

**Office Fire Chief Bob  
McDermott**

The Forest Park Fire Department wants to alert residents and business owners to bogus fundraising solicitation calls. We have received numerous inquiries recently from residents after they received fundraising calls claiming the funds were for the Forest Fire Department. The Forest Park Fire Department nor the Forest Park Fire Fighters Union are not conducting any fundraisers. Before you write the check, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) urges you to consider these facts:

- Simply having the words “police” or “firefighter” in an organization’s name doesn’t mean police or firefighters are members of the group.
- Just because an organization claims it has local ties or works with local police or firefighters doesn’t mean contributions will be used locally or for public safety. The organization should be able to provide you with written information describing the programs your donation will support, and their fund-raising costs before you donate.
- Most solicitations for police and fire service organizations are made by paid professional fund-raisers.
- Donations to some police or firefighter groups may not be tax deductible. Many kinds of organizations are tax exempt, including fraternal organizations, labor unions, and trade associations, but donations to them may not be tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please call the Fire Department at 708-366-1234.