



NEWS RELEASE

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NASS President Pedro A. Cortés and South Carolina Secretary Mark Hammond Join FTC and State Officials to Announce “Operation False Charity” Law Enforcement Sweep

Nine Secretary of State Offices Joining FTC, State Attorneys General in Bringing Actions Against Fraudulent Solicitors

(Washington, DC) – As part of a nationwide crackdown on telemarketers who falsely claim to be soliciting donations on behalf of police, firefighters and veterans, National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) President Pedro A. Cortés of Pennsylvania and South Carolina Secretary of State Mark Hammond joined members of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the National Association of Attorneys General and local law enforcement in the District of Columbia today to announce Operation False Charity.

The federal and state partners are carrying out law enforcement actions against fundraising companies, nonprofits and individuals in more than 40 states and the District of Columbia. Secretary of state offices participating in the nationwide sweep include: Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia and Washington.

The FTC and state agencies charged with overseeing the regulation of charities also released new public education materials to help consumers recognize and avoid charity scams carried out under the guise of helping military veterans, police officers and firefighters.

“By promoting common-sense tips and other resources, such as questions to ask before giving and how consumers can obtain annual reports from registered charities, secretaries of state are working to stop fraud before it happens,” said Cortés. “We are urging the public to ask questions and to report any irregularities in charitable giving solicitations.”

“As a society, we want to support worthy causes that benefit our communities,” added Hammond. “Unfortunately, not all charities operate with the best of intentions. We must guard against those organizations that want to take advantage of our generosity.”

The secretaries of state were joined at today’s news conference by FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster and Sheriff Jerry Gaines of Warren County, Kentucky.

Consumers are urged to look up and contact their state charities regulator for more information: [.nasconet.net](http://nasconet.net).

For more information on the Federal Trade Commission and Operation False Charity, including consumer education materials in English and Spanish: [.ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov).

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