

# HOUSING PIRATE WARNING

## ARRRGH ... IS THE RATE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

*Be safe, protect yourself and avoid Housing Pirates! Reserve rooms with the official Housing Service only!*

Some companies have been known to solicit meeting attendees and exhibitors with offers of lower rates or nonexistent inventory of hotel rooms. Often referred to as “housing pirates” or “housing bandits”, they will phone or email attendees and exhibitors of city-wide events. These companies, based in various US or international locations, often go by names such as *Exposition Housing, Expo Housing Group, Convention Housing, Tradeshow Housing, etc.* and are a SCAM!

It is important to remember these companies are *falsely* claiming to be affiliated with your event. If you provide your personal information to one of them, you may find your credit card is charged but a reservation does not exist upon arrival or worse, you could become a victim of credit card fraud or identity theft. If in doubt, please contact meeting management before acting.



### Exhibitors and Attendees

- Only book with the official Housing Service (as identified by the meeting management or event website)
- Report solicitations to meeting management including phone number, email address or web link
- GFL Housing Services will *never* contact you unless following-up on a reservation request you submitted

### Meeting Management

- Post warnings on event websites to educate attendees and exhibitors of the risk
- Immediately send cease and desist letters to companies found to be soliciting exhibitors or attendees
- Report housing pirate companies to the applicable Better Business Bureau(s)

Your trusted Housing Service,

**Loren Forcier**  
Housing Services Manager

**Jami Engebretson**  
Housing Services Representative

**GREATER**