

City of Cambridge Police Department

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CPD & Consumers' Council Warn Residents about Door-to-Door Solicitations Regarding **Possible Energy Savings**

June 24, 2011 – The Cambridge Police Department, in collaboration with the City of Cambridge Consumers' Council, would like to warn citizens about predatory businesses using door-to-door solicitation in Cambridge to promote energy savings via the delivery of energy to residents' homes. This activity typically increases during the summer months, and tends to target the elderly or other vulnerable populations.

Several communities in Massachusetts have experienced the same type of activity, with salespeople going door-to-door to promote energy savings via their company. These encounters result in the resident, usually an elderly and/or environmentally conscious person, signing up for a service that promises energy savings by changing the way energy will be delivered to the home.

There is concern about the sales tactics being employed by some companies and whether they mislead potential customers, specifically relating to claims about the Cape Wind Project. Upon signing up, most discover that they experience no savings in their energy costs, and that they may actually increase.

Cambridge Police and the City of Cambridge Consumers' Council would like to emphasize the risks involved with long term contracts resulting from door-to-door solicitations, and remind residents to always read the fine print and research the company before signing any contracts or service agreements.

Residents with questions or concerns are asked to call the City of Cambridge Consumers' Council at 617-349-6150. For more information, visit the Consumers' Council website at http://www.cambridgema.gov/consumercouncil.aspx.

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