



PANHANDLING

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Definition of Panhandling according to Greensboro City Code: asking or soliciting, for personal gain, for money or objects of value, with the intention that the money or objects be transferred at that time and at that place. Asking or soliciting shall include using the spoken, written, or printed work, bodily gestures, signs or other means with the purpose of obtaining an immediate donation of money or other thing of value.

If you are asked for money here's what you should know:

- ◆ Unless the person soliciting funds has a privilege license issued by the City of Greensboro it is unlawful for them to solicit funding
- ◆ Prohibited conduct while begging: it is unlawful to ask, beg or solicit alms, contribution of money, food or clothes, or exhibit oneself for the purpose of begging or soliciting alms or such contributions by: accosting another or forcing one-self upon the company of another
- ◆ NO ONE can solicit for his or her own personal gain after sunset or before sunrise—they are guilty of a misdemeanor if they do so
- ◆ **NO ONE can solicit at the following locations:**
 - Bus stops
 - Train Stations
 - In any public transportation vehicle or facility
 - On any sidewalk adjacent to an outdoor restaurant, motion picture theatre, outdoor theatre or palladium or;
 - In any vehicle on the street or:
 - Private property, unless the person has written permission from the owner of the property to beg
 - On any school property during the student arrival or departure times
 - Near any valid licensed vendor location or;
 - Where a line of patrons has formed

Any person who begs or solicits for his or her own personal gain in any of the following manners is guilty of a misdemeanor:

- ◆ By coming within three (3) feet of the person being solicited, until that person has clearly indicated that he or she wants to make a donation;
- ◆ By blocking the path of the person being solicited along a sidewalk or street;
- ◆ By following the person being solicited after they have walked away;
- ◆ By using profane or abusive language, either during the solicitation, or following a refusal
- ◆ By soliciting in a group of two (2) or more people; or
- ◆ By any statement, gesture, or other form of communication by which a reasonable person in the situation of the person solicited would perceive to be a threat

For more information go to www.municode.com (Chapter 20)



Additional Information:

- ◆ If the person begging/panhandling makes a false or misleading statement/representation in the course of soliciting or begging is guilty of a misdemeanor;
- ◆ They cannot use the funds except for their stated purpose or it's a misdemeanor;
- ◆ Stating they are homeless when they are not is a misdemeanor;
- ◆ **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE MONEY TO ANYONE SOLICITING**—there are agencies within the city that can assist those in need. If they ask for food, refer them to Greensboro Urban Ministry located at 305 E. Lee Street
- ◆ Greensboro Urban Ministry also sells \$1.00 tickets that can be given to those soliciting—those tickets are good for a meal at Potter's Kitchen and on the back of the ticket gives information about Greensboro Urban Ministry—the \$1.00 you spend for tickets helps them continue their mission of feeding and ministering those who are in need
- ◆ **For more information about Greensboro Urban Ministry, call—336—271-5959 for emergency needs—336-271-5952; Potter's Kitchen—336-271-5993**

This information is provided by Downtown Greensboro Inc. for more information about soliciting/panhandling please refer to www.municode.com (Chapter 20) -