockford logo and name, the solicitation company, organization or association, the name of the solicitor, and the effective dates of the permit. The permissible hours of solicitation are between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Prior to the City issuing a solicitation permit individuals are required to pass a background check.

The State of Illinois Department of Professional Regulation licenses roofing contractors and in an effort to protect current and future property owners from the damage that could come from an improperly repaired or an unfinished roofing job, the City verifies contractors are in compliance with State roofing license regulations.

Not only does this help ensure that roofing work will meet minimum standards but it is also important because licensed roofing contractors are required to be insured in order to do business in Illinois. Licensed roofers are also required to have their license number and business name properly identified on their trucks and must use their license number on any bids, advertising or marketing materials. General contractors are not permitted to provide roofing services unless they also have an active roofing contractor license. If a contractor does sub-contract out a roofing job, this should be stated on the contract and include the subcontractor's business name and license number as the subcontractor is required to be licensed with Illinois. The consumer has a right to know who is actually performing the work and, it is the law.

Unlicensed roofing is a criminal offense and first offenders can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor and be sentenced to up to 364 days in prison. Subsequent violations are Class 4 felonies that could result in 1-3 years incarceration. More information on the State license requirements or to verify if a roofing contractor is licensed, you may go to www.idfpr.com Once there, clicking on DPR License look up would allow you to confirm whether the contractor is active and in good standing.

Construction & Development Services Manager, Seth Sommer stated, "The City has put these regulations in place to protect the residents of our community".

Permits are required to be posted on the job site and should be visible from the street, if you would like to report roofing that is taking place without a permit, if you have any roofing questions, or if you see something suspicious as it relates to roofing activity, please call Construction & Development Services at 815-987-5550.