
MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2, 2010
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Russell Weeks
RE: Proposed Ordinance: Commercial Solicitation (Panhandling Limits)
CC: Cindy Gust-Jenson, David Everitt, Ed Rutan, Chris Burbank, Frank Gray, DJ Baxter, Jennifer Bruno, Mary De La Mare-Schaefer, Bianca Shreeve, Boyd Ferguson, Bob Farrington, Gordon Hoskins, Gina Chamness, Skye Garcia, Jason Mathis, Carla Wiese

This memorandum pertains to enacting a proposed ordinance (Salt Lake City Code Section 11.70) that would limit commercial solicitation (panhandling) in Salt Lake City. In particular, the proposed ordinance is intended to “impose specific time, place and manner restrictions on solicitation and associated conduct in certain limited circumstances,” including aggressive panhandling, panhandling “at locations or times deemed particularly threatening and dangerous, or ... in places where people are a ‘captive audience,’ and there is a wish to avoid or reduce a threat of inescapable confrontation.”¹ The penalty for conviction of violating the proposed ordinance would be a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a six-month term in jail, a \$1,000 fine or both.

The City Council first heard a briefing on the proposed ordinance at a work session on August 10. The Council then held a public hearing on the proposed ordinance on November 16. The City Council has scheduled a second briefing for its December 7 work session. Although the bulk of this memorandum is from a City Council staff memorandum originally dated July 30, the information remains pertinent to City Council consideration and debate. Council staff has attached a number of items either referenced previously or for this memorandum. Attachments include material prepared for The Downtown Alliance’s current program to inform the public about panhandling versus homelessness; a study and survey prepared for The Downtown Alliance about how best to inform the public about panhandling, and material about how Baltimore, Maryland, addresses issues such as poverty and homelessness.

OPTIONS

- Adopt the proposed ordinance.
- Do not adopt the proposed ordinance.
- Amend the proposed ordinance.
- Either adopt the proposed ordinance or defer action on it and schedule a night to hear from social service providers for Salt Lake County and the State of Utah about what is being done in Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County to address issues that may be directly or indirectly related to panhandling, including housing, nutrition, health care, and employment opportunities.

POTENTIAL MOTIONS

- I move that the City Council adopt the ordinance enacting Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to commercial solicitation.
- I move that the City Council consider the next item on the agenda.
- I move that the City Council adopt the ordinance enacting Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code with the following amendments: That the words “commercial” and “solicitation” in the title and body of the ordinance be replaced by the words “aggressive,” and “panhandling” or “begging” where appropriate to be clear that the ordinance addresses enacting time, place and manner restrictions on conduct involving panhandling or begging and nothing else. (It should be noted that Council staff prepared this motion based on a suggestion in a November 8 letter to the City Council from Gina Cornia, Executive Director of Utahans Against Hunger; Bill Tibbitts, Anti-Hunger Project Director for Crossroads Urban Center; and Professor Linda F. Smith of the S.J. Quinney College of Law.)

KEY POINTS

- The proposed ordinance would enact time, place, and manner restrictions on the practice of panhandling citywide.
- Nationally, restrictions on panhandling, particularly “aggressive panhandling,” appear to be fairly common.
- Studies read by City Council staff indicate that laws restricting the practice of panhandling are most effective as part of a broader response to economic dislocation.
- The proposed ordinance is largely the result of two things: an effort by The Downtown Alliance to address the practice of panhandling downtown and the release of a draft ordinance by Mayor Ralph Becker’s Administration to obtain public comment on the content of the draft ordinance.

ISSUES/QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- The proposed ordinance is supported by the Salt Lake Chamber, and, according to the Administration transmittal letter, the City’s Human Rights Commission.²
- The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah remains concerned about some aspects of the proposed ordinance, particularly the emphasis of commercial solicitation over charitable solicitation.³ The City Council may wish to hear a from the City Attorney’s Office about the distinction. Staff has outlined the Attorney’s Office’s response to some of the ACLU’s concerns further in this memorandum.
- Some who responded to the Administration’s request for public comment raised concerns about prohibited asking for money near “the entrance to a place of religious assembly.” Council Members may wish to ask about the reasons for the prohibition and whether entrance means a door, a gate, or a property line.
- Does the Police Department view the proposed ordinance as a usable tool to address public peace issues that are included in *City Code* Chapter 11?
- The U.S. Department of Justice study guide, *Panhandling*, notes that some cities have prohibited panhandling on private property – if the property owners post the property.⁴ Would Council Members wish to consider including the prohibition in the proposed ordinances to address complaints about being approached by panhandlers in private parking lots.

- Is there a potential that the proposed ordinance would, as an unintended consequence, create a zone or zones where panhandlers congregate because the proposed ordinance, if adopted, would reduce the number of places available to panhandle?

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

The proposed ordinance stems in part from a request by The Downtown Alliance to address complaints about aggressive panhandling in the City's Central Business District. It may be considered a companion piece to the Downtown Alliance-led public campaign to redirect donations from panhandlers to social service agencies or charities.⁵ The campaign began in October 2009 and was the result of about two years of study by an Alliance committee.⁶ The ordinance plus the Alliance program plus the City's involvement in various aspects of addressing poverty might be viewed as a three-tiered approach to dealing with facets of economic dislocation.

The approach appears similar to a pattern outlined in *Panhandling*, a study guide published in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Policing Services. According to the study guide, "Most researchers and practitioners seem to agree that the enforcement of laws prohibiting panhandling plays only a part in controlling the problem. Public education to discourage people from giving money to panhandlers, informal social control, and adequate social services (especially alcohol and drug treatment) for panhandlers are the other essential components of an effective and comprehensive response."⁷

PANHANDLER PROFILE

Panhandling includes the following profile of people who panhandle:

Typically, relatively few panhandlers account for most complaints to police about panhandling. The typical profile of a panhandler that emerges from a number of studies is that of an unemployed, unmarried male in his 30s or 40s, with substance abuse problems, few family ties, a high school education, and laborer's skills. Some observers have noted that younger people – many of whom are runaways or otherwise transient – are turning to panhandling. ... Some panhandlers suffer from mental illness, but most do not. Many panhandlers have criminal records, but panhandlers are nearly as likely to have been crime victims as offenders. Some are transient, but most have been in their community for a long time.

Contrary to common belief, panhandlers and homeless people are not necessarily one and the same. Many studies have found that only a small percentage of homeless people panhandle, and only a small percentage of panhandlers are homeless.

Most studies conclude that panhandlers make rational economic choices – that is, they look to make money in the most efficient way possible. ... Many panhandlers make it a habit to always be polite and appreciative, even when they are refused. Given the frequent hostility they experience, maintaining their composure can be a remarkable psychological feat. Panhandlers usually give some consideration to their physical appearance: they must balance looking needy against looking too offensive or threatening.

Most panhandlers are not interested in regular employment, particularly not minimum-wage labor, which many believe would scarcely be more profitable than panhandling. Some panhandlers' refusal to look for regular employment is better explained by their unwillingness or inability to commit to regular work hours, often because of substance abuse problems. Some panhandlers buy food with the money they receive, because they dislike the food served in shelters and soup kitchens.⁸

Most evidence confirms that panhandling is not lucrative, although some panhandlers clearly are able to subsist on a combination of panhandling money, government benefits, private charity, and money from odd jobs such as selling scavenged materials or plasma.⁹

In response to a City Council staff request last July about the number of complaints the Police Department had received over the last couple of years, the Department provided a table showing the number of complaints related to panhandling over the last three and one-half years.

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010
TRANSIENT PROBLEM	20	35	47	31
UNWANTED PERSON	88	98	127	79
Total	108	133	174	110

According to the study guide *Panhandling*, “Most complaints about panhandling are not formally registered with police.”¹⁰

A survey published in June 2009 by Certified Public Management for The Downtown Alliance said:

- Of 140 downtown businesses surveyed, 26 percent indicated that panhandling was a constant occurrence outside their places of business, and almost half indicated that that panhandling outside their place of business was at least a daily occurrence.¹¹
- Of 100 people surveyed, 44.8 percent indicated they thought panhandling in Salt Lake City was a major problem, and 43.8 percent indicated they thought panhandling in Salt Lake City was a minor problem.
- Fifty percent of a focus group surveyed, indicated panhandling in Salt Lake City was a major problem, and 46.7 percent indicated panhandling in Salt Lake City was a minor problem.

Proposed Ordinance

The proposed ordinance is the result of revisions to an earlier draft ordinance that Mayor Ralph Becker’s Administration made available for public comment between July 29, 2009, and September 18, 2009, according to the Administration transmittal.

DEFINITION: The main provisions of the proposed ordinance would define “commercial solicitation” as “any request made in person on a street, sidewalk, or public place, asking for an immediate donation of money or other thing of value, including the purchase of an item or service for an amount far exceeding its value, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the purchase is a donation.” It should be noted that the proposed ordinance excludes “passively standing or sitting with a sign or other indication that one is seeking donations without addressing the request to any specific person” from the definition.

It also should be noted that a letter to the City Council dated November 8, Gina Cornia, Executive Director of Utahans Against Hunger; Bill Tibbitts, Anti-Hunger Project Director for Crossroads Urban Center; and Professor Linda F. Smith of the S.J. Quinney College of Law, proposed that the title of the proposed ordinance, “*Commercial Solicitation*,” and references to “commercial solicitation” throughout

the proposed ordinance be replaced either by the words “aggressive panhandling” or “aggressive begging.”¹²

The letter indicated that “commercial solicitation is too close in name to the offenses, ‘sexual solicitation’ and ‘solicitation of prostitution’ and may be confused in other areas of Utah and other states – particularly when the criminal penalties for “commercial solicitation” and “sexual solicitation” are the same. “It is possible that people, particularly females, convicted of the offense “commercial solicitation” in Salt Lake City will be unfairly stigmatized as having been convicted of an offense involving prostitution if they travel to other parts of the country,” according to the letter.¹³

A review of the letter by the City Attorney’s Office indicates that the proposed ordinance defines “commercial solicitation” as including more conduct than aggressive behavior. The Attorney’s Office notes that the proposed time, place, and manner restrictions are meant to include all forms of commercial solicitation. The review contends that naming the proposed ordinance “aggressive panhandling” or aggressive begging” could mislead people into thinking the ordinance would cover less conduct than it actually would.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT: In keeping within the Administration’s stated purpose of restricting the time, place, and manner in which people can seek donations from others, the proposed ordinance proposes the following regulations:

Time – The proposed ordinance would prohibit people whose acts meet the definition of commercial solicitation from asking for a donation “after sunset and before sunrise.”

Place – No one can ask for a donation within 10 feet of:

- A sidewalk café or any outside eating or dining establishment
- A line of people waiting to gain admission to a place, or vehicle, or waiting to purchase an item or admission ticket
- A food-dispensing street-vendor
- Any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility, with the exception of airports
- A bus or train stop
- The entrance to a place of religious assembly
- Any automatic teller machine
- The entrance or exit to a building where an automatic teller machine is visible from the street

After the August 10 briefing City Council staff described the 10-foot limit as a series of cylinders throughout the downtown where people would be prohibited from panhandling. The City Attorney’s Office indicated the description was accurate and provided the following comments:

The ordinance would prohibit “commercial solicitation” inside of that cylinder. However, the definition of commercial solicitation excludes “passively standing or sitting with a sign . . . ,” so such activity within the 10-foot cylinder would not be banned by this ordinance. On the other hand, I think that, in addition to oral requests, commercial solicitation could also include certain non-passive uses of a sign, such as actively waving the sign in someone’s face, so that would be banned within the cylinder.

Except with respect to soliciting in public transportation vehicles or public transportation facilities, and with respect to aggressive commercial solicitation and the other time and manner restrictions in subsections three and four, the proposed ordinance does not regulate panhandling at all outside of the 10-foot cylinder.¹⁴

It should be noted that Baltimore, Maryland, also uses a 10-foot limit to regulate some places where panhandling may not occur.

According to City Council staff research, Baltimore prohibits panhandling:

- In public places.
- At night, even if done passively by holding a sign.
- Within 10 feet of ATM machines.
- Of individuals who are waiting for public transit.
- Of people in vehicles stopped in traffic.

Manner – The proposed ordinance would prohibit people from asking for donations in any way that:

- Hinders either pedestrian or vehicle traffic including “any manner that intentionally and unreasonably causes a pedestrian or vehicle operator to take evasive action to avoid physical contact, or “that violates traffic regulations for pedestrians and vehicles.”
- Involves asking for a donation that involves conduct where:
 - The conduct is intended or is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm to oneself or another, or damage to or loss of property, or otherwise be intimidated into giving money or any other thing of value
 - A person seeking a donation intentionally touches or causes physical contact with another person without that person’s consent
 - A person seeking a donation directs violent or threatening gestures toward someone by “blocking the path of the person solicited, or walking behind, ahead of, or alongside the person solicited, using profane or abusive language, by accosting or forcing oneself upon the company of another, by using any statement, gesture, or other communication that a reasonable person ... would perceive to be a threat, and by asking for a donation in a group of two or more people ages 14 or older.

To summarize, people would be regulated by the combination of time, place, and manner instead of one of the three components. For example, if someone is beyond the distance prohibitions, that person’s conduct still would be governed by time and manner restrictions.

In addition, Salt Lake City, as mentioned earlier in this memorandum appears to be following patterns outlined elsewhere. For example, Baltimore’s efforts to develop charitable contribution programs to encourage donations to help the homeless but discourage panhandling are similar to The Downtown Alliance’s programs that are under way or proposed. Baltimore’s 10-year program to end homelessness by 2018 by bringing together businesses, non-profit agencies, citizens, and faith-based agencies appears comparable to current efforts in Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City. In fact, Baltimore and Salt Lake City are two of 234 cities nationwide to participate with the National Alliance to End Homelessness by creating 10-year plans to end homelessness.¹⁵

It should be noted that Salt Lake City, through management of federal funds such as community development block grants, partnerships with groups such as The Road Home and the Salt Lake City Housing Authority, and through appropriation of general fund revenue, and through the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency, has long sought to meet demands for low-income and affordable housing and emergency shelters such as The Road Home.

For example, the City's budget for fiscal year 2011, which began July 1, includes about \$205,000 in general fund allocations for the Weigand Homeless Shelter, community emergency winter housing and Housing Authority transitional housing.

The Salt Lake Housing Authority this year bought a site at 1900 West North Temple with a 110 units of housing for veterans of the armed services. The housing replaces Valor House which the Housing Authority operated on the Veterans Administration Hospital campus. The Housing Authority plans to build another building holding roughly 60 units on the VA Hospital campus to house veterans who need extensive services such as drug and alcohol treatment and physical therapy that can be provided on site. The Sunrise apartments and the new Freedom Landing apartments would house veterans who no longer need as many services and want to live off the hospital campus.

Salt Lake City has participated in projects by The Road Home to house chronically homeless individuals through its Pathways Project and Palmer Court and The Road Home's main shelter on Rio Grande Street.

In addition, according to the Administration, Salt Lake City is participating in a new task force established to discuss employment for persons living in permanent supportive housing. The goal of the task force is to clarify the role of employment and employment related activities in permanent supportive housing and provide better ways to coordinate and focus the two.

RESPONSE TO DRAFT AND REVISED ORDINANCE

As indicated earlier in this memorandum, the proposed ordinance is a revised version of a draft the Administration published for public comment between July 29 and September 18, 2009. Sixty-one people or organizations submitted comments.¹⁶ Based on those comments, the Administration made two revisions from the draft to the proposed ordinance. First, it dropped a section in which prohibited conduct included misrepresenting one's status as a veteran of the one of the U.S. services, one's physical ability, one's status as a homeless person, and how much money one actually has on his or her person when asking for a donation. Second, the Administration shortened distance restrictions from 20 feet to 10 feet "to better balance the sense of security and safety with First Amendment concerns."¹⁷

Clearly, most of the 61 comments submitted to the Administration support most of the original draft. However, here are some selected comments from those who responded that may bear some consideration:

PLACES OF RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLY

"Our forty plus years of work with Salt Lake's religious communities lead us to believe that restricting begging at a house of worship is exactly the opposite of what most religious teachings emphasize. Is the religious community really asking the City to help defend it from the poor?" – Glenn Bailey, Executive Director, Crossroads Urban Center.

It should be noted that similar comments were submitted by two members of the Mount Tabor Lutheran Church at 175 South 700 East, and by the outreach coordinator of First United Methodist Church at 203 South 200 East.

Partially as a result of those comments, the City Attorney's Office was asked to clarify whether "an entrance to a place of religious assembly" meant a door, a gate or a property line. The Attorney's

Office has suggested that the language said, “Within ten (10) feet of the entrance, from the public right of way, to a place of religious assembly.”

According to the Attorney’s Office, most places of religious assembly involve a parcel of land and a building on that land, and in most cases the building is more than 10 feet away from the property line. To get within 10 feet of the entrance would involve a trespass, so the proposed ordinance need not address it. However, a sidewalk or sidewalks may lead from the public right-of-way onto a walkway on the private religious property, and then leads to a building. The City could justify prohibiting solicitors from waiting within 10 feet of such a sidewalk “entrance” because it could be intimidating to parishioners to have to pass through a gantlet of solicitors to get onto the private walkway. Finally, if a fence surrounded the private property and included a gate, one could say the gate would be considered an entrance.

COMMERCIAL VERSUS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION

“We feel that the name of the proposed ordinance is misleading as to the nature of the expression it attempts to restrict. Your proposed ordinance purports to target ‘commercial solicitation.’ However, the Supreme Court of the United States has long recognized that charitable solicitations fall within a category of speech close to the heart of the First Amendment, distinguishable from ‘purely commercial speech.’ Commercial speech is ‘primarily concerned with providing information about the characteristics and costs of goods and services,’ and as such enjoys lesser First Amendment protection. Courts have recognized that “(b)eggars at times may communicate important political or social messages in their appeals for money, explaining their conditions related to veteran status, homelessness, unemployment and disability ... While some communities might wish all solicitors, beggars, and advocates of various causes be vanished from the streets, the First Amendment guarantees their right to be there, deliver their pitch and ask for support.” – Executive Director Karen McCreary and Staff Attorney Marina Lowe of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah.

It should be noted that the ACLU has continued to voice its concern about the issue. In response, the Attorney’s Office has indicated that the current ordinance draft extends *First Amendment* protection to commercial and charitable solicitation. Using the defined term “charitable solicitation” might mislead non-charitable solicitors into thinking that the ordinance does not apply to them, according to the Attorney’s Office.

PANHANDLING LAWS

Homes not Handcuffs notes that in 235 cities throughout the nation surveyed for the report:

- 49 percent prohibit aggressive panhandling
- 47 percent of the cities prohibit begging in particular public places; 23 percent have citywide prohibitions
- 47 percent prohibit loitering in particular public areas; 19 percent prohibit loitering citywide.
- 33 percent prohibit camping in particular public places; 19 percent prohibit loitering citywide
- 30 percent prohibit sitting or lying in certain public places¹⁸

Panhandling, lists the following places that have enacted aggressive panhandling laws: the states of California and Hawaii, and the cities of Albuquerque, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Seattle, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Washington, D.C.¹⁹

Some people who commented on the draft ordinance said laws already in the *City Code* that could be used to deter panhandling and public disorder. Below is a list of some City ordinances.

11.12.020: DISTURBING THE PEACE:

A. A person is guilty of disturbing the peace if such person:

1. Refuses to comply with the lawful order of the police to move from a public place;
2. Knowingly creates a hazardous condition;
3. Intending to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof:
 - a. Engages in fighting, violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior,
 - b. Uses words and/or does or makes any unreasonable act, gesture, or display that are intended to cause acts of violence or are inherently likely to cause a violent reaction by the person to whom the words or the act, gesture, or display are addressed and that, under the circumstances, create a clear and present danger of a breach of the peace or imminent threat of violence,
 - c. Makes unreasonably loud noises in a private place that can be heard in a public place,
 - d. Maliciously or willfully disturbs the peace or quiet of another or of any public place by making an unreasonably loud noise or by discharging firearms, or
 - e. Obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic, except as allowed pursuant to the provisions of *Title 3 Chapter 3.50* of this code.

11.12.060: DRINKING AND DRUNKENNESS IN PUBLIC PLACES:

A. It is unlawful to:

1. Drink liquor in a public building, park or stadium; or
2. Be under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or any substance having the property of releasing toxic vapors to a degree that the person may endanger himself or herself or another, if such person is in a public place or in a private place where he/she unreasonably disturbs other persons.

B. A peace officer or magistrate may release from custody an individual arrested under this section, if he or she believes imprisonment is unnecessary for the protection of the individual or another; or a peace officer may take a person arrested under this section to a detoxification center or other special facility designated by the courts of Utah or by state law, as an alternative to jail incarceration for such offenses.

C. An offense under this section is a class C misdemeanor. (Ord. 88-86 § 60, 1986: prior code § 32-1-4)

11.12.065: UNLAWFULLY OPENING, POSSESSING OR CONSUMING AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE IN A PUBLIC PLACE:

A. It is Unlawful To Have Open Containers Of Alcohol In Designated Areas: No person shall open, possess, or consume from an open bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage in an unpermitted public place.

B. Definitions: As used in this section:

UNPERMITTED PUBLIC PLACE: 1. Any street, right of way, sidewalk, alley, publicly owned property or state or county road located within the Salt Lake City limits and which abuts upon: a) any county or city owned real property; b) any business required to have a Salt Lake City business license pursuant to *Title 5, Chapter 5.02* of this code;

- Boarded or abandoned commercial buildings;

- Vacant lots in areas zoned for commercial or manufacturing uses; or
- Any publicly owned building or publicly owned real property. "Unpermitted public place" shall not mean or include a premises or area identified in a license or permit issued by the city as authorizing the possession or consumption of alcohol, when there is conformance with the applicable license or permit restrictions; businesses specifically permitted under *Title 6* of this code; business licensed as home occupations as defined in title 21A of this code; or apartment houses as defined and licensed in accord with *Title 5, Chapter 5.14* of this code.

11.12.080: CAMPING AND SLEEPING ON PUBLIC GROUNDS:

A. It is unlawful for any person to camp, lodge, cook, make a fire or pitch a tent, fly, lean to, tarpaulin, umbrella or any other type of ground cover or shelter, or place sleeping bags, bedding or any other type of camping or sleeping equipment on any "public grounds", as defined in subsection B of this section, and it is unlawful for any person using or benefiting from the use of any of the foregoing items of shelter or camping or sleeping equipment to fail to remove the same from such public grounds for more than five (5) minutes after being requested to do so by any police officer or citizen.

B. For the purpose of this section, the term "public grounds" means any real property owned in whole or in part by the United States of America and its agencies, or the state of Utah or any of its political subdivisions, including Salt Lake City Corporation, upon which no camping or sleeping has been authorized by the owner, but excluding there from public streets and parks. (Prior code § 32-3-10)

14.20.100: LOITERING ON SIDEWALK:

It is unlawful for any person to remain standing, lying or sitting on any sidewalk for a longer period than two (2) minutes, in such manner as to obstruct the free passage of pedestrians thereon, or willfully to remain standing, lying or sitting thereon in said manner for more than one minute after being requested to move by any police officer, or willfully to remain on any sidewalk in such manner as to obstruct the free passage of any person or vehicle into or out of any property abutting upon said sidewalk or any property having access to such sidewalk. (Ord. 88-86 § 62, 1986: prior code § 38-3-9)

14.28.050: STANDING, LYING OR SITTING ON STREETS OR HIGHWAYS:

It is unlawful for any person to remain standing, lying or sitting on any street or highway in a manner which obstructs the free passage of vehicular or pedestrian traffic thereon, or which creates a hazard to any person, or to willfully remain on such street or highway in a manner which obstructs the free passage of any person or vehicle into or out of any property abutting upon such street or highway, or any property having access to such street or highway. (Prior code § 41-2-5)

14.28.060: CAMPING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED:

It is unlawful for any person to camp, lodge, sleep, cook, make a fire or pitch a tent, fly, lean to, tarpaulin, umbrella, or any other type of ground cover or shelter, or place sleeping bags, bedding or any other type of camping or sleeping equipment upon any portion of a street, as defined in this title, as amended, or its successor, and it is unlawful for any person using or benefiting from the use of any of the foregoing shelter or camping or sleeping equipment to fail to remove the same from any such street for more than five (5) minutes after being requested to do so by any police officer or citizen. (Prior code § 41-2-6)

15.08.080: CAMPING:

A. No person shall camp, lodge, or pitch a tent, fly, lean to, tarpaulin or any other type of camping equipment in any park or playground except:

1. In cases of local emergency as declared by the mayor of the city.
2. Youth groups the majority of whose members' ages are at least eight (8) years of age, but no more than seventeen (17) years of age, under the following conditions:
 - a. The youth are accompanied by adult leaders in the ratio of two (2) adults for every ten (10) youth at all times while the youth are camping in a city park.
 - b. The youth group provides adequate police and fire security to ensure the safety of the campers and garbage removal and cleanup. The sponsor shall submit a plan along with an application for a special events permit to the city which shall be reviewed and approved by the public services department director, the fire and police chiefs, or their designees, who will forward a recommendation to the mayor as to whether or not the request for camping should be granted. Application for the special events permit shall be made directly to the special events coordinator who shall forward all accompanying information to the appropriate departments.
 - c. The youth group files a bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to compensate the city for any damage to the park caused by the youth group during their camping activities.
 - d. The youth group files a certificate of insurance in the aggregate amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00), which names the city as an additional insured.
 - e. No camping is allowed in any one park for more than forty eight (48) continuous hours in any thirty (30) day period.
 - f. The youth group shall comply with all ordinances and park regulations relating to city parks.
 - g. No more than sixty (60) people shall be allowed to camp at one time.

It should be noted that some of the ordinances listed above are under review by Mayor Becker's Administration.

It also might be noted that, "Enforcing other laws panhandlers commonly violate – those regarding drinking in public, trespassing, disorderly conduct, etc. – can help control some aspects of the panhandling problem," according to the study guide, *Panhandling*.²⁰

OTHER INFORMATION

Panhandling, describes who typically is approached by panhandlers and who gives panhandlers money.

Many who get panhandled are people of "modest means," according to the study. *Panhandling* cites estimates of between 10 percent and 60 percent of people approached by panhandlers give them money. Roughly half of all college students approached by panhandlers reported giving them money. "There is some evidence that women and minorities tend to give more freely to panhandlers," and "panhandlers more commonly target women than men." According to the study, "Conventioneers and tourists are good targets for panhandlers because they are already psychologically prepared to spend money."²¹

According to the study, "Panhandling is more common in communities that provide a high level of social services to the needy, because the same citizens who support social services are also likely to give money directly to panhandlers; panhandlers are drawn to communities where both free social services and generous passers-by are plentiful."²²

Nevertheless, the study goes on to say, “The state of the economy, at the local, regional and even national level, affects how much panhandling occurs. As the economy declines, panhandling increases. As government benefit programs become more restrictive, panhandling increases. ... The stronger the social bonds and social network on which indigent people can rely for emotional and financial support, the less likely they are to panhandle.”²³

¹ Proposed ordinance, Page 2, paragraph 3

² Letter, Salt Lake Chamber, July 26, 2010

³ Letter, American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, July 27, 2010

⁴ Ibid. Page 22

⁵ Please See Attachment No. 1.

⁶ Please see Attachments Nos. 2 and 3.

⁷ *Panhandling*, Michael Scott, 2002, Page 17

⁸ Ibid. Pages 5-7.

⁹ Ibid. Page 10.

¹⁰ Ibid. Page 13

¹¹ Spare Change, Certified Public Management Task Force, June 2009, Page 26. (Please see Attachment No. 3)

¹² Letter, November 8, 2010, Gina Cornia, Linda F. Smith, Bill Tibbitts

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Electronic Mail, Boyd Ferguson, August 13, 2009.

¹⁵ Please see attached electronic items about Baltimore programs.

¹⁶ Commercial Solicitation Public Comment Summary, Matt Lyon, October 26, 2009, Page 2

¹⁷ Administration transmittal letter, June 10, 2010, Page 2

¹⁸ Ibid. Page 10

¹⁹ *Panhandling*, Michael Scott, 2002, Page 20

²⁰ Ibid. Page 20

²¹ Ibid. Pages 7 and 8

²² Ibid. Page 8

²³ Ibid, Page 11



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[view all](#)

Panhandling Ordinance Briefing

Memorandum to the City Council on the proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance. Included draft ordinance and public comment.... [more>](#)

Number of homeless Utah kids skyrockets

The lingering recession has taken a toll on Utah's youngest residents, leading to a 48 percent increase in the number of homeless..... [more>](#)

Police cleaning up area around 300 S. Main

Salt Lake police are conducting a weeklong effort to clean up the area around 300 S. Main. ... [more>](#)

The following is a list of homeless service providers located in downtown Salt Lake City. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of services available statewide.

THE ROAD HOME

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
RESOURCE CENTER**

**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA
HOMELESS OUTREACH**

FOURTH STREET CLINIC

*Do something that
really helps Utah
fight homelessness.*



Show your support.

Click the button to add this flair to your Facebook page.



**Become a fan of the
Downtown Alliance**



When people approach you to ask for money, sometimes they really need help. But in most cases, they are not homeless. Many panhandlers use the money you give them to fuel addictions and other self-destructive behaviors.

Even small donations can help to create significant programs to help people in need. Social service organizations in Salt Lake City provide services for people who find themselves in need, but they can't do it without your support. Instead of giving spare change to panhandlers, please consider making a generous donation of money or time to the community organizations dedicated to solving problems and helping the homeless.

Downtown social service providers include:

- Catholic Community Services, St Vincent's Dining Room
- Volunteers of America
- The Road Home
- The Fourth Street Clinic

Panhandling is not an issue unique to downtown or Salt Lake City - it is a problem in communities across the Wasatch Front and across the nation. Every problem has a solution. Decide to help fight homelessness in a way that benefits the entire community. Then you can know you've given, without being taken.

The following is a list of homeless service providers located in downtown Salt Lake City. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of services available statewide.

THE ROAD HOME

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
RESOURCE CENTER**

**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA
HOMELESS OUTREACH**

FOURTH STREET CLINIC

*Do something that
really helps Utah
fight homelessness.*



Show your support.

Click the button to add this flair to your Facebook page.



**Become a fan of the
Downtown Alliance**



Aggressive panhandling is not protected free speech. Aggressive panhandling includes intimidating behavior, following someone down the street, blocking the sidewalk, touching or other obtrusive or threatening activities.

Passive panhandling is considered free speech, but local governments can put place, time and manner restrictions on passive panhandling.

THE COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY SALT LAKE CITY:

- Defines "commercial solicitation" (or panhandling) as any request made in person on a street, sidewalk, or public place, asking for an immediate donation of money or other thing of value
- "Commercial solicitation" (panhandling) does not include passively sitting or standing with a sign
- Using false or misleading statements would be illegal
- The use of false or misleading statements would be unlawful
- Panhandling would be prohibited after sunset or before sunrise
- Panhandling would be prohibited
 - within 20 feet of a sidewalk café or outside dinning establishment
 - within 20 feet of a line of people waiting to gain admission to a place or to purchase an item or admission ticket
 - within 20 ft of a sidewalk food vendor
 - in busses, TRAX trains or FrontRunner trains
 - within 20 feet of a bus or train stop
 - within 20 feet of an entrance to a place of religious assembly
 - within 20 feet of an ATM or the entrance to building that contains an ATM

The following is a list of homeless service providers located in downtown Salt Lake City. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of services available statewide.

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Downtown Alliance**



Be nice to panhandlers, but don't give them any money. When someone asks for spare change on the street, the best response is no response or a simple, polite "no." Panhandling is usually a business enterprise. As the business becomes less profitable, the number of panhandlers will also go down.

Talking to panhandlers can lead to other more serious problems. Panhandlers may become aggressive if challenged and conversations can give panhandlers more opportunities to ask for money.

Instead of giving money to panhandlers, consider making a donation to a homeless service provider. Then you can feel confident that your resources are being used to help other people who are truly in need.

If a panhandler follows you, touches you, makes threatening or violent gestures, blocks your path or engages in any behavior that makes you feel threatened or unsafe, call the police.

If you encounter a panhandler that you believe is truly in need of immediate services, contact Volunteers of America, Homeless Outreach at **801-519-9721**.

The following is a list of homeless service providers located in downtown Salt Lake City. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of services available statewide.

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Panhandling Ordinance Briefing

City Council Staff

November 12, 2010 - Memorandum to the City Council on the proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance. Included draft ordinance and public comment.... [more>](#)

Police cleaning up area around 300 S. Main

Pat Reavy

October 14, 2010 - Salt Lake police are conducting a weeklong effort to clean up the area around 300 S. Main. ... [more>](#)

Salt Lake City Council delays panhandling discussion

Jared Page

October 11, 2010 - The City Council has pushed back Tuesday's planned discussion about new panhandling regulations until Oct. 19. ... [more>](#)

Number of homeless Utah kids skyrockets

Julia Lyon

October 14, 2010 - The lingering recession has taken a toll on Utah's youngest residents, leading to a 48 percent increase in the number of homeless..... [more>](#)

Police ramp up presence along downtown Main Street

Aaron Falk

October 13, 2010 - The planter boxes along Main Street near 300 South, usually a popular gathering place, were mostly empty Wednesday afternoon..... [more>](#)

Salt Lake City Faces Depot District Dilemma

Whitney Evans

September 8, 2010 - Salt Lake City is trying to redevelop its Depot District but that's causing tension..... [more>](#)

The following is a list of homeless service providers located in downtown Salt Lake City. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of services available statewide.

THE ROAD HOME

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RESOURCE CENTER

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA HOMELESS OUTREACH

FOURTH STREET CLINIC

*Do something that
really helps Utah
fight homelessness.*

Page 1 of 6 [next](#)



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Downtown Alliance**



Most of the people who use Utah's shelters are homeless for a short amount of time. In fact, 61% of the Road Home's patrons use the shelter for less than six weeks but they use only 8% of the shelter's beds. So how do all the beds get used?

The shelter's resources are strained by a small group of 14 percent who use 64 percent of the beds. These people stay for 6 months or more and are considered chronically homeless. They usually suffer from mental or physical disabilities and may also have substance abuse problems. By providing permanent, supportive housing for chronically homeless people, we can better serve those who need short-term help.

Utah's Pathways Program is a national leader in creating permanent, supportive housing such as Sunrise Metro, Grace Mary Manor and Palmer Court. These developments provide permanent, supportive housing for chronically homeless clients, freeing up the shelter's beds for people who only need short term help. By helping to find housing for the chronically homeless, the Road Home has maintained their level of service even as demand has increased dramatically.

Your donation to a legitimate social service organization will help create permanent change for the homeless in Utah.

The Road Home Shelter Night Usage

Shelter Bed Usage

Impact of Pathways Program

The following is a list of homeless service providers located in downtown Salt Lake City. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of services available statewide.

THE ROAD HOME

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RESOURCE CENTER

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA HOMELESS OUTREACH

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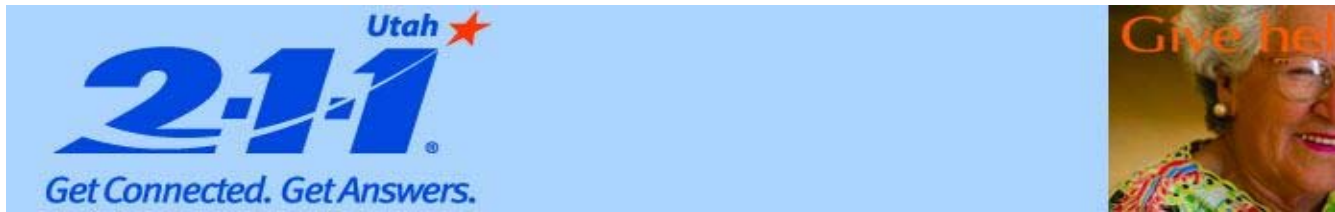


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Regence

A proud supporter of 2-1-1 Information and Referral, a program of Utah Food Bank. 2-1-1 can help you with information and referrals for organizations to help you in times of need. Whether your need is simple or complex, 2-1-1 will gladly help you find the organization that best fits your needs.

Women and Education Resources



A critical issue right now in the state of Utah relates to women and higher education. Many leaders within the state have expressed concern that Utah is below the national average when it comes to women enrolling and completing postsecondary degrees. In collaboration with the Utah Women and Education Resource Project, this page is designed to assist Utah women of all ages who are considering attending college for the first time or returning to college after a break. It will link you to a variety of resources that include programs, services, information, and assistance that can provide you with support in various ways—depending on your needs.

UW
Utah Women
Education Resource Project

[Read more...](#)

Give Help this Holiday Season



2-1-1 is happy to provide information to willing volunteers who are looking to give service this holiday season. Our list of holiday donation and volunteer opportunities is [here](#), or you can dial 2-1-1 for more information.

New Food Supplement Program

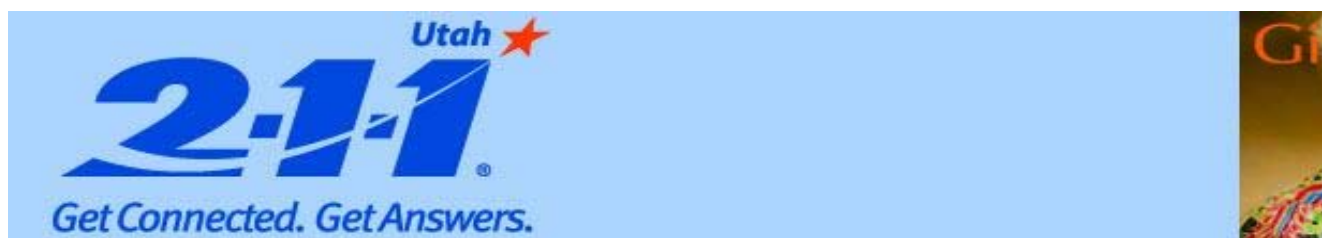


We have started setting appointments and giving information about the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides an extra food box once a month to those in need. To qualify for the program, you must have a child younger than age 6 who is not receiving WIC assistance, or be 60+ years of age, and meet other requirements. To learn more about the program or to schedule an application appointment at the Utah Food Bank, call 2-1-1 and we'll be happy to set you up.

Stay Connected with 211



Get up-to-the-minute news on volunteer opportunities for all ages and instant information on health services and government assistance programs by following us on [Twitter](#) or liking us on [Facebook](#). We post updates on vital human service programs, as well as health and government news for the state of Utah. Connect with us and we will keep you up to date on the programs and opportunities that matter most.



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Special Needs and Emergency Preparedness



To best help our local authorities plan for a disaster, individuals of all ages with special needs can be registered for a specific service called **Emergency Medical Services**. Information on the registry will be used to develop a plan to needs in an emergency. You can register yourself or your family member **online** or by calling 2-1-1. This effort to facilitate better emergency care by EMS responders and hospitals.

« [Start](#)[Prev](#)**12**[Next](#)[End](#) »

Page 2 of 2

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OCT 21 2008

October 13, 2008

Mayor Ralph Becker
451 South State Street
PO Box 145474
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5474

Dear Mayor Becker;

The Downtown Alliance Board of Trustees formed the Safety and Security Committee in October of 2007 in response to concerns from downtown business and property owners and residents about the increased number of panhandlers in the Central Business District. The Committee has spent the last year meeting with members from the business community, downtown residents, law enforcement, city staff and social service providers.

After careful consideration and input from the Salt Lake City Attorney's office, social service organizations, and business and property owners, the Safety and Security Committee made recommendations to the Downtown Alliance Board of Trustees. In accordance with those recommendations, we respectfully ask the City carefully consider adopting an ordinance to specifically address panhandling. While we recognize that panhandling is a protected form of free speech, we believe that there are time, place and manner restrictions that can be placed on panhandling. These restrictions would assist in alleviating the problems that our business owners, residents and visitors confront.

While there are a variety of ways that have been used by other cities to address panhandling, we recommend that the City consider one of two general approaches:

- **No Panhandling Zone-** this zone would be established in the Central Business Improvement District. Panhandling of any kind would be prohibited within the area of North Temple to 400 South and from 200 East to 500 West. Atlanta, Georgia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania have designated zones of similar scope.
- **Targeted restrictions-** these restrictions could be placed throughout the City and would prohibit panhandling in targeted areas. Possible restricted areas could include the area around ATMs and financial institutions, entries to parking facilities, entries into entertainment venues, or within 25 ft of a business, for example.

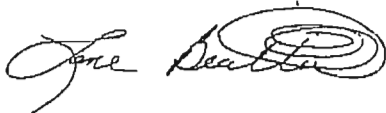
There is no question that panhandling has a negative impact on our downtown business and tourism industry. The Downtown Alliance believes that an ordinance that assists in

addressing the unique challenges faced in the Central Business District would be beneficial to the City. The Downtown Alliance and Salt Lake Chamber have received phone calls, letters, and emails from visitors who have been approached by panhandlers and have stated that they feel intimidated, harassed and unsafe. As stewards of our downtown, the Downtown Alliance is concerned that the impacts of panhandling will negatively affect tourism and economic growth.

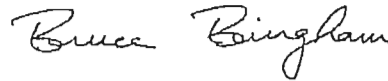
The Downtown Alliance recognizes that in addition to the adoption of an ordinance, a public education campaign will be necessary to truly combat panhandling. Most residents don't realize that the majority of panhandlers are not truly homeless and by giving money to an individual rather than a legitimate service organization they are only perpetuating a problem rather than helping those who are truly in need. We welcome the opportunity to assist with a public education campaign. The Downtown Alliance has produced panhandling brochures to help business educate their customers about the facts of panhandling.

We thank you for taking the time to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would specifically address panhandling and look forward to working with elected officials and City staff in implementing the Downtown Meter Donation Program.

Sincerely,



Lane Beattie
President/CEO
Salt Lake Chamber/Downtown Alliance



Bruce Bingham,
Chair
Downtown Alliance Board of Trustees

cc: Chris Burbank
David Everitt
Bob Farrington
Frank Gray
Orion Goff
Jill Remington-Love
Ed Rutan
John Spencer
Duane Sutherland
Russell Weeks

Weeks, Russell

From: Carla Wiese [carla@downtownslc.org]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2009 5:12 PM
Subject: End Panhandling Now: Press Conference

Categories: Other

October 5, 2009

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Danica Farley
Organization: Downtown Alliance
Phone: (801) 333-1105

End Panhandling Now: Press Conference

Who: Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City
Jake Boyer, Chair, The Salt Lake Chamber
Bill Paulos, President, The Summit Group
Jason Mathis, Executive Director, The Downtown Alliance

What: The release of a new educational campaign designed to discourage donations to panhandlers and encourage donations to local social service organizations.

When: Tuesday, October 6th, 11 a.m.

Where: One Utah Center Plaza (201 South Main Street)

Details: Panhandling is not an issue unique to downtown or Salt Lake City—it is a problem in communities across the Wasatch Front and across the nation. In many cases panhandlers are not homeless and often use donations to fuel addictions and other self-destructive behaviors.

But every problem has a solution. Even small donations can help to create significant programs to help people in need. Social service organizations in Salt Lake City provide services for people who find themselves in need. Instead of giving spare change to panhandlers, this campaign encourages residents and visitors to donate money or time to local organizations that are dedicated to solving problems in our community.

The Downtown Alliance is dedicated to building a dynamic and diverse community that is the regional center for culture, commerce and entertainment. For more information, visit downtownslc.org.

####

Carla Wiese | Economic Development Director | Downtown Alliance | carla@downtownslc.org | 801.328.5043

CPM Project — June 2009

A black and white photograph of a person sitting on a bench, hunched over with their head buried in their arms. They are wearing a dark, quilted hooded jacket and light-colored jeans. A white bag is on the ground next to them. The background shows a wooden fence and a concrete wall.

Spare Change

Prepared by Rachel Anderson, David Ekstrom, Ryan Johansen, Pamela Martin, Eric Roux, Nate Talley, Aaron Thompson, Jane Van Wagoner.

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Spare Change CPM Taskforce



Rachel Anderson,
Vocational Rehabilitation



David Ekstrom,
Alcohol and Beverage Control



Ryan Johansen,
Tax Commission



Pam Martin,
Natural Resources



Eric Roux,
Vocational Rehabilitation



Aaron Thompson, Vocational Rehabilitation



Nate Talley,
Workforce Services



Jane Van Wagoner,
Community and Culture

**2009 Downtown Alliance - CPM Task Force
CHARTER**

Charter Authority: Jason Mathis, Executive Director
The Downtown Alliance

Date: April 7, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Presenting Issue or Opportunity:

Downtown businesses, residents, and consumers have been challenged recently by rising unemployment and continued economic pressures restricting many basic human services there has been a general increase in the frequency of panhandling of both passive and aggressive varieties. The rapidly escalating numbers of panhandlers in the downtown area has negatively impacted increasing numbers of businesses and pedestrians in the downtown area. Negative results of panhandling have included; reduced safety and increased discomfort among downtown shoppers and pedestrians coinciding with increased incidents of aggressiveness among panhandlers (up to and including assault), increased police involvement in panhandling incidents, and adverse impact to local businesses having to deal with associated issues such as vandalism, theft, trespass, and customer intimidation.

There is currently confusion about the legal rights of panhandlers and those responding to them. There is also a general lack of community awareness and education in safe, helpful, and effective responses to panhandling. To address these deficits, a formal study is needed to determine the full scope of impact by panhandling in the downtown area on both businesses and residents and to determine what course of general public education is required to establish meaningful program of community response education.

Authorized Activities:

This charter authorizes the task force to meet together at least once per week during the duration of this charter. The group may meet more often as necessary. The task force may also utilize additional communication methods such as conference calls, email, IM, etc. The task force will be authorized to conduct surveys, interviews, and access public data from all public and private collaborating agencies. The task force will be authorized to pay for up to \$400 for copied and printed materials, and to produce and distribute end point deliverables of a written plan copies for all sponsoring participants and accompanying electronic files on CD media.

Expected Product:

By the completion of the chartered period of time the task force will provide to the oversight group a final written report of their activities, to include; research results, all identified possible solutions, prioritized solutions, and priority solution based recommendations specific to the issue areas for potential implementation.


Jason Mathis, Executive Director

4/14/09
Date

Introduction to CPM and the GPAS Process

What is CPM?

The Utah program for Certified Public Management (CPM) is a cooperative training program conducted through the Utah State Department of Human Resource Management. It is intended to develop and train quality managers and leaders in Utah State government. CPM training is nationally accredited and involves employees from all areas of state government. In order to complete the full course of CPM study, each trainee must participate in a taskforce or group project designed to advance the cause of an identified community or governmental need through research and the generation of a set of recommendations utilizing the GPAS model of project planning and management.

What is GPAS?

GPAS is a formalized system of problem analysis and study that allows a group to efficiently identify an issue, formulate a problem statement and develop an associated project plan and then engage in root cause identification and analysis, solution generation, and finally develop a specific set of recommendations. GPAS stands for:

Generating ideas through brainstorming techniques involving structured discussion of the root cause and solutions to the possible problems under consideration.

Prioritizing ideas and potential actions and areas of study through careful adherence to group problem solving techniques such as multi-voting and rank ordering.

Analyzing ideas and data through study, surveys, focus groups and questionnaires in order to gather and chart data pertinent to the issues of the Root Cause and Proposed Solutions.

Selecting criteria necessary to determining the root cause and developing a matrix to assess root cause issues and best solutions for the problems identified.

After a careful analysis of the problem, identification of the root cause(s) and analysis of possible solutions, the CPM team then makes recommendations to the charter.

Team Problem Solving Process (Macro) & Team Decision Making Process (Micro)

I. Project Plan (Charter)

Historical Background

Problem Statement

Current Condition

Desired Condition

Gap

Pain

Team Mission

Team Authority

Project Scope

Risks

Deliverables

Project Resources & Estimated Costs

Project Timeline

Project Approvals

II. Root Cause (RC)

Generate (20 to 70 potential RC's)

Brainstorming

Fishbone

Workflow

(Clarify & Combine)

Prioritize (3 to 5 potential RC's)

Soft Criteria for RC

Root Cause or Symptom?

% of Problem Attributed to RC?

Can Data be Gathered on the RC?

Is the RC Process Oriented?

Multi-Vote

Rule of Reduction

Rank Order

Analyze (Gather & Summarize Data)

Gather Data: Questionnaires,
Focus Groups, Surveys,
Existing Reports, etc.

Summarize Data: Pie Charts,
Bar Charts, Line Graphs, etc.

Select (1 RC although there may be more RC's)

Matrix: Formal/Hard Criteria:

All of the above (if you want) except
replace can we gather data with "Does
the Data Support the RC?"

Force-Field Analysis

III. Solution to RC

Generate (20 to 70 potential Solutions)

Brainstorming

Fishbone

Workflow

(Clarify & Combine)

Prioritize (3 to 5 potential Solutions)

Soft Criteria for Solution

Cost? Mgmt Buy-In

Time to Implement?

Can Data be Gathered?

% of Problem Fixed by Sol?

Multi-Vote

Rule of Reduction

Rank Order

Analyze (Gather & Summarize Data)

Gather Data: Questionnaires,
Focus Groups, Surveys,
Existing Reports, etc.

Summarize Data: Pie Charts,
Bar Charts, Line Graphs, etc.

Select Solution(s)

Matrix: Formal/Hard Criteria:

All of the above (if you want) except
replace can we gather data with "Does
the Data Support the Solution?"

Force-Field Analysis

Cost/Benefit Analysis

Executive Summary

The Downtown Alliance was approached by a Taskforce Group conducted by supervisory trainees in the DHRM program for Public Management (CPM) under the guidance of Jill Carter, CPM.

A discussion was held wherein it was discovered that the Downtown Alliance was currently engaged in a community education campaign to assist the public and downtown businesses become informed about and respond effectively to panhandling in the downtown Salt Lake City area.

The CPM taskforce was chartered by the Downtown Alliance to work with The Summit Group (TSG) , a marketing and advertising firm engaged in assisting with promotional material for the campaign.

It was determined that the CPM taskforce would measure and analyze the barriers to and needs for a successful public campaign. To this end, the CPM group conducted baseline surveys of both downtown businesses and randomly selected downtown shoppers, employees, and residents to determine the severity of the current panhandling issue, the impact it has on the downtown area, and the current level of information and response options people believe is available to them.

After these surveys were completed the CPM Group then analyzed root cause issues and determined that there was a problem with panhandling in the downtown area, that it does impact consumers, residents, and businesses, and that there is a general lack of knowledge about panhandling and a lack of informed response options available. Results from the business interviews and surveys shows that most businesses do not have a plan or procedure in place for dealing with panhandlers. Most people surveyed were unaware of any public information about panhandling or how to respond to it effectively.

To further assist with the campaign process, the CPM group took 3 proposed campaign posters provided by TSG and conducted 4 qualitative Focus Groups to determine potential effectiveness of the various slogans.

The results of the focus groups indicated that downtown residents want to reduce feelings of pressure, guilt, and threat from panhandlers and that there is a belief that public postings, billboards, and bus signs could assist in providing this. The groups uniformly stated that they preferred strongly worded messages that were short, included the word "panhandling" and which provided an information link or location. Group participants generally indicated that the messages provided them were somewhat vague and that the secondary line of "donate your spare change directly to salt lake shelters. It's what's best...for everyone" was too long and small to have an impact and they preferred a website link or other specific guide to further information in its

Spare Change

place. Further responses from the focus groups indicated that people prefer to receive information from a variety of media including radio and news reports but were largely opposed to handouts or mailers.

In conclusion, the CPM group found, through surveys, interviews, and focus groups that there is a current growing issue with panhandling in the downtown area which does negatively impact residents, consumers and businesses. The public does desire information about panhandling, especially information which helps them distinguish between panhandling and homelessness and other forms of need. The public also desires to have information which allows them to respond directly when confronted in an aggressive fashion without unmerited feelings of guilt or threat.

The current campaign proposals do appear to be a step toward addressing these issues. However, the proposed signage should be modified to include briefer statements which directly indicate the problem as "panhandling" and which links to a defined information center or clearing-house.

Additionally, the CPM group recommends that a follow up survey of both businesses and downtown residents and consumers be conducted 12 months after implementation of the campaign to assess the penetration of information provided through the campaign.

Problem/Opportunity Statement

The Downtown Alliance is currently sponsoring an education initiative and advertising campaign aimed at providing downtown Salt Lake businesses and customers with effective and safe responses to panhandling. Currently panhandling in Salt Lake City is on the rise with associated issues such as a rise in crime and negative consumer impact adversely affecting downtown business. The purpose of this program is to generate a cultural change through effective panhandling response education in order to decrease this problem. There is no current data base-lining this problem and no assessment tool exists to allow for measurement of the effectiveness of this campaign. The goal of this project is to create a baseline study of the current impact of panhandling on downtown businesses and to create a survey tool which will allow for assessment of the success of the education initiative after implementation.

Project Purpose Statement

There is no current data accurately assessing the scope of the problem of panhandling in downtown Salt Lake City. The Downtown alliance has a proposed education campaign which is due for initial implementation in the Summer of 2009. A series of surveys of downtown businesses and customers is needed prior to implementation in order to generate a baseline understanding of the current issue and to allow for the generation of a follow up survey tool which can be used to measure the impact and outcomes of the Downtown Alliance Panhandling Information Campaign.

Project Scope

The scope of this project includes and excludes the following items:

In Scope:

- Surveying up to 140 downtown businesses
- Surveying of up to 100 random downtown business customers
- Creation of a post-campaign program assessment tool to determine effectiveness of campaign
- Creation of focus groups to determine qualitative issues surrounding the education campaign
- Access and utilization of public and non-profit sources information about the current state of panhandling in the downtown area
- Production of written and electronic deliverables containing the project outline, data gathered, and results of surveys and focus groups conducted

Out of Scope:

- Changing any laws governing panhandling
- Addressing economic issues within the community
- Creation of the Downtown Alliance Panhandling Campaign
- Use of the follow-up survey tools recommended in the Project

Stakeholders Affected or Impacted

The impact of this project on other organizations needs to be determined to ensure that the right people and functional areas are involved and communication is directed appropriately.

Stakeholders	How are they affected, or how are they participating?
Downtown Alliance	Primary sponsor of the Panhandling Education Campaign and Chartering sponsor of the CPM survey group
Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce	Partner with the Downtown Alliance on Panhandling Education Campaign
The Summit Group	Marketing company engaged in advertising and promotional efforts with the Downtown Alliance for this campaign
211 Information & Referral	Web based information clearing house providing need based resources contacts for the public
The Public	Primary recipients of the panhandling campaign

Deliverables Produced

- Comprehensive report detailing baseline, qualitative, and quantitative data
- Copies of business and public surveys
- Electronic copies of all deliverables
- Follow-up survey tool proposal
- Focus group summary
- Recommendations
- Comprehensive report

Spare Change

Project Resources and Estimated Costs

Resource	Cost
Binders & Copies of Project	No more than \$400 (copies provided by the downtown alliance.)
Presentation supplies	Provided by the Summit Group.
Focus Group	\$800 for food and compensation
CPM Staff Time	3 month project time as detailed in CPM curriculum

Project Assumptions

- Assumption #1: Survey respondents will answer honestly
- Assumption #2: Sufficient and significant data can be collected
- Assumption #3: The education campaign currently in process for the Downtown Alliance will proceed as planned
- Assumption #4: The public will respond to this information

Project Risks

Project risks are characteristics, circumstances or features of the project environment that may have an adverse effect on the project or the quality of its deliverables. Known risks identified with this project have been included below. A plan will be put into place to minimize or eliminate the impact of each risk to the project.

Risk Area	Level (H/M/L)	Risk Plan
Competing interests	L	Being sensitive when dealing with the issue
Safety Issues	L	Being aware of surroundings
Lack of cooperation/participation	L	Conveying the importance of solving the problems
Business and public cooperation	M	Being respectful, professional, and appreciative when approaching community
Offending vulnerable populations	L	Have clear definitions of the scope of the project

Project Timeline

Milestone	Completion Date	Apr			May			Jun		
Start of Project	Apr. 6									
Milestone #1 <i>Finish Project Plan</i>	Apr. 27									
Milestone #2 <i>Root Cause (G&P)</i>	Apr. 22									
Milestone #3 <i>Root Cause (A&S)</i>	May 11									
Milestone #4 <i>Solutions (G&P)</i>	May 18									
Milestone #5 <i>Solutions (A&S)</i>	June 1									
End of Project <i>Presentation</i>	June 15									

Generate Ideas for the Root Cause

Using the GPAS model, the group made some determinations as to possible root causes for panhandling in the Salt Lake City downtown area.

BRAINSTORMING

- A. Lack of good laws to control panhandlers
- B. Lack of knowledge of resources
- C. Nowhere else for panhandlers to go
- D. Lack of resources to address panhandling
- E. Lack of jobs
- F. Substance abuse
- G. Lack of healthcare
- H. Poorly structured economy
- I. People don't know how to utilize DWS job board
- J. Community enables panhandling
- K. Not enough police
- L. Poor coordination between support centers
- M. Legislature cutting funding to help
- N. Funding cuts for agencies
- O. Criminal element exploiting the illusion of poverty
- P. Not enough homeless shelters
- Q. Many homeless resources are downtown
- R. Population density downtown
- S. Political resistance to deal with problem
- T. Competing interest
- U. Public does not know how to respond
- V. Confusion between poverty and panhandling
- W. Business not being proactive
- X. Gang epidemic because of economic times panhandlers teaming up
- Y. Untreated mental illness
- Z. Apathy
- AA. Public and cultural image / ideas prevent us from addressing it
- AB. Single parents
- AC. Other cities sending us their panhandlers
- AD. Poor police support and response

CLARIFY AND COMBINE IDEAS

Team agreed K. and AD. are the same, I and B are the same and N. and M. are the same. K, I. and N. were crossed out.

Z. was clarified to Apathy, lack of willingness to address the problem.

Prioritize Ideas for the Root Cause

ESTABLISH SOME 'SOFT' CRITERIA

- Root cause or symptom
- % of problem attributed to root cause
- Can data be gathered on the root cause
- Do we have authority to get data

ELIMINATE THROUGH VOTING—AFTER EACH VOTE ANY IDEA THAT RECEIVED LESS THAN 2 VOTES WAS REMOVED AND THE PROCESS REPEATED.

Multi-Vote 1

A. 0 B. 7 C. 1 D. 7 E. 1 F. 4 G. 2 H. 1 J. 7
L. 3 M. 1 O. 2 P. 4 Q. 4 R. 2 S. 4 T. 3 U. 7
V. 4 W. 5 X. 2 Y. 2 Z. 4 AA. 3 AB. 0 AC. 0 AD. 5

Multi-vote 2

B. 6 D. 5 F. 4 G. 1 J. 6 L. 2 O. 0 P. 3 Q. 3 R. 0
S. 2 T. 1 U. 7 V. 2 W. 5 X. 0 Y. 3 Z. 6 AA. 0 AD. 5

Multi-vote 3

B. 6 D. 4 F. 2 J. 5 L. 0 P. 1 Q. 0
S. 0 U. 7 V. 0 W. 5 Y. 2 Z. 6 AD. 5

THE REMAINING IDEAS WE GIVEN A RANK ORDER

B. 3,1,5,1,1,6,5 = 22
D. 8,9,6,2,8,1,3 = 37
F. 9,8,1,10,10,9,6 = 53
J. 1,2,3,4,3,8,7 = 28
P. 10,5,7,8,9,7,10 = 56
U. 2,3,2,3,2,2,1 = 15
W. 7,4,4,5,6,3,4 = 33
Y. 6,6,10,9,7,10,9 = 57
Z. 4,7,8,6,4,4,2 = 35
AD. 5,10,9,7,5,5,8 = 49

Analyze Ideas for the Root Cause

Remaining root cause areas of study:

- U. Public does not know how to respond
- B. Lack of knowledge about resources
- J. Community enables panhandling
- W. Businesses not being proactive
- Z. Apathy - Lack of willingness to address problem

The team conducted several studies to ascertain which, if any, of the remaining potential root causes were legitimate. For complete methodology and survey instruments see Appendix.

Business Survey: Our team constructed and administered a survey to 140 businesses of downtown Salt Lake City. The survey was designed to gauge the establishments' perception of the incidence and type of panhandling that exists near or around their business, how panhandling affects their business and the establishments' attitudes towards public education efforts and the availability of resources specific to panhandling.

Public Survey: Public surveys of 100 random individuals in the downtown area were completed. Elements of the public survey measured the public's awareness of panhandling related information/resources, what type of information would benefit the public and the public's view of the severity of panhandling as a problem in the downtown area.

Focus Group Survey: The public survey was also administered to focus group participants, but with additional questions used to determine the focus group's emotional sentiment towards panhandling and whether they gave money to panhandlers.

Root Cause Survey Results

To empirically confirm the assumption that panhandling in the downtown area was existent, if not prevalent, employers were asked, "Panhandling occurs outside of my place of business...", with Likert Scale response options.

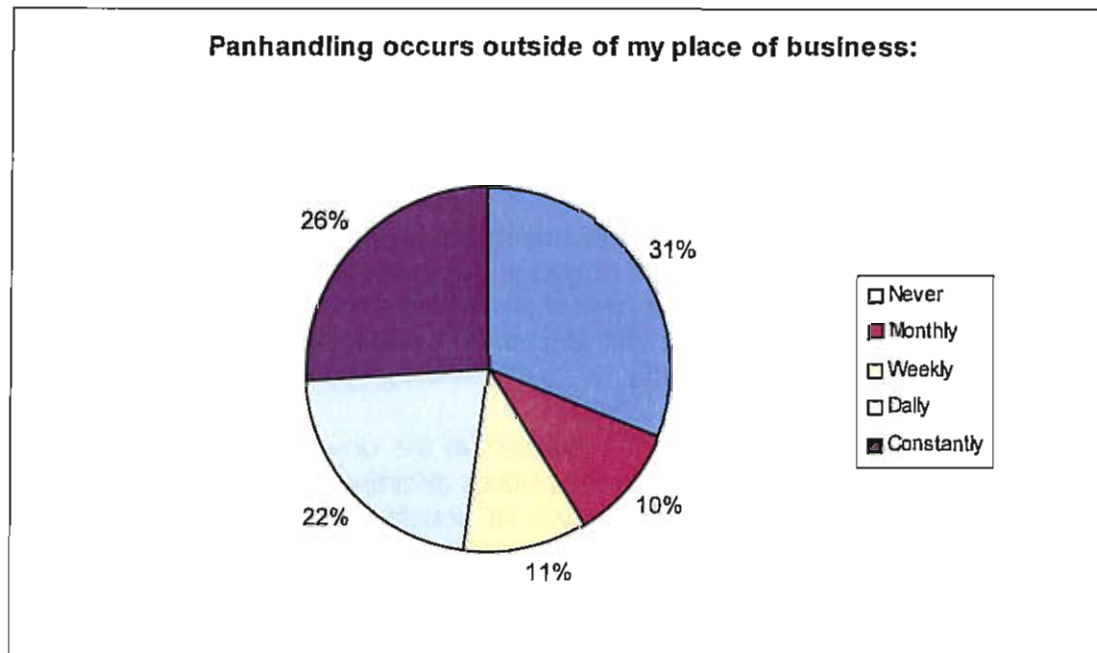


Fig. 1

As seen in Figure 1, 26% of respondents rated panhandling as a constant occurrence outside of their place of business, and almost half cited that panhandling outside of their place of business was at least a daily occurrence.

- B. Lack of knowledge about resources,
- U. Public does not know how to respond to panhandlers

To test root cause B. *Lack of knowledge about resources on how to respond to panhandling* and U. *Public does not know how to respond to panhandlers*, establishments were asked, "There is adequate information available to my business and my customers as to how to best respond to panhandlers..."

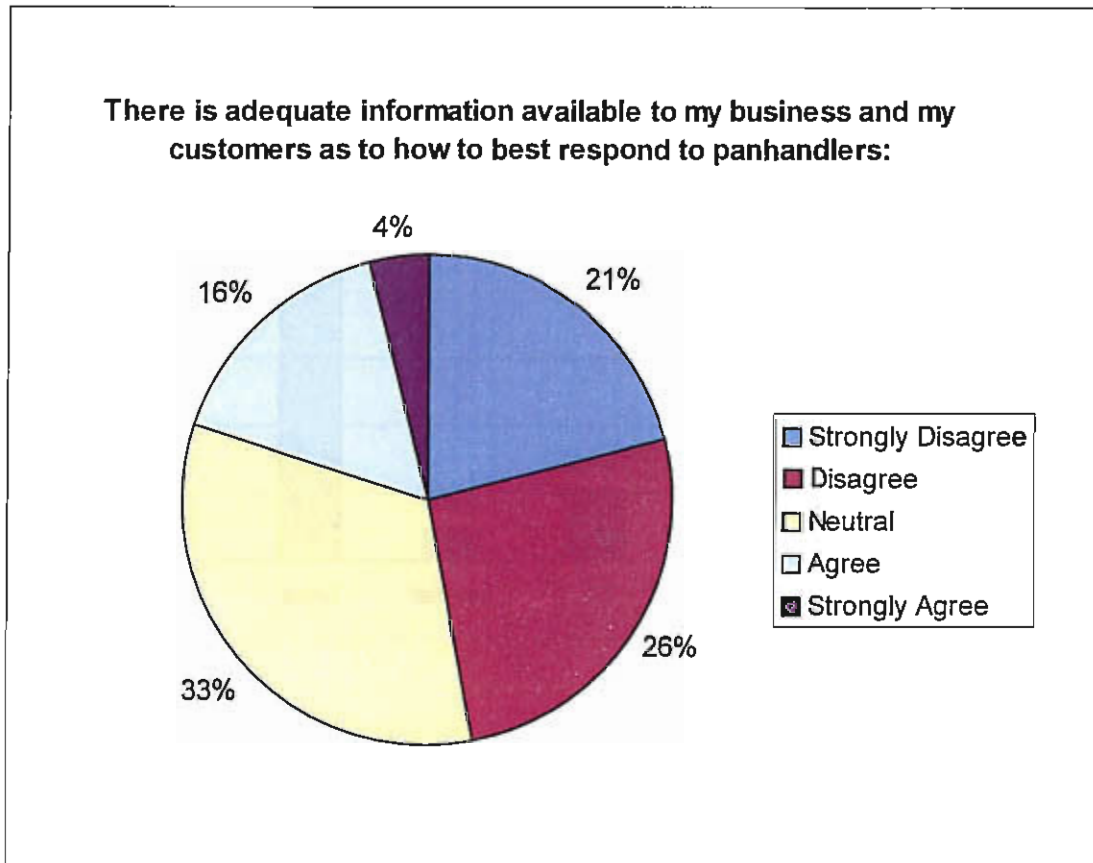


Fig. 2

Figure 2 indicates support for root causes B and U in relation to the problem, as 47% of respondents rejected the notion that adequate information on how to best respond to panhandlers was available. Further, only 20% of businesses felt panhandling related information was adequately available.

Continuing with the analysis of root cause B, the public survey and focus group survey asked about levels of awareness.

Spare Change

Public Survey

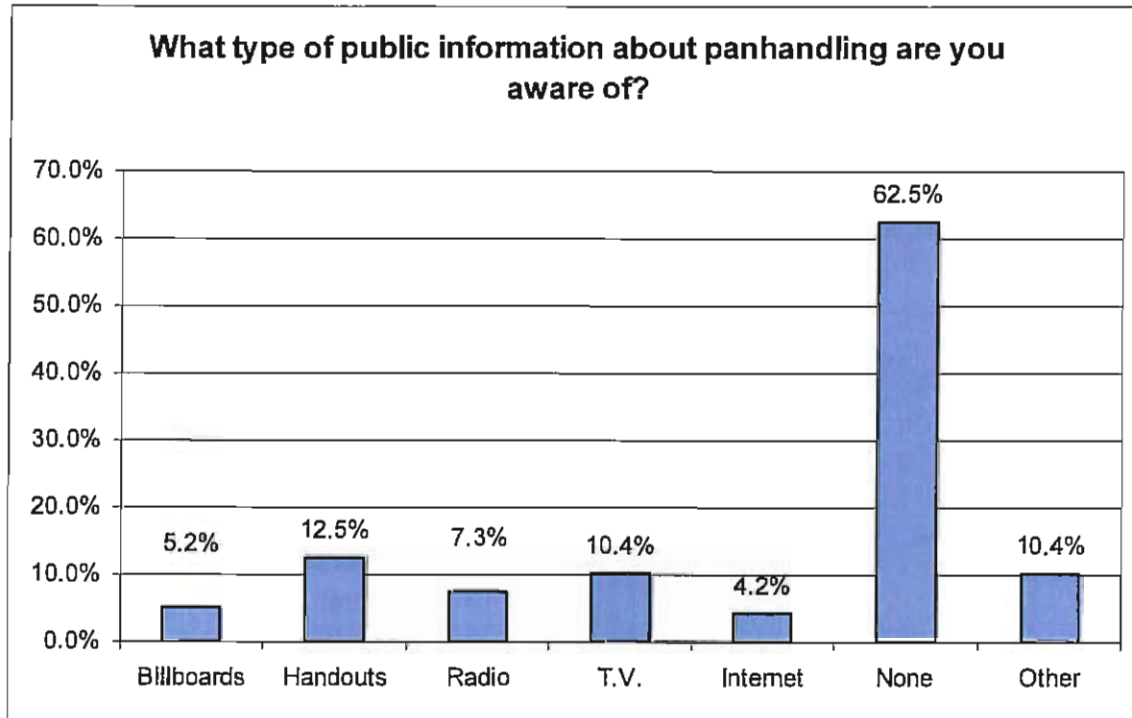


Fig. 3

Focus Group Survey

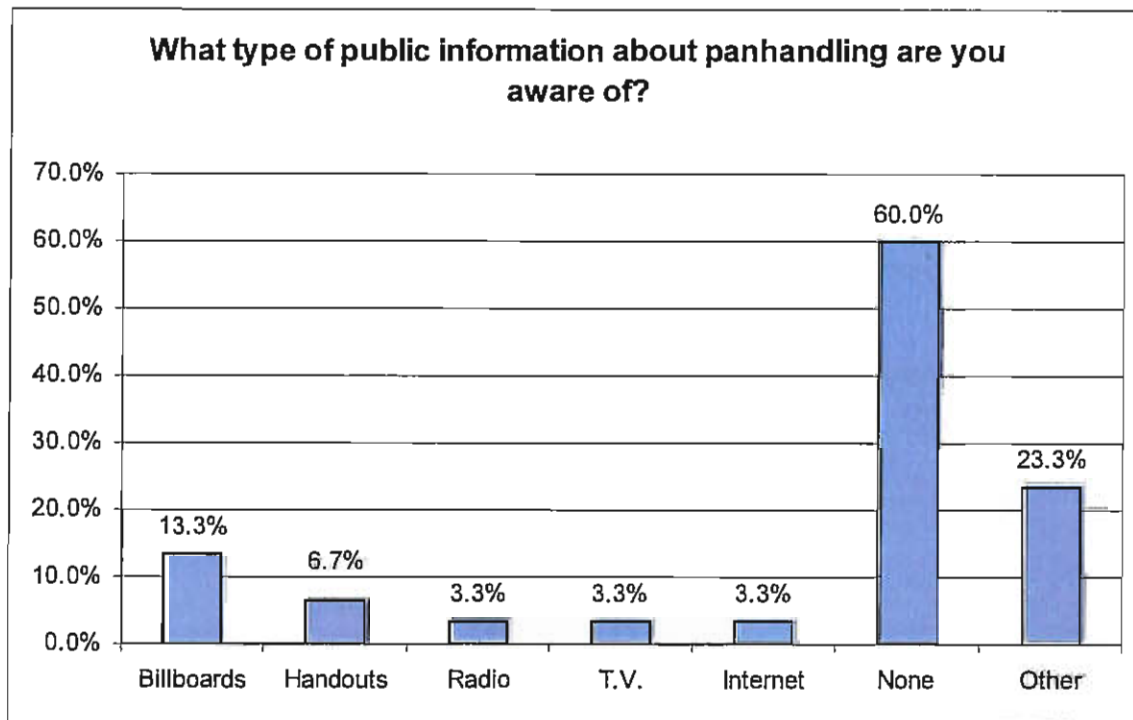


Fig. 4
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While there were some differences between the public survey and focus group survey in terms of type of media awareness, both surveys yielded results that were consistent in terms of absolute awareness, as 62.5% of the public were unaware of any public information about panhandling and 60% of the focus group participants were unaware of any public information about panhandling.

J. Community enables panhandling

To determine whether community members enable panhandling, focus group participants were asked, "Do you give money [when approached by panhandlers]?"

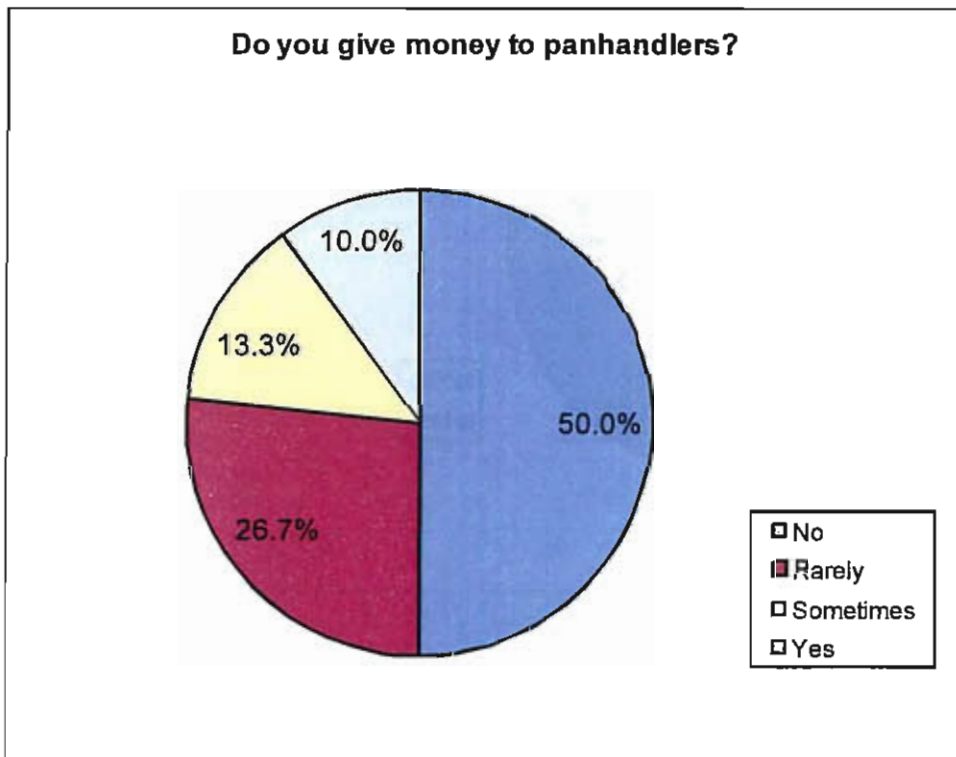


Fig. 5

With half of all respondents never giving money to panhandlers and an additional 26.7 percent rarely giving money to panhandlers the data was inconclusive. After review, it was determined that to the extent that people do give money, there is not a sufficient correlation established by the data to support J. as the primary root cause.

\$pare Change

W. Business not proactive about panhandling

Root cause W. *Business not proactive about panhandling*, was partially addressed in the business survey under the question, "My business had protocols/procedures in place to panhandling...."

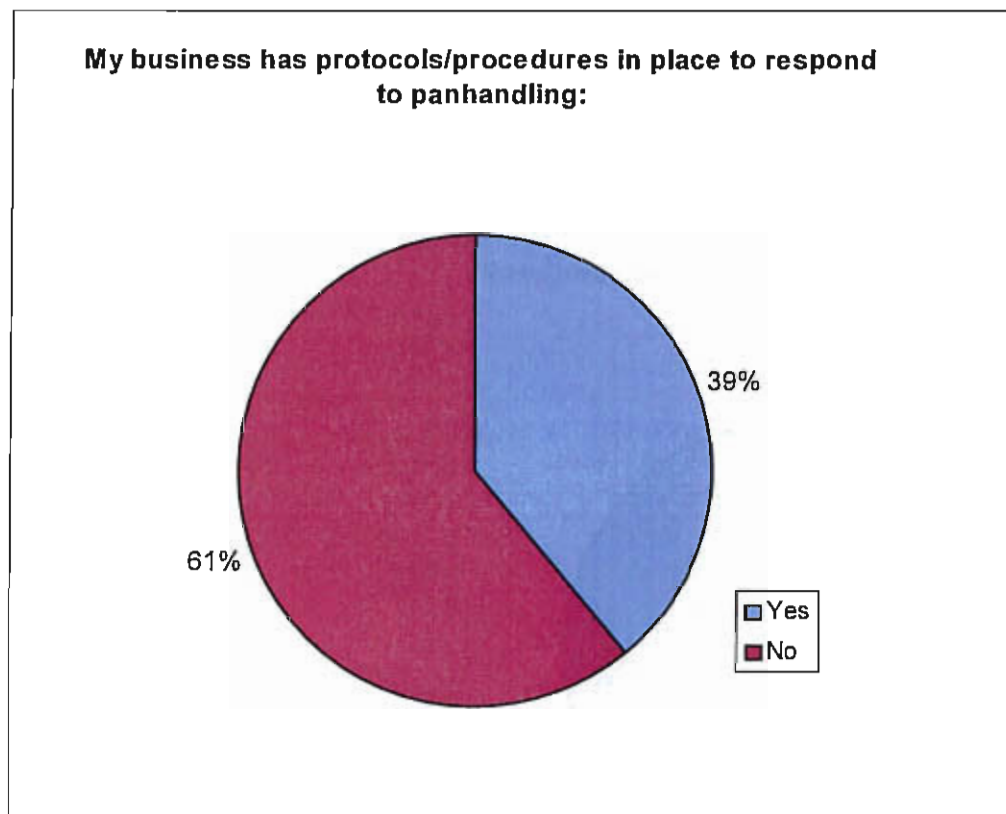


Fig. 6

The business survey found that only 39% of businesses had formal procedures in place to respond to panhandling, but to conclude that panhandling protocols are a precondition to a business taking a proactive stance on panhandling is an unproven assumption. As such, there was little data supporting potential root cause W.

Z. Apathy – Public lack of willingness to address panhandling

Business, the public, and focus group respondents shared a general attitude of willingness to participate in, and facilitate public efforts to address panhandling downtown. More concretely, 82 percent of business survey respondents stated that they are willing to participate in a follow-up study in 6 to 12 months, whereas only 14.5 percent of focus group participants cited feelings

of indifference when approached by panhandlers. The data suggest that potential root cause Z. is less significant in comparison to other identified root causes.

* Figure 2

**A composite from Figures 2, 3 and 4.

Root Cause	Symptom or RC?	% of Problem	Does Data Support?
<i>Public does not know how to respond</i>	Symptom	47%*	High
<i>Lack of knowledge about re-sources</i>	Root Cause	56.5%**	High
<i>Community enables panhandling</i>	Symptom	23.3%***	Low
<i>Business not being proactive</i>	Both	N/A	Low
<i>Apathy – Lack of willingness to address</i>	Root Cause	16.25%****	Low

***Figure 5

****Average of 14.5% of focus group members feeling indifferent and 18% of businesses not willing to participate in a follow-up study.

With agreement among all three studies, root cause B. *Lack of knowledge about resources* had the highest degree of data support. U. *Public does not know how to respond*, is a symptom of B. Focus group responses and research indicate that U. may be attributable to root cause B rather than an independent root cause. Root cause J. *Community enables panhandling*, was also determined to likely be a symptom of the underlying cause rather than a primary contributor to the issue at hand. Additionally, proposed root cause J was not confirmed through data analysis. Root cause W. *Business not being proactive* was not sufficiently substantiated. 61% of businesses claimed to have no formal policy or procedure for dealing with panhandlers, but these results do not establish a direct measurement or correlation with a being proactive. Root cause Z. *Apathy – Lack of willingness to address* had very low data support. Consequently, Root cause B. *Lack of knowledge about resources* was our selection.

Generate Ideas for a Solution

Using the GPAS model and based on the established root cause (B. lack of knowledge about resources) ideas were generated for possible solutions.

BRAINSTORMING

- A. Billboards
- B. Radio Ads
- C. Public awareness campaign
- D. Statistical analysis of data
- E. Public seminars
- F. Posters in downtown businesses
- G. TV ads
- H. Handouts
- I. Mailing inserts
- J. News clips
- K. Studying most effective method of education
- L. Community network
- M. Data driven public education campaign
- N. Increase support for homeless shelters
- O. More partnerships with community
- P. Public service announcements
- Q. Spare change meters
- R. News community outreach stories
- S. Promotion of 211.org
- T. Resource cards
- U. Website
- V. Internet campaign

CLARIFY AND COMBINE

Ideas were clarified and combined C. and D. to M. and combined S. to U. J. to R. which left 18 ideas remaining.

Prioritize Ideas for a Solution

ESTABLISH SOME 'SOFT' CRITERIA

- Management buy-in
- Time to implement
- Can data be gathered
- % of problem fixed by solution

ELIMINATE THROUGH VOTING—AFTER EACH VOTE ANY IDEA THAT RECEIVED LESS THAN 2 VOTES WAS REMOVED AND THE PROCESS REPEATED.

Multi-Vote 1

A.3, B.4, E.2, F.6, G.1, H.1, I.2, K.8, L.2, M.7, N.5, O.6, P.3, Q.7, R.5, T.3, U.7, V.4.

Multi-Vote 2

F.6, K.8, M.7, Q.6, T.7, U.7.

THE REMAINING IDEAS WE GIVEN A RANK ORDER

K. Studying most effective method of education – Ranked 2nd
M. Data driven public education campaign – Ranked 1st
U. Website – Ranked 3rd

OUTCOME:

K. Studying most effective method of education
M. Data driven public education campaign
U. Website

Analyze Ideas for a Solution

Solution Options Remaining

- K. Studying most effective method of public education
- M. Implement a data driven public education campaign
- U. Launch a website/direct to 211.org

Analyze

- K. Studying most effective method of public education

Potential Solution K. *Studying most effective method of public education* was addressed in the public and focus group studies.

Public Survey

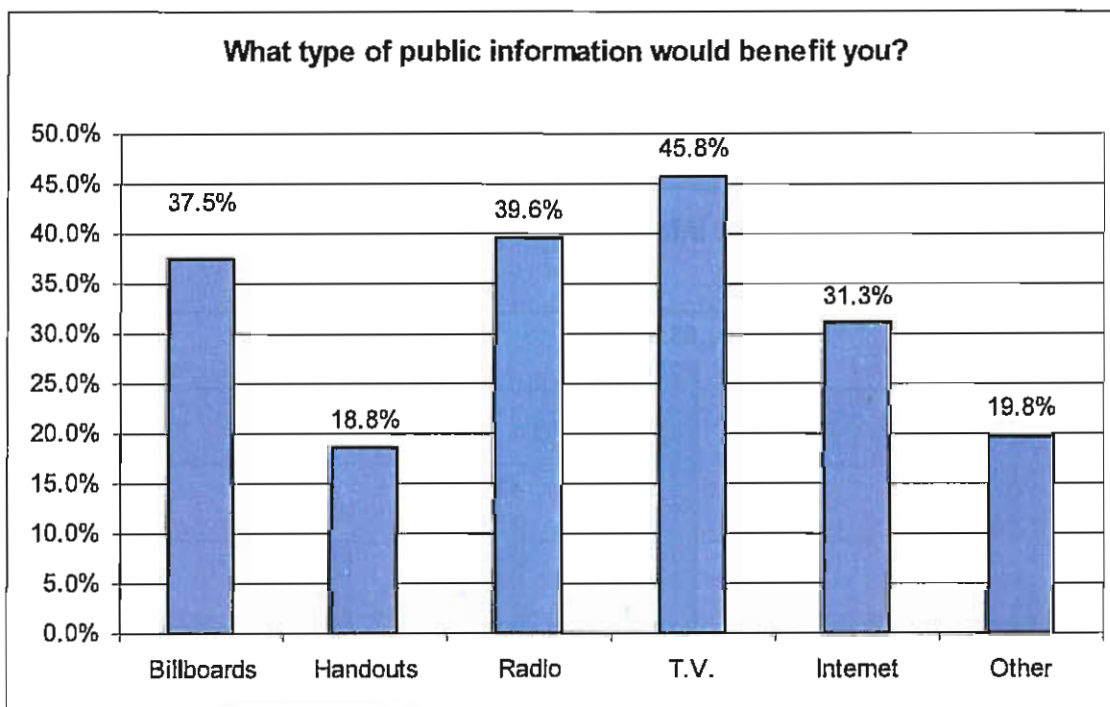


Fig. 7

\$pare Change

Public Survey

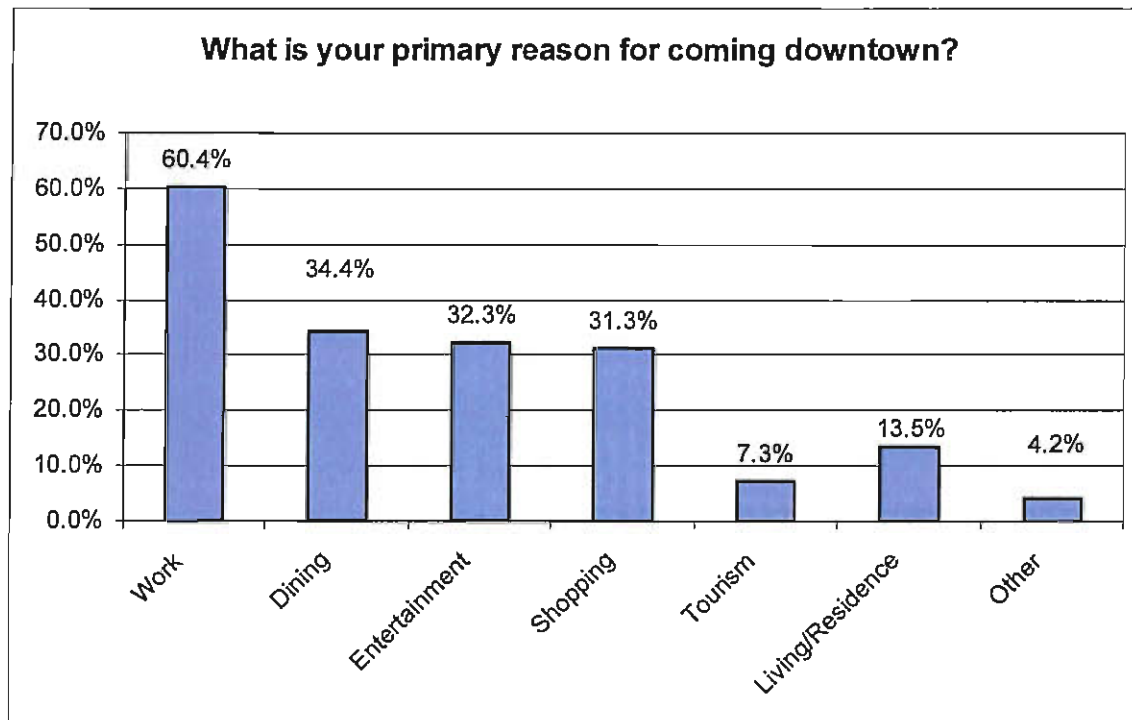
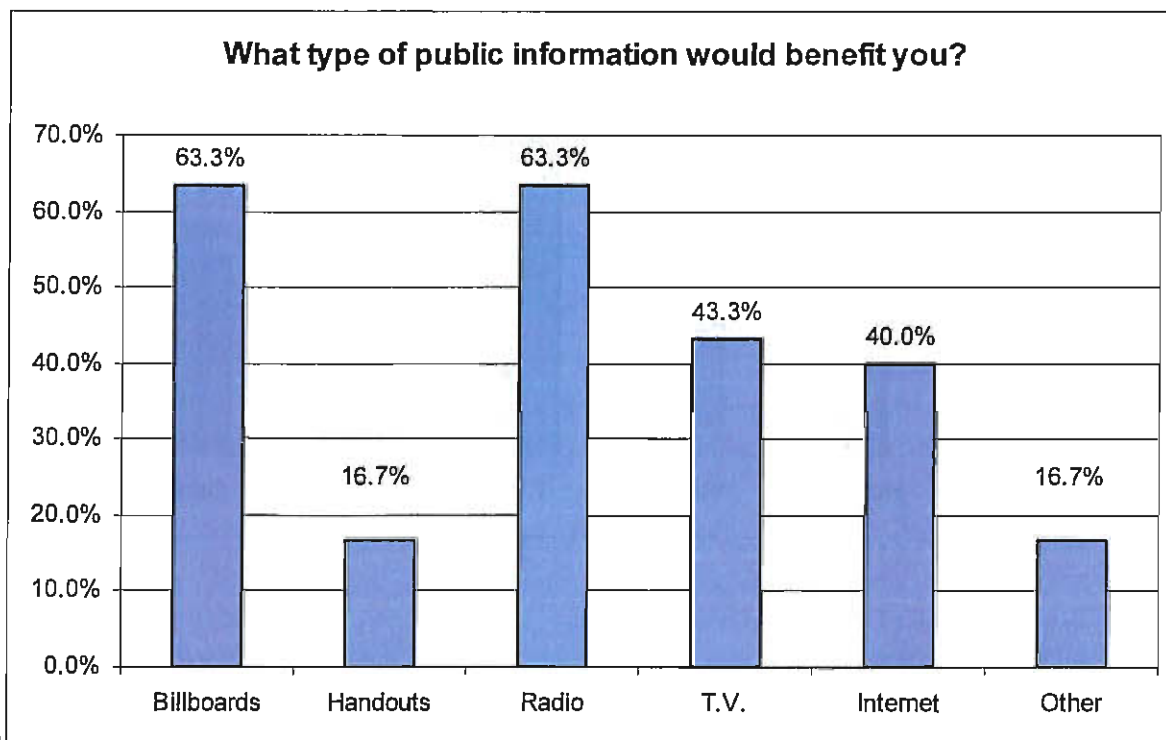


Fig.8

Focus Group Survey



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Fig 9

Focus Group Survey

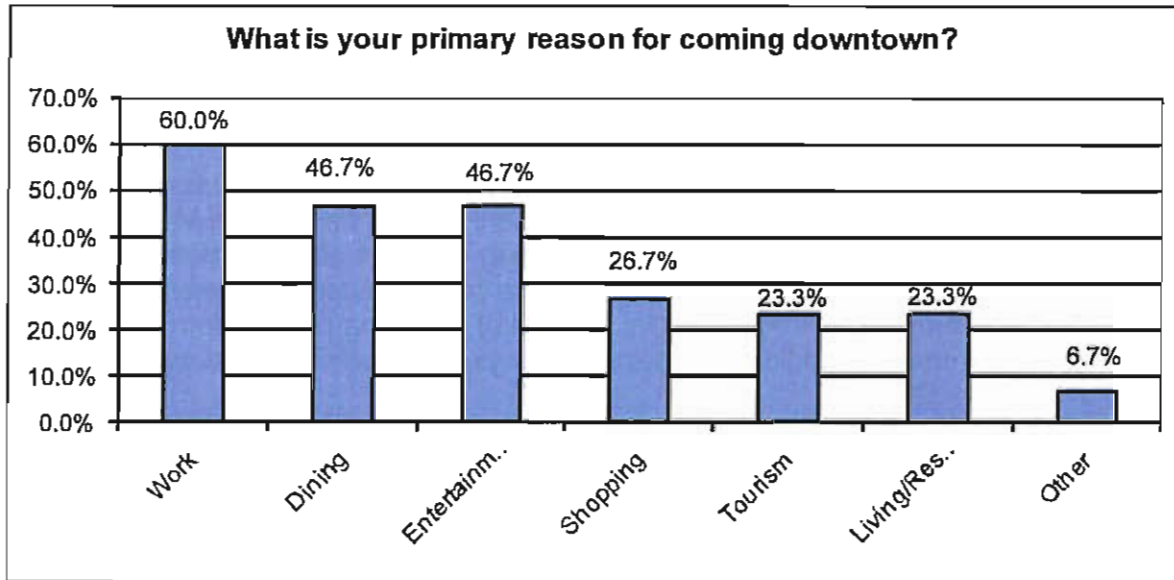


Fig 10

The focus group study participants favored billboards and radio as the preferred method of information dissemination, at 63.3%. Among the public survey respondents 37.5% favored billboards and 39.6% supported radio. As for the remaining avenues of publicity, "handouts", "T.V.", "internet" and "other", the variability of support between the focus group and the public survey respondents was relatively low; however, "T.V." was the highest scoring shared media option, as 45.8% of public survey members. 43.3% of focus group participants cited it as a favorable option. Both groups appeared to represent a similar demographic, with the leading reason for downtown presence was "work" for both the focus group and public survey respondents, followed by "dining and entertainment" for the focus group participants, and "dining" and then "entertainment" for public survey respondents.

Addressing potential root cause K. *Studying most effective method of public education*, the data suggest that the downtown public is mostly made up of workers, diners and those seeking entertainment. The surveyed groups indicate that the preferred method for relaying messages regarding panhandling was first "billboards (including bus/TRAX signs)" and "radio" followed by TV. Respondents generally disliked handouts and leaflets.

U) Launch a website/direct to 211.org

Figures 7 and 9 speak to potential solution U. *Launch a website/direct to 211.org*. Results from both surveys indicate that the "internet" was the fourth preferred method of obtaining information on panhandling, behind "Billboards", "Radio", and "T.V."

Spare Change

M. Implement a data driven public education campaign

With further evaluating of the proposed solutions, it appears that potential solution K. *Studying most effective method of public education*, is a component of potential solution M. *Implement a data driven public education campaign*. Simply studying the most effective method of public education would not solve the selected root cause, [the public's] *Lack of knowledge about resources*. However, studying the most effective method of delivering public information on this topic may be a requirement of implementing an effective public education campaign.

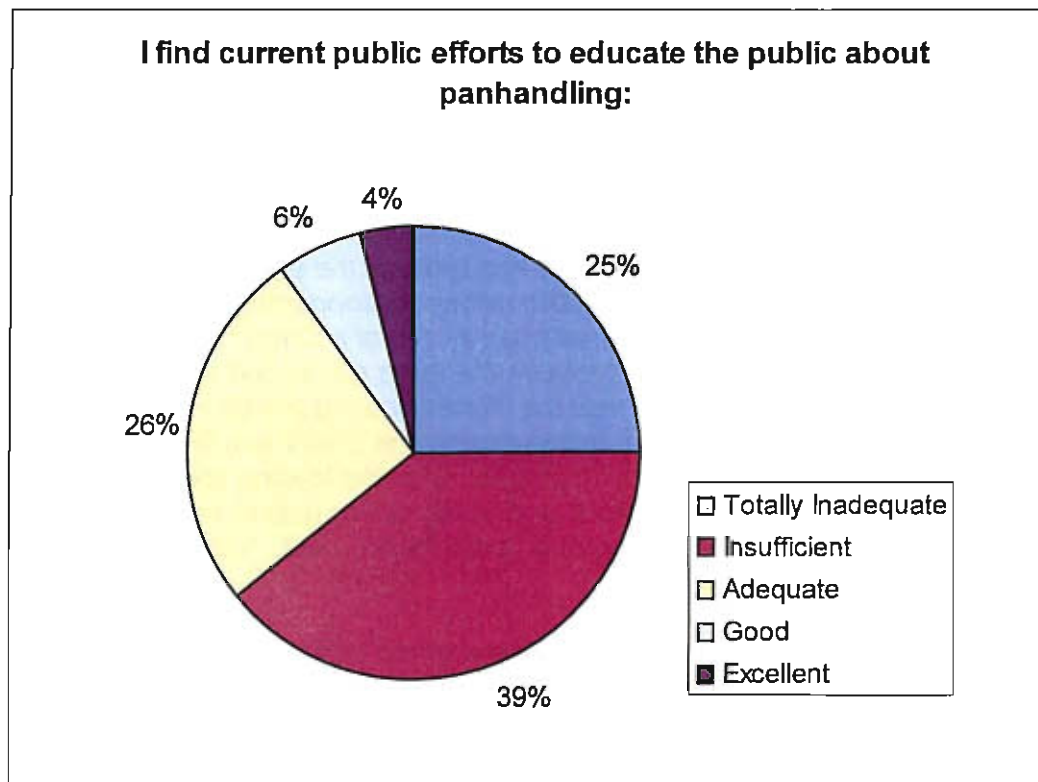


Fig 11

Figure 11 illustrates an expressed need for a public education campaign with 64% of downtown businesses surveyed finding public efforts to educate the public about panhandling either insufficient or totally inadequate.

Solution	Address the Root Cause?	% of Root Cause?	Does Data Support?
<i>Studying most effective method of public education</i>	Indirectly	0%*	High
<i>Implement a data driven public education campaign</i>	Yes	64%**	High
<i>Launch a website/direct to 211.org</i>	Yes	35.65%***	Medium

*No data directly relating to root cause

**Figure 11

***Composite of figures 7 and 9

Potential solution K. *Studying most effective method of public education* can be eliminated as it only indirectly relates to the root cause. Potential solution U. *Launch a website/direct to 211.org*, is an application of potential solution M. *Implement a data driven public education campaign*, which does not necessarily eliminate U. from selection, but considering that the "internet" received relatively lower data support as an avenue of dissemination, potential solution U was not our selection. Potential solution M. *Implement a data driven public education campaign* was our selection as it directly related to the root cause and had the highest data support.

Focus Group Summary Report

OVERVIEW

In order to obtain information on public awareness for panhandling, the CPM Group developed three assessments with the purpose of engaging the public in the project, to receive comments and statistical information for stakeholders to establish a benchmark. This report summarizes the focus group discussions

Four focus groups were conducted and each consisted of six to ten participants. The focus groups represented the following demographics:

- Downtown Salt Lake Employees
- Downtown Tourist Group
- Downtown Salt Lake Residents I
- Downtown Salt Lake Residents II

METHODOLOGY

During the focus group sessions, participants were provided with a brief overview of the project and the primary objective for the session. The participants were also given the public survey to complete, and presented with the Summit Group's three possible panhandling campaign ads. The slogan proposals were as follows:

- *"Where Spare Change Becomes Real Change"*
- *"Give Without Being Taken"*
- *"Create More Opportunities, Not More Panhandling"*

Next, the facilitators read the three campaign slogans and provided the participants with the focus group questionnaire. They were instructed to use post-it-notes to write down their initial responses and opinions. Six questions composed the focus group questionnaire. The questions are:

1. What is your first impression of the three slogans?
2. What advertising method do you think would be most effective?
3. What parts of the message resonate most strongly with you?
4. What do you like least about these messages?
5. Which of these slogans do you believe will be the most effective in changing other people's behaviors?
6. Which of the slogans do you like best?

Spare Change

The facilitators then moderated an open discussion of the focus group questions.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. First Impression of the Three Slogans

"Where Spare Change Becomes Real Change"

Participants found this slogan to be the most positive and optimistic. It was noted as being attention getting and thought provoking. However, some participants thought the message was too ambiguous, and expressed that the general public might not understand what the slogan was advertising.

"Give Without Being Taken"

Participants thought this slogan had a negative skew. Many stated that they did not like the connotation of the word "taken." Yet, a few participants liked the directness of the slogan. One individual expressed that the slogan gives the message that not all panhandlers need what you are giving them. Participants also believed the slogan was somewhat vague and did not fully communicate the intended message.

"Create More Opportunities, Not More Panhandling"

Participants overall felt this slogan was most effective in communicating the intended purpose of the campaign. It was strongly affirmed that the word "panhandling" was an important part of the message. While described as slightly verbose, it was referred to as effective. Participants liked that it offers a possible solution. However, participants thought it was the least attention getting.

2. Preferred Advertising Methods.

The participants for the focus groups were open to various forms of mass media communication. Billboards, posters, public postings and bus signs had the strongest positive response. It was stated that if it was an outdoor print campaign targeting the downtown area, it would have an immediate and effective impact, as they would be able to make a connection between seeing the ads and seeing real panhandlers within the same timeframe.

Radio advertising also received a highly favorable response. The participants stated they spend a significant amount of time listening to the radio while commuting and while working.

Participants also liked the idea of a television campaign. They expressed that it would have the widest audience and that they would watch a commercial or editorial new segment that featured the campaign. However, it was agreed that billboards would have a more immediate impact and correlation than television.

Print media such as hand-outs, mailers, flyers, brochures and newspaper articles had the least

favorable response. While some agreed that a newspaper ad or article could be a good source of information, it would be the least viewed and likely forgotten. The focus groups tended to view handouts, mailers and flyers as a nuisance.

The focus groups also believed that a website would be highly important to promote when using other forms of media. The majority of the participants stated that if they were engaged in the message, they would visit a website to obtain more information.

3. Most Affective Component of Each Slogan

"Where Spare Change Becomes Real Change"

Beyond initial impressions, the focus groups tended to find this message the most positive and "catchy." Participants liked that it was short and easy to remember.

"Give Without Being Taken"

Generally, the groups appreciate the short and direct structure of the slogan. However, the groups were divided over the word "taken." Some found it to be straight forward and powerful, while other believed it was too negative.

"Create More Opportunities, Not More Panhandling"

Participants liked that this slogan had the clearest message and would be understood by a wide audience. Participant's liked that it provided a solution and encouraged people to donate to a credible institution. Participants also liked the word "Opportunities."

4. Least Affective Components of the Slogans

Feedback from the participants affirms that the slogans need more clarity. *"Where Spare Change Becomes Real Change"* and *"Give Without Being Taken"* were often referred to as being too broad and unclear about the purpose of the message.

Some of the participants did not like the font, while others did not like the colors. Some believed the images related more to streets than panhandling. Also, many believed that the text, below the main slogan was too long and the font too small to have an impact. It was expressed that listing a website address would be more effective.

5. Most Effective Slogan

When asked what would be the most effective slogan to effective other peoples behavior, 60 percent of individuals from all four focus groups stated *"Create More Opportunities, Not More*

Spare Change

Panhandling." This was followed by 27 percent for *"Where Spare Change Becomes Real Change"* and 13 percent for *"Give Without Being Taken."*

6. Favorite Slogan

In contrast to the most likely to change behavior, when asked for their personal favorite, 53 percent selected *"Create More Opportunities, Not More Panhandling."* 27 percent selected *"Where Spare Change Becomes Real Change"* and 20 percent for *"Give Without Being Taken."*

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the participants of the four qualitative focus groups all agreed that panhandling was a significant problem affecting downtown Salt Lake City. During the open discussions, many expressed that they wanted to reduce the feelings of pressure, guilt and threats from panhandlers. It was agreed that an effective campaign could have a positive influence through educating the public by teaching them how to respond to panhandlers and providing them with option to contribute to people in need of assistance.

The focus groups affirmed that a campaign slogan needs to be short, direct and contain the word "panhandling." The participants were open to various types of mass media, but believed outdoor print media, such as billboards, posters and bus signs would be most effective, in addition to radio ads. It was also agreed that a website address should be strong tied into the campaign. Of the possible campaign slogans suggested, more than 50 percent of the participants expressed *"Create More Opportunities, Not More Panhandling"* was both the most effective in changing behaviors and their personal favorite.

CPM Taskforce Final Recommendations

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

- Utilization of multiple types of media formats
- Primary efforts - billboards and public transit signs
- Radio – Drive time & PSA's
- Television – Special interest news stories emphasized
- Include website with statistical information and donation portal
 - *Consider partnership 211.org*

SLOGANS

- Need to be short, direct and include the word panhandling
- Need to include website
- Of the current slogans we recommend the slogan "create more opportunities not more panhandlers", as the other slogans didn't clarify what the message was about

FOLLOW-UP

- Referencing the baseline data contained in this report a 12 month follow-up survey of businesses of downtown consumers should be conducted for a quantitative measurement of campaign impact
- Follow-up surveys should utilize enclosed surveys and consistent methodology to insure valid data acquisition & measurement
 - *The follow up survey instruments are included in Word format on the accompanying disc*



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Whats being done about panhandling downtown?
Photo: Wordpress.com

Panhandling, Homelessness and Downtown Baltimore

August 18th, 2010 4:25 pm ET

By Jason Jenkins, Inner Harbor Examiner

If you live downtown there are a few things you get used to: a lack of parking, tourist who walk and drive at a snail's pace and do not know how to parallel park, and panhandling.

Panhandling, to the tourist and weekend party-goer are just annoyances that must be dealt with during your visit to the city. However, for those of us who live and work here, our experience with the guy asking for spare change on the corner has a very different dynamic. These are people we interact with on a frequent basis where to some extent a relationship is formed. Look at the comments that poured in for Leroy "The Mayor of Baltimore" when the City Paper wrote an article on his incarceration. I would not consider Leroy a panhandler per se but he is one of those street personalities that is well known by many generations of downtown inhabitants. So is panhandling just a common ingredient in the recipe of urban life or is it a scourge on business and tourism?

Many downtown organizations have made attempts to see what types of impact panhandling has on the area. In 2009, The Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association and the Downtown Partnership hired a Philadelphia consulting firm, Econsult Corp, to study the economic impact of panhandling on the city's tourism business. The City for years has attempted to deter panhandling and there are several laws in place to curb aggressive panhandling. For instance, Baltimore prohibits aggressive panhandling in public places and at night. The laws also ban panhandling of individuals within 10 feet of ATM machines, waiting for public transit and driving cars stopped in traffic (Hello President Street!). Violations could carry up to a \$100 fine. (Fining homeless people begging for money will serve as a deterrent! LOL) The city's problems with panhandlers are popping up in online travel reviews of hotels and attractions posted by visitors. There are fears that negative reviews could put a damper on future tourism and business.

Before you believe that this is Baltimore's business community's attempt to wage war on the homeless, think again. Panhandling and homelessness are two different issues. The City has created "The Journey Home"- a 10 year program to end homelessness in Baltimore by 2018. This project attempts to bring together businesses, not-for-profit and faith-based organizations and citizens to tackle this complex social and public health crisis. The Journey Home plans to go about its mission with a 4 prong attack: (1) Creating affordable housing (2) Providing comprehensive healthcare (3) Maintaining sufficient incomes and (4) Providing comprehensive prevention and emergency services. For more information concerning the program go to www.journeyhomebaltimore.org.

An option put in place in 2008 by Baltimore and the Downtown Partnership was the conversion of old parking meters into donation meters in downtown to offer visitors another charitable option without giving to panhandlers. Those donations total about \$100 a month from 10 meters, which goes to citywide outreach programs offered by the Baltimore Homeless Services Inc. 17 additional meters were added in January 2009.

Presently, all attempts to find the results of the Econsult Corp study proved to be fruitless. Also, there was a lack of information on how successful the meter program has been over the last year – and here lies the problem. If Baltimore wants its citizens to partake in alternatives to giving directly to panhandlers in order to curb aggressive panhandling, it must make its citizens aware of the alternatives. Only with a true promotional campaign throughout downtown can we then assess a program's effectiveness.

THE PLAN



The Journey Home is Baltimore City's 10-year plan to end homelessness in Baltimore City by 2018. The plan brings together businesses, not-for-profit and faith-based organizations and concerned citizens like you to address this complex social and public health crisis.

Homelessness is NOT a permanent condition. Our vision is that, within ten years, homelessness in Baltimore City will be rare and brief.

[Goals](#) [The Planning Process](#) [Leadership & Partners](#) [Participate](#)
[Download the Full Plan](#)

GOALS

The Journey Home plan has four primary objectives:

Affordable Housing

It is estimated that there are about two poor renters for every affordable

1

housing unit in Baltimore City, and more than 16,000 households are on the waiting list for assisted housing.

Solution: Baltimore will create and maintain a supply of housing sufficient to rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families.

2

Comprehensive Healthcare

According to Health Care for the Homeless (2005), 80% of clients served in their health clinic lacked comprehensive health insurance. Forty-one percent of the homeless surveyed in 2007 reported struggling with substance abuse, and 16% reported mental illness.

Solution: Baltimoreans will have access to comprehensive and affordable health care including mental health services and addiction treatment by 2018.

3

Sufficient Incomes

Baltimore City has a large proportion of citizens at the lower end of the wage scale. Almost two-thirds of City households earn less than 80% of the Area Median Income.

Solution: Baltimore workers will earn a wage sufficient to afford housing; sufficient funding for public benefits will prevent the homelessness of recipients.

4

Comprehensive Preventive and Emergency Services

It is difficult for those in need to access shelter and services in Baltimore City, largely due to insufficient funding.

Solution: By 2018, Baltimore City will have sufficient capacity to identify and respond to individuals and families at risk of homelessness, to provide immediate emergency shelter and to transition from emergency shelter into permanent housing with appropriate supportive services within 30 days.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Nationally, many cities, states and regions have developed 10-year plans for ending homelessness. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake is leading the charge here in Baltimore, inspired by best practices nationwide.

The Mayor's office worked with a 32-member **Civic Leadership Council** to formulate the plan. The council included representatives of local businesses, philanthropies, service providers, and other leading city agencies and organizations.

More than 150 advocates, government officials, service providers and other experts served on **committees and workgroups** supporting the plan.

The City also engaged people experiencing homelessness in the planning process through focus groups in which they shared their opinions about the most needed services and the most likely interventions for ending homelessness.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

Baltimore Homeless Services led the planning process and is working with **United Way of Central Maryland** to recruit support, raise funds and implement the plan.

The Journey Home **Advisory Board** provides ongoing support for the effort.

PARTICIPATE

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services, maps, and directions!**

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★ Baltimore MD

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Search Criteria (Program Services): Job Readiness/Adult Education;



Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake Headquarters

222 E Redwood Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 837-1800

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

Updated September 2010;

0.12
miles

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)



Baltimore Housing Community Action Partnership Human Services Division

417 E Fayette Street, 12th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

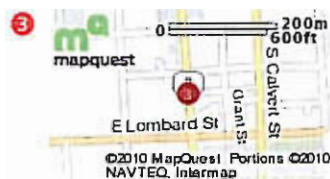
County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 396-3228/Fax: (410) 396-3362

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

Updated April 2010;

0.13
miles

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**America Works of Maryland**

0.14 miles

22 Light St
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 County: Baltimore City
 Phone: (410) 625-9675/Fax: (410) 625-7576
 E-Mail Address: info@americaworks.com
 Program Website: [Click for link](#)
 Hours of Operation: 9am-5pm M-F
 Bus/Rail Lines: Light rail
 POPULATION: Adults, Ex-Offenders;
 PAYMENT: No Fee; SPECIAL SVCS:
 Veterans Programs, Disabled Accessible,
 Multi-lingual Svcs - Spanish; Updated
 November 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**Job Opportunities Task Force (Referrals Only)**

0.14 miles

111 Water Street, Suite 201
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 County: Baltimore City
 Phone: (410) 234-8040/Fax: (410) 234-8929
 E-Mail Address: jason@jotf.org
 Program Website: [Click for link](#)
 Updated June 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**Baltimore Substance Abuse System, Inc. (Provides Referrals Only)**

0.14 miles

1 N Charles Street, Suite 1600
 Baltimore, MD 21201
 County: Baltimore City
 Phone: (410) 637-1900/Fax: (410) 637-1911
 E-Mail Address: CMS-Admin@bSASinc.org
 Program Website: [Click for link](#)
 POPULATION: Clients w/ Sub. Abuse Issues;
 Updated April 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

6

Baltimore Reads

0.16 miles

31 S. Calvert St., 4th Floor



Baltimore, MD 21202
County: Baltimore City
Phone: (410) 752-3595/Fax: (410) 752-0677
E-Mail Address: info@baltimorereads.org
Program Website: [Click for link](#)
 Updated September 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)



Job Corps
 218 N Charles Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
County: Baltimore City
Phone: (410) 625-8400
E-Mail Address:
national_office@jobcorps.gov
Program Website: [Click for link](#)
 Updated September 2010;

0.16
miles

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)



Baltimore City Community College, Harbor Campus
 600 E Lombard Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
County: Baltimore City
Phone: (410) 462-8500/(888) 203-1621
Program Website: [Click for link](#)
Hours of Operation: 8am-8pm M-F; 9am-1pm Sat
 Updated September 2010;

0.30
miles

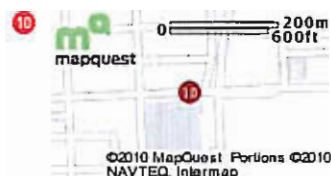
[GET DIRECTIONS](#)



Baltimore City Community College, Adult Basic Education Program, Harbor/Liberty Campuses
 600 E Lombard Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
County: Baltimore City
Phone: (410) 986-5444/(410) 986-5432/Fax: (410) 986-5441
E-Mail Address: mwesterbeek@bccc.edu
Program Website: [Click for link](#)
 Updated September 2010;

0.30
miles

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)


Division of Library Development and Services

0.32 miles

200 W Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 767-0436

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

Bus/Rail Lines: Available; call for info

POPULATION: Children/Youth, Adults,
Families, Women w/Children, Homeless;

PAYMENT: No Fee; SPECIAL SVCS: Multi-
lingual Svcs - Spanish; Updated March 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

Maryland State Department of Education

0.32 miles

200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

County: Baltimore

Phone: (410) 767-0600

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

Updated October 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

My Sister's Place Lodge (ACC)

0.37 miles

111 W Mulberry Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 528-9002/Fax: (410) 528-9004

E-Mail Address: rspruell@cc-md.org

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

DRUG TREATMENT: Long Term Residential;

POPULATION: Females Only, Clients w/
Mental Illness;

Updated March 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

Families That Work

0.37 miles

17 W Franklin St

Baltimore, MD 21201

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 659-3750

E-Mail Address: lmitchell@mail.hebcac.org

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

Hours of Operation: 8:30am-4:30pm M-F

Updated September 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**My Sister's Place Women's Center**0.37
miles

17 W Franklin St

Baltimore, MD 21201

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 727-3523/Fax: (410) 727-1611

E-Mail Address: vtaranti@cc-md.orgProgram Website: [Click for link](#)

Only open 7am to 7pm. Provides showers, meals, laundry and phones between those times. Offers meal service 7 days a week. Call for meal hours.

HOUSING: Drop-in;

POPULATION: Females Only, Women

w/Children;

Updated March 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**Baltimore City Community College, Adult Education and English Language Services**0.39
miles

710 E Lombard St

Baltimore, MD 21202

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 986-5444

Program Website: [Click for link](#)

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm M-F

Bus/Rail Lines: Available; call for info

Updated November 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**Maryland Center For Veterans' Education and Training**0.39
miles

301 N High Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 576-9626/Fax: (410) 576-9628

E-Mail Address: info@mcvet.orgProgram Website: [Click for link](#)

HOUSING: Transitional;

SPECIAL SVCS: Veterans Programs; Updated March 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

17

Maryland Center for Veterans Education

0.39

**and Training, Inc.**

miles

301-321 N High Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 576-9626/Fax: (410) 576-9628

E-Mail Address: info@mcvet.orgProgram Website: [Click for link](#)

HOUSING: Drop-in, Emergency/Overnight, Transitional, Supportive Permanent;

POPULATION: Adults;

SPECIAL SVCS: Veterans Programs; Updated March 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**Maryland New Directions**

0.55 miles

611 Park Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21201

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 230-0630/Fax: (410) 230-0275

E-Mail Address: info@mdnewdirections.orgProgram Website: [Click for link](#)

Hours of Operation: 8:30am-4:30pm M-F

Bus/Rail Lines: 3, 11, 22, 44, Centre Street Light Rail

POPULATION: Adults, Ex-Offenders;

PAYMENT: No Fee, Sliding Scale; Updated October 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)**Helping Up Mission**

0.55 miles

1029 E Baltimore Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

County: Baltimore City

Phone: (410) 675-7500/Fax: (410) 675-0248

E-Mail Address: jhill@helpingup.orgProgram Website: [Click for link](#)

Hours of Operation: 24/7

Bus/Rail Lines: Available; call for info

Participation in religious activities is required.

DRUG TREATMENT: Long Term Residential;

HIV/STD TESTING: Anonymous, Oral;

HOUSING: Drop-in, Emergency/Overnight, Transitional;

SUPPORT GROUP: 12 Step/Recovery, Health, Mental Health;

POPULATION: Males Only, Adults, Men

w/Children, Homeless, Ex-Offenders, Clients

w/HIV/AIDS, Mental Illness, Sub. Abuse

Issues, Dual Diagnosis;

PAYMENT: No Fee; SPECIAL SVCS:

Veterans Programs, Disabled Accessible;

Updated February 2010;

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

Christopher Place Employment Academy 0.55 miles
725 Fallsway
Baltimore, MD 21202
County: Baltimore City
Phone: (443) 986-9000/Fax: (410) 962-8933
Program Website: [Click for link](#)
DRUG TREATMENT: Short Term Residential;
POPULATION: Males Only;
Updated September 2010;

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November 8, 2010

Dear Salt Lake City Council:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend one very specific amendment to Mayor Becker's proposed ordinance limiting commercial solicitation. We have other philosophical and legal concerns with the ordinance but feel this specific problem is worth highlighting because we believe it is something Council Members will likely reach a consensus on, regardless of their positions on other parts of the ordinance.

Our specific concern is with the name of the offense. "Commercial solicitation" is too close in name to the offenses, "sexual solicitation" and "solicitation of prostitution". In Utah, "sexual solicitation" is a class B misdemeanor-- just like the proposed new offense of "commercial solicitation". It is possible that people, particularly females, convicted of the offense "commercial solicitation" in Salt Lake City will be unfairly stigmatized as having been convicted of an offense involving prostitution if they travel to other parts of the country.

Mayor Becker has made it very clear that his goal with this ordinance is to outlaw aggressive panhandling, not all panhandling. Why not simply rename the offense created by this ordinance something like "aggressive panhandling" or "aggressive begging"? A name like that would be more in accord with the Mayor's intent. It would also make the intent of the Council more clear for police officers who, in future years, cannot be expected to remember that the council was actually concerned with "aggressive panhandling" when it outlawed "commercial solicitation." The possibility of this offense being enforced in an unconstitutional way will be seriously diminished if the name of the offense is more clearly related to the behavior it is intended to discourage.

For this reason, we ask the Council to amend the ordinance so that all references to "commercial solicitation" are changed to something more clear like "aggressive panhandling" or "aggressive begging".

Sincerely,

Gina Cornia
Executive Director
Utahns Against Hunger

Linda F. Smith
Professor and Clinical Program Director
S. J. Quinney College of Law
University of Utah

Bill Tibbitts
Anti-Hunger Project Director
Crossroads Urban Center

Weeks, Russell

From: Danica Farley [danica@downtownslc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2009 3:43 PM
Subject: End Panhandling Campaign Press Release

Categories: Other

October 6, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Danica Farley
Organization: Downtown Alliance
Phone: (801) 333-1105

End Panhandling: Campaign Kick Off

Salt Lake City- The Downtown Alliance today unveiled a new educational campaign designed to discourage donations to panhandlers and encourage donations to local social service organizations.

Mayor Ralph Becker (Salt Lake City), Jason Mathis (executive director of the Downtown Alliance), Bill Paulos (president of The Summit Group) and Jake Boyer (chair of the Salt Lake Chamber), addressed problems associated with panhandling and presented an educational campaign to discouraged panhandling.

"The campaign is multi-year and multi-faceted," said Jason Mathis. "Commercial solicitors have a negative impact on businesses and aggressive panhandlers intimidate patrons, employees and visitors. They detract from a dynamic environment in the Central Business District, and complicate development efforts."

The campaign includes an informative Web site, www.endpanhandling.com, public service announcements, and signage on TRAX and FrontRunner. Additional elements will be added in coming months. As the campaign evolves, The Downtown Alliance will incorporate ideas from the community of how to support shelters, not panhandlers.

Panhandling is not an issue unique to downtown or Salt Lake City—it is a problem in communities across the Wasatch Front and across the nation. In many cases panhandlers are not homeless and often use donations to fuel addictions and other self-destructive behaviors.

But every problem has a solution. Even small donations can help to create significant programs to help people in need. Social service organizations in Salt Lake City provide services for people who find themselves in need. In the Central Business District, these organizations include Catholic Community Services, Volunteers of America, The Road Home, and the 4th Street Clinic. Instead of giving spare change to panhandlers, this campaign encourages residents and visitors to donate money or time to local organizations that are dedicated to solving problems in our community.

The campaign was developed in coordination with local service providers and is based on research conducted by the Utah program for Certified Public Management, part of the State Department of Human Resource Management.



**Salt Lake
Chamber**
Utah's Business Leader™

175 E. University Blvd. (400 S.) Suite 600
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801.364.3631 • Fax 801.328.5098
www.slchamber.com

July 26, 2010

Salt Lake City Council
Council Chair J.T. Martin
451 South State Street, Room 304
P.O. Box 145476
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5476

Dear Council Chair Martin:

On behalf of the 6,100 member businesses we represent, the Salt Lake Chamber applauds Mayor Ralph Becker and the Salt Lake City Council for working together to find a solution to this ongoing issue. We appreciate Salt Lake City's efforts to address the challenges associated with panhandling in a principled and pragmatic way.

Salt Lake City is not alone in working to address the challenges raised by panhandlers. Many communities across the state and nation have attempted to put into effect time, place and manner restrictions on panhandling. The moderate and thoughtful approach submitted by the Mayor to the City Council balances multiple interests and codifies as illegal the threatening actions of aggressive panhandlers.

Many Salt Lake area businesses have identified panhandling as one of their primary concerns. Panhandling can deter customers from visiting a specific business, street or neighborhood. Panhandlers negatively impact Salt Lake's convention business and have been cited as a significant concern by convention delegates and meeting planners alike.

Panhandlers may also often divert funds from legitimate homeless service providers in an effort to fuel chemical addictions or other self destructive behaviors. Working with our strategic partner the Downtown Alliance, we have launched a panhandling education campaign that encourages concerned residents of the Salt Lake Valley to donate money to shelters and other homeless service providers.

The Salt Lake Chamber praises the work of these providers in helping to find solutions to these challenging problems. The Road Home, Catholic Community Services, the Fourth Street Clinic and Volunteers of America are just a few examples of the many organizations who work very hard every day to help disadvantaged people in our community. We also recently started working with the Salt Lake Mission to support *The Street News*, a newspaper written and sold by members of the homeless community. As a business organization, we recognize the real needs of vulnerable and homeless people in Utah. We are committed to working with the faith groups, nonprofits, charitable organizations and government agencies to help address these needs.

The Salt Lake Chamber also recognizes that panhandling is not the answer to meeting these needs. In many cases it exacerbates the problem for individuals and society. We urge the City Council to consider and implement Mayor Becker's recommendations regarding aggressive panhandling in Salt Lake City.

Sincerely,

Lane Beattie
President and CEO



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

Mayor Becker
Salt Lake City
mayor@slcgov.com

July 27, 2010

Re: Salt Lake City's Revised Proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Dear Mayor Becker,

The ACLU of Utah appreciates your recognition that the first proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance, submitted to the public for comment in 2009, was unworkable and likely unconstitutional. While we applaud your efforts to address the concerns we, and others, brought to your attention, the newly revised ordinance still suffers from many of the same flaws we addressed in our letter of September 18, 2009.

We stress again that despite the benign title of the ordinance, purporting to target "commercial solicitation," it is clear that the ordinance will restrict the ability of individuals in Salt Lake City to engage in First Amendment protected activity, including the right to request charitable solicitations.

While the revised ordinance removes the highly problematic section allowing for penalties if citizens are untruthful in soliciting charity, it still contains restrictions, albeit narrowed, on the locations where an individual can engage in First Amendment protected charitable solicitations.

From a legal perspective, a statute that limits the situs of expression based on the content of the message runs the risk of violating Utah's constitutional provisions regarding free speech, previously interpreted by the Utah Supreme Court as providing for *greater* protection than the federal counterpart.¹

As you may recall from our last communication on this topic, in March 2009, a judge in Oregon ruled that the city of Medford's similar anti-panhandling ordinance violated Article 1, Section 8, of the Oregon Constitution, which prohibits passing any law restricting freedom of speech.² The court concluded that the ordinance's

¹ See *Provo City Corp. v. Willden*, 768 P.2d 455, n. 2 Utah, 1989; see also *American Bush v. City of South Salt Lake*, 140 P.3d 1235, 1242 Utah, 2006.

² See *Volkart v. City of Medford*, No. 08-1030-E1 (Oregon Circuit Court March 19, 2009) (order granting summary judgment).

prohibition against "in-person requests" for "immediate donations" in certain locations was unconstitutional under the Oregon Constitution.³

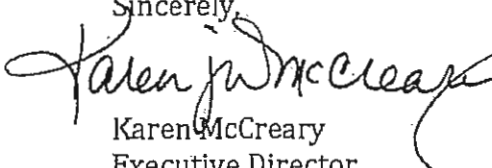
In Utah, it remains to be seen if an ordinance, such as your revised Commercial Solicitation Ordinance, which implicates free speech, will prove vulnerable to challenge under the similarly exacting Utah free expression standards.

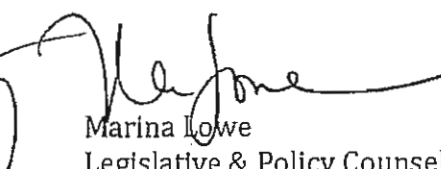
Finally, we must reiterate that passing an ordinance like the Revised Commercial Solicitation Ordinance is likely to be difficult to enforce and may prove ineffective. Police and prosecutorial resources are scarce, targets of this type of ordinance are unlikely to have funds to pay fines or to appear in court and jails have limited space and are already overcrowded with serious offenders. Furthermore, this type of ordinance may invite selective enforcement on the part of law enforcement, whereby certain speakers are targeted because of an unpopular message, while other more established charities are free to solicit charity, even in violation of the letter of the ordinance.

We respectfully urge the city to consider alternatives to criminalizing charitable solicitation, and instead focus on more positive ways to increase social services to those members of our community who are in need.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Karen McCreary
Executive Director


Marina Lowe
Legislative & Policy Counsel

cc: Russell Weeks

³ *Id.*

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 12, 2010
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Russell Weeks
RE: Proposed Ordinance: Commercial Solicitation (Panhandling Limits)
CC: Cindy Gust-Jenson, David Everitt, Ed Rutan, Chris Burbank, Frank Gray, DJ Baxter, Jennifer Bruno, Mary De La Mare-Schaefer, Bianca Shreeve, Boyd Ferguson, Bob Farrington, Gordon Hoskins, Gina Chamness, Skye Garcia, Jason Mathis, Carla Wiese

This memorandum pertains to a proposed ordinance that would limit commercial solicitation (panhandling) in Salt Lake City. In particular, the proposed ordinance is intended to “impose specific time, place and manner restrictions on solicitation and associated conduct in certain limited circumstances,” including aggressive panhandling, panhandling “at locations or times deemed particularly threatening and dangerous, or ... in places where people are a ‘captive audience,’ and there is a wish to avoid or reduce a threat of inescapable confrontation.”¹

The penalty for conviction of violating the proposed ordinance would be a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a six-month term in jail, a \$1,000 fine or both.

The bulk of this memorandum is from a City Council staff memorandum dated October 7. The October 7 memorandum was prepared for a briefing by the Administration on the proposed ordinance on October 12. However, that briefing was postponed until November 16 the same day as the scheduled public hearing. The briefing tentatively is scheduled to be held in Room 326 of the City & County Building. The City Council will start the work session about 4:30 p.m. or immediately after the meeting of the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors (the City Council). The City Council on August 10 heard a briefing on the proposed ordinance from the City Attorney’s Office.

The proposed ordinance stems in part from a request by The Downtown Alliance to address complaints about aggressive panhandling in the City’s Central Business District. It may be considered a companion piece to the Downtown Alliance-led public campaign to redirect donations from panhandlers to social service agencies or charities. The campaign began in October 2009 and was the result of about two years of study by an Alliance committee.² The ordinance plus the Alliance program plus the City’s involvement in various aspects of addressing poverty might be viewed as a three-tiered approach to dealing with facets of economic dislocation.

The approach appears similar to a pattern outlined in *Panhandling*, a study guide published in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Policing Services. According to the study guide, “Most researchers and practitioners seem to agree that the enforcement of laws prohibiting panhandling plays only a part in controlling the problem. Public education to discourage people from giving money to panhandlers, informal social control, and adequate social services (especially alcohol and drug treatment) for panhandlers are the other essential components of an effective and comprehensive response.”³

NEW INFORMATION

Since the August briefing one new piece of information has been presented. In a letter to the City Council dated November 8, Gina Cornia, Executive Director of Utahns Against Hunger; Bill Tibbitts, Anti-Hunger Project Director for Crossroads Urban Center; and Professor Linda F. Smith of the S.J. Quinney College of Law, have proposed that the title of the proposed ordinance, “Commercial Solicitation,” and references to “commercial solicitation” throughout the proposed ordinance be replaced either by the words “aggressive panhandling” or “aggressive begging.”⁴

The letter indicates that “commercial solicitation is too close in name to the offenses, ‘sexual solicitation’ and ‘solicitation of prostitution’ and may be confused in other areas of Utah and other states – particularly when the criminal penalties for “commercial solicitation” and “sexual solicitation” are the same. “It is possible that people, particularly females, convicted of the offense “commercial solicitation” in Salt Lake City will be unfairly stigmatized as having been convicted of an offense involving prostitution if they travel to other parts of the country,” according to the letter.⁵

A review of the letter by the City Attorney’s Office indicates that the proposed ordinance defines “commercial solicitation” as including more conduct than aggressive behavior. The Attorney’s Office notes that the proposed time, place, and manner restrictions on all forms of commercial solicitation. The review contends that naming the proposed ordinance “aggressive panhandling” or aggressive begging” could mislead people into thinking the ordinance would cover less conduct than it actually would.

OPTIONS

- Adopt the proposed ordinance.
- Do not adopt the proposed ordinance.
- Amend the proposed ordinance.

POTENTIAL MOTIONS

- I move that the City Council adopt the ordinance enacting Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to commercial solicitation.
- I move that the City Council consider the next item on the agenda.
- I move that the City Council adopt the ordinance enacting Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code with the following amendments: That the words “commercial” and “solicitation” in the title and body of the ordinance be replaced by the words “aggressive,” and “panhandling” or “begging” where appropriate to be clear that the ordinance addresses enacting time, place and manner restrictions on conduct involving panhandling or begging and nothing else.

KEY POINTS

- The proposed ordinance would enact time, place, and manner restrictions on the practice of panhandling citywide.
- Nationally, restrictions on panhandling, particularly “aggressive panhandling” appear to be fairly common.
- Studies read by City Council staff indicate that laws restricting the practice of panhandling are most effective as part of a broader response to economic dislocation.

- The proposed ordinance is largely the result of two things: an effort by The Downtown Alliance to address the practice of panhandling downtown and the release of a draft ordinance by Mayor Ralph Becker's Administration to obtain public comment on the content of the draft ordinance.

ISSUES/QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- The proposed ordinance is supported by the Salt Lake Chamber, and, according to the Administration transmittal letter, the City's Human Rights Commission.⁶
- The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah remains concerned about some aspects of the proposed ordinance, particularly the emphasis of commercial solicitation over charitable solicitation.⁷ The City Council may wish to hear a from the City Attorney's Office about the distinction. Staff has outlined the Attorney's Office's response to some of the ACLU's concerns further in this memorandum.
- Some who responded to the Administration's request for public comment raised concerns about prohibited asking for money near "the entrance to a place of religious assembly." Council Members may wish to ask about the reasons for the prohibition and whether entrance means a door, a gate, or a property line.
- Last summer, Police Chief Chris Burbank suspended enforcement of an ordinance that prohibits camping in public parks while the ordinance, and others, were reviewed. Has that review been finished, and what conclusions, if any, were reached?
- The U.S. Department of Justice study guide, *Panhandling*, notes that some cities have prohibited panhandling on private property – if the property owners post the property.⁸ Council Members might wish to consider including the prohibition in the proposed ordinances to address complaints about being approached by panhandlers in private parking lots.
- Is there a potential that the proposed ordinance would, as an unintended consequence, create a zone or zones where panhandlers congregate because the proposed ordinance, if adopted, would reduce the number of places available to panhandle?

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

In response to a City Council staff request last July about the number of complaints the Police Department had received over the last couple of years, the Department provided a table showing the number of complaints related to panhandling over the last three and one-half years.

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010
TRANSIENT PROBLEM	20	35	47	31
UNWANTED PERSON	88	98	127	79
Total	108	133	174	110

According to the study guide *Panhandling*, "Most complaints about panhandling are not formally registered with police."⁹

A survey published in June 2009 by Certified Public Management for The Downtown Alliance said:

- Of 140 downtown businesses surveyed, 26 percent indicated that panhandling was a constant occurrence outside their places of business, and almost half indicated that that panhandling outside their place of business was at least a daily occurrence.¹⁰
- Of 100 people surveyed, 44.8 percent indicated they thought panhandling in Salt Lake City was a major problem, and 43.8 percent indicated they thought panhandling in Salt Lake City was a minor problem.
- Fifty percent of a focus group surveyed, indicated panhandling in Salt Lake City was a major problem, and 46.7 percent indicated panhandling in Salt Lake City was a minor problem.

Proposed Ordinance

The proposed ordinance is the result of revisions to an earlier draft ordinance that Mayor Ralph Becker's Administration made available for public comment between July 29, 2009, and September 18, 2009, according to the Administration transmittal.

Definition: The main provisions of the proposed ordinance would define "commercial solicitation" as "any request made in person on a street, sidewalk, or public place, asking for an immediate donation of money or other thing of value, including the purchase of an item or service for an amount far exceeding its value, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the purchase is a donation."

The proposed ordinance excludes "passively standing or sitting with a sign or other indication that one is seeking donations without addressing the request to any specific person" from the definition.

The proposed ordinance also excludes activities regulated by *Salt Lake City Municipal Code* Chapter 5.64. That chapter is titled *Solicitation, Peddling and Sales Promotion Activities*. Chapter 5.64 regulates a variety of activities ranging from a prohibition of selling items on public streets from motorized vehicles or stands, to requiring door-to-door sales people to register with the Police Department and obtain a license, to requiring telephone solicitors to obtain a permit, to requiring mobile ice cream vendors to obtain business licenses.

Section 5.64.240 also requires people to obtain written permission from "the mayor or the mayor's designee" to "peddle, sell or offer for sale any magazine subscriptions, goods, wares or merchandise whatsoever, in, upon or along any of the following streets:

1. South Temple Street from Second East Street to Fourth West Street
2. First South Street from Second East Street to Fourth West Street
3. Second South Street from Second East Street to Fourth West Street
4. Third South Street from Second East Street to Fourth West Street
5. Fourth South Street from Second East Street to Fourth West Street
6. State Street from North Temple Street to Ninth South Street
7. Main Street from North Temple Street to Ninth South Street"

The section also says, "and no license shall be granted to any person to peddle in, upon or along the said streets above described."

It should be noted that Chapter 5.64 exempts from its provisions people and organizations “conducting religious solicitations” and “charitable solicitations which are registered with the Utah division of consumer protection as required by the Utah charitable solicitation act or its successor.”

Prohibited Conduct: In keeping within the Administration’s stated purpose of restricting the time, place, and manner in which people can seek donations from others, the proposed ordinance proposes the following regulations:

Time – The proposed ordinance would prohibit people whose acts meet the definition of commercial solicitation from asking for a donation “after sunset and before sunrise.”

Place – No one can ask for a donation within 10 feet of:

- A sidewalk café or any outside eating or dining establishment
- A line of people waiting to gain admission to a place, or vehicle, or waiting to purchase an item or admission ticket
- A food-dispensing street-vendor
- Any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility, with the exception of airports
- A bus or train stop
- The entrance to a place of religious assembly
- Any automatic teller machine
- The entrance or exit to a building where an automatic teller machine is visible from the street

After the August 10 briefing City Council staff described the 10-foot limit as a series of cylinders throughout the downtown where people would be prohibited from panhandling. The City Attorney’s Office indicated the description was accurate and provided the following comments:

The ordinance would prohibit “commercial solicitation” inside of that cylinder. However, the definition of commercial solicitation excludes “passively standing or sitting with a sign . . .,” so such activity within the 10-foot cylinder would not be banned by this ordinance. On the other hand, I think that, in addition to oral requests, commercial solicitation could also include certain non-passive uses of a sign, such as actively waving the sign in someone’s face, so that would be banned within the cylinder.

Except with respect to soliciting in public transportation vehicles or public transportation facilities, and with respect to aggressive commercial solicitation and the other time and manner restrictions in subsections three and four, the proposed ordinance does not regulate panhandling at all outside of the 10-foot cylinder.¹¹

It should be noted that Baltimore, Maryland, also uses a 10-foot limit to regulate some places where panhandling may not occur.

According to City Council staff research, Baltimore prohibits panhandling:

- In public places.
- At night, even if done passively by holding a sign.
- Within 10 feet of ATM machines.
- Of individuals who are waiting for public transit.
- Of people in vehicles stopped in traffic.

Manner – The proposed ordinance would prohibit people from asking for donations in any way that:

- Hinders either pedestrian or vehicle traffic including “any manner that intentionally and unreasonably causes a pedestrian or vehicle operator to take evasive action to avoid physical contact, or “that violates traffic regulations for pedestrians and vehicles.”
- Involves asking for a donation that involves conduct where:
 - The conduct is intended or is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm to oneself or another, or damage to or loss of property, or otherwise be intimidated into giving money or any other thing of value
 - A person seeking a donation intentionally touches or causes physical contact with another person without that person’s consent
 - A person seeking a donation directs violent or threatening gestures toward someone by “blocking the path of the person solicited, or walking behind, ahead of, or alongside the person solicited, using profane or abusive language, by accosting or forcing oneself upon the company of another, by using any statement, gesture, or other communication that a reasonable person ... would perceive to be a threat, and by asking for a donation in a group of two or more people ages 14 or older.

To summarize, people would be regulated by the combination of time, place, and manner instead of one of the three components. For example, if someone is beyond the distance prohibitions, that person’s conduct still would be governed by time and manner restrictions.

In addition, Salt Lake City, as mentioned earlier in this memorandum appears to be following patterns outlined elsewhere. For example, Baltimore’s efforts to develop charitable contribution programs to encourage donations to help the homeless but discourage panhandling is similar to The Downtown Alliance’s programs that either are under way or proposed. Baltimore’s 10-year program to end homelessness by 2018 by bringing together businesses, non-profit agencies, citizens, and faith-based agencies appears comparable to Salt Lake City’s current efforts.

Response to Draft and Revised Ordinance

As indicated earlier in this memorandum, the proposed ordinance is a revised version of a draft the Administration published for public comment between July 29 and September 18, 2009. Sixty-one people or organizations submitted comments.¹² Based on those comments, the Administration made two revisions from the draft to the proposed ordinance. First, it dropped a section in which prohibited conduct included misrepresenting one’s status as a veteran of the one of the U.S. services, one’s physical ability, one’s status as a homeless person, and how much money one actually has on his or her person when asking for a donation. Second, the Administration shortened distance restrictions from 20 feet to 10 feet “to better balance the sense of security and safety with First Amendment concerns.”¹³

Clearly, most of the 61 comments submitted to the Administration support most of the original draft. However, here are some selected comments from those who responded that may bear some consideration:

Places of Religious Assembly

“Our forty plus years of work with Salt Lake’s religious communities lead us to believe that restricting begging at a house of worship is exactly the opposite of what most religious teachings emphasize. Is the religious community really asking the City to help defend it from the poor?” – Glenn Bailey, Executive Director, Crossroads Urban Center.

It should be noted that similar comments were submitted by two members of the Mount Tabor Lutheran Church at 175 South 700 East, and by the outreach coordinator of First United Methodist Church at 203 South 200 East.

Partially as a result of those comments, the City Attorney’s Office was asked to clarify whether “an entrance to a place of religious assembly” meant a door, a gate or a property line. The Attorney’s Office has suggested that the language said, “Within ten (10) feet of the entrance, from the public right of way, to a place of religious assembly.”

According to the Attorney’s Office, most places of religious assembly involve a parcel of land and a building on that land, and in most cases the building is more than 10 feet away from the property line. To get within 10 feet of the entrance would involve a trespass, so the proposed ordinance need not address it. However, a sidewalk or sidewalks may lead from the public right-of-way onto a walkway on the private religious property, and then leads to a building. The City could justify prohibiting solicitors from waiting within 10 feet of such a sidewalk “entrance” because it could be intimidating to parishioners to have to pass through a gantlet of solicitors to get onto the private walkway. Finally, if a fence surrounded the private property and included a gate, one could say the gate would be considered an entrance.

Commercial versus Charitable Solicitation

“We feel that the name of the proposed ordinance is misleading as to the nature of the expression it attempts to restrict. Your proposed ordinance purports to target ‘commercial solicitation.’ However, the Supreme Court of the United States has long recognized that charitable solicitations fall within a category of speech close to the heart of the First Amendment, distinguishable from ‘purely commercial speech.’ Commercial speech is ‘primarily concerned with providing information about the characteristics and costs of goods and services,’ and as such enjoys lesser First Amendment protection. Courts have recognized that “(b)eggars at times may communicate important political or social messages in their appeals for money, explaining their conditions related to veteran status, homelessness, unemployment and disability ... While some communities might wish all solicitors, beggars, and advocates of various causes be vanished from the streets, the First Amendment guarantees their right to be there, deliver their pitch and ask for support.” – Executive Director Karen McCreary and Staff Attorney Marina Lowe of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah.

It should be noted that the ACLU’s recent comments on the proposed ordinance continue to voice the concern raised during the public comment period.

In response to the item, the Attorney’s Office indicates that the current ordinance draft extends First Amendment protection to commercial and charitable solicitation. Using the defined term “charitable solicitation” might mislead non-charitable solicitors into thinking that the ordinance does not apply to them, according to the Attorney’s Office.

Other Comments

Some comments echoed comments in the report *Homes Not Handcuffs: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities*. The report was published by The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and The National Coalition for the Homeless in July 2009. According to the report:

Instead of criminalizing homelessness, local governments, business groups, and law enforcement officials should work with homeless people, providers, and advocates for solutions to prevent and end homelessness.

Cities should dedicate more resources to creating more affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelters, and homeless services in general. To address street homelessness, cities should adopt or dedicate more resources to outreach programs, emergency shelter, and permanent supportive housing.¹⁴

Salt Lake City, through management of federal funds such as community development block grants, partnerships with groups such as The Road Home and the Salt Lake City Housing Authority, and through appropriation of general fund revenue, and through the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency, has long sought to meet demands for low-income and affordable housing and emergency shelters such as The Road Home.

For example, the City's budget for fiscal year 2011, which began July 1, includes about \$205,000 in general fund allocations for the Weigand Homeless Shelter, community emergency winter housing and Housing Authority transitional housing.

The Salt Lake Housing Authority this year bought a site at 1900 West North Temple with a 110 units of housing for veterans of the armed services. The housing replaces Valor House which the Housing Authority operated on the Veterans Administration Hospital campus. The Housing Authority plans to build another building holding roughly 60 units on the VA Hospital campus to house veterans who need extensive services such as drug and alcohol treatment and physical therapy that can be provided on site. The Sunrise apartments and the new Freedom Landing apartments would house veterans who no longer need as many services and want to live off the hospital campus.

In addition, Salt Lake City has participated in projects by The Road Home to house chronically homeless individuals through its Pathways Project and Palmer Court and The Road Home's main shelter on Rio Grande Street.

Panhandling laws

Homes not Handcuffs notes that in 235 cities throughout the nation surveyed for the report:

- 49 percent prohibit aggressive panhandling
- 47 percent of the cities prohibit begging in particular public places; 23 percent have citywide prohibitions
- 47 percent prohibit loitering in particular public areas; 19 percent prohibit loitering citywide.
- 33 percent prohibit camping in particular public places; 19 percent prohibit loitering citywide
- 30 percent prohibit sitting or lying in certain public places¹⁵

Panhandling, lists the following places that have enacted aggressive panhandling laws: the states of California and Hawaii, and the cities of Albuquerque, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Seattle, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Washington, D.C.¹⁶

Some people who commented on the draft ordinance said laws already in the *City Code* that could be used to deter panhandling and public disorder. Below is a list of some City ordinances.

11.12.020: DISTURBING THE PEACE:

A. A person is guilty of disturbing the peace if such person:

1. Refuses to comply with the lawful order of the police to move from a public place;
2. Knowingly creates a hazardous condition;
3. Intending to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof:
 - a. Engages in fighting, violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior,
 - b. Uses words and/or does or makes any unreasonable act, gesture, or display that are intended to cause acts of violence or are inherently likely to cause a violent reaction by the person to whom the words or the act, gesture, or display are addressed and that, under the circumstances, create a clear and present danger of a breach of the peace or imminent threat of violence,
 - c. Makes unreasonably loud noises in a private place that can be heard in a public place,
 - d. Maliciously or willfully disturbs the peace or quiet of another or of any public place by making an unreasonably loud noise or by discharging firearms, or
 - e. Obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic, except as allowed pursuant to the provisions of *Title 3 Chapter 3.50* of this code.

11.12.060: DRINKING AND DRUNKENNESS IN PUBLIC PLACES:

A. It is unlawful to:

1. Drink liquor in a public building, park or stadium; or
2. Be under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or any substance having the property of releasing toxic vapors to a degree that the person may endanger himself or herself or another, if such person is in a public place or in a private place where he/she unreasonably disturbs other persons.

B. A peace officer or magistrate may release from custody an individual arrested under this section, if he or she believes imprisonment is unnecessary for the protection of the individual or another; or a peace officer may take a person arrested under this section to a detoxification center or other special facility designated by the courts of Utah or by state law, as an alternative to jail incarceration for such offenses.

C. An offense under this section is a class C misdemeanor. (Ord. 88-86 § 60, 1986: prior code § 32-1-4)

11.12.065: UNLAWFULLY OPENING, POSSESSING OR CONSUMING AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE IN A PUBLIC PLACE:

A. Unlawful To Have Open Containers Of Alcohol In Designated Areas: No person shall open, possess, or consume from an open bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage in an unpermitted public place.

B. Definitions: As used in this section:

UNPERMITTED PUBLIC PLACE: 1. Any street, right of way, sidewalk, alley, publicly owned property or state or county road located within the Salt Lake City limits and which abuts upon: a) any county or city owned real property; b) any business required to have a Salt Lake City business license pursuant to *Title 5, Chapter 5.02* of this code;

- Boarded or abandoned commercial buildings;

- Vacant lots in areas zoned for commercial or manufacturing uses; or
- Any publicly owned building or publicly owned real property. "Unpermitted public place" shall not mean or include a premises or area identified in a license or permit issued by the city as authorizing the possession or consumption of alcohol, when there is conformance with the applicable license or permit restrictions; businesses specifically permitted under *Title 6* of this code; business licensed as home occupations as defined in title 21A of this code; or apartment houses as defined and licensed in accord with *Title 5, Chapter 5.14* of this code.

11.12.080: CAMPING AND SLEEPING ON PUBLIC GROUNDS:

- A. It is unlawful for any person to camp, lodge, cook, make a fire or pitch a tent, fly, lean to, tarpaulin, umbrella or any other type of ground cover or shelter, or place sleeping bags, bedding or any other type of camping or sleeping equipment on any "public grounds", as defined in subsection B of this section, and it is unlawful for any person using or benefiting from the use of any of the foregoing items of shelter or camping or sleeping equipment to fail to remove the same from such public grounds for more than five (5) minutes after being requested to do so by any police officer or citizen.
- B. For the purpose of this section, the term "public grounds" means any real property owned in whole or in part by the United States of America and its agencies, or the state of Utah or any of its political subdivisions, including Salt Lake City Corporation, upon which no camping or sleeping has been authorized by the owner, but excluding there from public streets and parks. (Prior code § 32-3-10)

14.20.100: LOITERING ON SIDEWALK:

It is unlawful for any person to remain standing, lying or sitting on any sidewalk for a longer period than two (2) minutes, in such manner as to obstruct the free passage of pedestrians thereon, or willfully to remain standing, lying or sitting thereon in said manner for more than one minute after being requested to move by any police officer, or willfully to remain on any sidewalk in such manner as to obstruct the free passage of any person or vehicle into or out of any property abutting upon said sidewalk or any property having access to such sidewalk. (Ord. 88-86 § 62, 1986: prior code § 38-3-9)

14.28.050: STANDING, LYING OR SITTING ON STREETS OR HIGHWAYS:

It is unlawful for any person to remain standing, lying or sitting on any street or highway in a manner which obstructs the free passage of vehicular or pedestrian traffic thereon, or which creates a hazard to any person, or to willfully remain on such street or highway in a manner which obstructs the free passage of any person or vehicle into or out of any property abutting upon such street or highway, or any property having access to such street or highway. (Prior code § 41-2-5)

14.28.060: CAMPING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED:

It is unlawful for any person to camp, lodge, sleep, cook, make a fire or pitch a tent, fly, lean to, tarpaulin, umbrella, or any other type of ground cover or shelter, or place sleeping bags, bedding or any other type of camping or sleeping equipment upon any portion of a street, as defined in this title, as amended, or its successor, and it is unlawful for any person using or benefiting from the use of any of the foregoing shelter or camping or sleeping equipment to fail to remove the same from any such street for more than five (5) minutes after being requested to do so by any police officer or citizen. (Prior code § 41-2-6)

15.08.080: CAMPING:

- A. No person shall camp, lodge, or pitch a tent, fly, lean to, tarpaulin or any other type of camping equipment in any park or playground except:
1. In cases of local emergency as declared by the mayor of the city.
 2. Youth groups the majority of whose members' ages are at least eight (8) years of age, but no more than seventeen (17) years of age, under the following conditions:
 - a. The youth are accompanied by adult leaders in the ratio of two (2) adults for every ten (10) youth at all times while the youth are camping in a city park.
 - b. The youth group provides adequate police and fire security to ensure the safety of the campers and garbage removal and cleanup. The sponsor shall submit a plan along with an application for a special events permit to the city which shall be reviewed and approved by the public services department director, the fire and police chiefs, or their designees, who will forward a recommendation to the mayor as to whether or not the request for camping should be granted. Application for the special events permit shall be made directly to the special events coordinator who shall forward all accompanying information to the appropriate departments.
 - c. The youth group files a bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to compensate the city for any damage to the park caused by the youth group during their camping activities.
 - d. The youth group files a certificate of insurance in the aggregate amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00), which names the city as an additional insured.
 - e. No camping is allowed in any one park for more than forty eight (48) continuous hours in any thirty (30) day period.
 - f. The youth group shall comply with all ordinances and park regulations relating to city parks.
 - g. No more than sixty (60) people shall be allowed to camp at one time.

It should be noted that some of the ordinances listed above are under review by Mayor Becker's Administration.

It also might be noted that, "Enforcing other laws panhandlers commonly violate – those regarding drinking in public, trespassing, disorderly conduct, etc. – can help control some aspects of the panhandling problem," according to the study guide, *Panhandling*.¹⁷

OTHER INFORMATION

Panhandling, provides the following profile of the average person engaged in the practice:

The typical profile of a panhandler that emerges from a number of studies is that of an unemployed, unmarried male in his 30s or 40s with substance abuse problems, few family ties, a high school education, and laborer's skills. ...

Some panhandlers have criminal records, but panhandlers are nearly as likely to have been crime victims as offenders. Some are transient, but most have been in their community for a long time.

Contrary to common belief, panhandlers and homeless people are not necessarily one and the same. Many studies have found that only a small percentage of homeless people panhandle, and only a small percentage of panhandlers are homeless. (The author notes that "at a minimum, most studies have found that few panhandlers routinely sleep outdoors at night.) ...

Most evidence confirms that panhandling is not lucrative, although some panhandlers clearly are able to subsist on a combination of panhandling money, government benefits, private charity, and money from odd jobs such as selling scavenged materials or plasma.¹⁸

The study also describes who typically is approached by panhandlers and who gives panhandlers money.

Many who get panhandled are people of “modest means,” according to the study. *Panhandling* cites estimates of between 10 percent and 60 percent of people approached by panhandlers give them money. Roughly half of all college students approached by panhandlers reported giving them money. “There is some evidence that women and minorities tend to give more freely to panhandlers,” and “panhandlers more commonly target women than men.” According to the study, “Conventioners and tourists are good targets for panhandlers because they are already psychologically prepared to spend money.”¹⁹

According to the study, “Panhandling is more common in communities that provide a high level of social services to the needy, because the same citizens who support social services are also likely to give money directly to panhandlers; panhandlers are drawn to communities where both free social services and generous passers-by are plentiful.”²⁰

Nevertheless, the study goes on to say, “The state of the economy, at the local, regional and even national level, affects how much panhandling occurs. As the economy declines, panhandling increases. As government benefit programs become more restrictive, panhandling increases. . . . The stronger the social bonds and social network on which indigent people can rely for emotional and financial support, the less likely they are to panhandle.”²¹

¹ Proposed ordinance, Page 2, paragraph 3

² Downtown Alliance news release, October 6, 2009

³ *Panhandling*, Michael Scott, 2002, Page 17

⁴ Letter, November 8, 2010, Gina Cornia, Linda F. Smith, Bill Tibbitts

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Letter, Salt Lake Chamber, July 26, 2010

⁷ Letter, American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, July 27, 2010

⁸ *Ibid.* Page 22

⁹ *Ibid.* Page 13

¹⁰ Spare Change, Certified Public Management Task Force, June 2009, Page 26. (Please see attached graphic.)

¹¹ Electronic Mail, Boyd Ferguson, August 13, 2009.

¹² Commercial Solicitation Public Comment Summary, Matt Lyon, October 26, 2009, Page 2

¹³ Administration transmittal letter, June 10, 2010, Page 2

¹⁴ *Homes Not Handcuffs: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities*, The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and The National Coalition for the Homeless, July 2009, Page 13

¹⁵ *Ibid.* Page 10

¹⁶ *Panhandling*, Michael Scott, 2002, Page 20

¹⁷ *Ibid.* Page 20

¹⁸ *Ibid.* Pages 5,6, and 10

¹⁹ *Ibid.* Pages 7 and 8

²⁰ *Ibid.* Page 8

²¹ *Ibid.* Page 11

November 8, 2010

Dear Salt Lake City Council:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend one very specific amendment to Mayor Becker's proposed ordinance limiting commercial solicitation. We have other philosophical and legal concerns with the ordinance but feel this specific problem is worth highlighting because we believe it is something Council Members will likely reach a consensus on, regardless of their positions on other parts of the ordinance.

Our specific concern is with the name of the offense. "Commercial solicitation" is too close in name to the offenses, "sexual solicitation" and "solicitation of prostitution". In Utah, "sexual solicitation" is a class B misdemeanor-- just like the proposed new offense of "commercial solicitation". It is possible that people, particularly females, convicted of the offense "commercial solicitation" in Salt Lake City will be unfairly stigmatized as having been convicted of an offense involving prostitution if they travel to other parts of the country.

Mayor Becker has made it very clear that his goal with this ordinance is to outlaw aggressive panhandling, not all panhandling. Why not simply rename the offense created by this ordinance something like "aggressive panhandling" or "aggressive begging"? A name like that would be more in accord with the Mayor's intent. It would also make the intent of the Council more clear for police officers who, in future years, cannot be expected to remember that the council was actually concerned with "aggressive panhandling" when it outlawed "commercial solicitation." The possibility of this offense being enforced in an unconstitutional way will be seriously diminished if the name of the offense is more clearly related to the behavior it is intended to discourage.

For this reason, we ask the Council to amend the ordinance so that all references to "commercial solicitation" are changed to something more clear like "aggressive panhandling" or "aggressive begging".

Sincerely,

Gina Cornia
Executive Director
Utahns Against Hunger

Linda F. Smith
Professor and Clinical Program Director
S. J. Quinney College of Law
University of Utah

Bill Tibbitts
Anti-Hunger Project Director
Crossroads Urban Center



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

Mayor Becker
Salt Lake City
mayor@slcgov.com

July 27, 2010

Re: Salt Lake City's Revised Proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Dear Mayor Becker,

The ACLU of Utah appreciates your recognition that the first proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance, submitted to the public for comment in 2009, was unworkable and likely unconstitutional. While we applaud your efforts to address the concerns we, and others, brought to your attention, the newly revised ordinance still suffers from many of the same flaws we addressed in our letter of September 18, 2009.

We stress again that despite the benign title of the ordinance, purporting to target "commercial solicitation," it is clear that the ordinance will restrict the ability of individuals in Salt Lake City to engage in First Amendment protected activity, including the right to request charitable solicitations.

While the revised ordinance removes the highly problematic section allowing for penalties if citizens are untruthful in soliciting charity, it still contains restrictions, albeit narrowed, on the locations where an individual can engage in First Amendment protected charitable solicitations.

From a legal perspective, a statute that limits the situs of expression based on the content of the message runs the risk of violating Utah's constitutional provisions regarding free speech, previously interpreted by the Utah Supreme Court as providing for **greater** protection than the federal counterpart.¹

As you may recall from our last communication on this topic, in March 2009, a judge in Oregon ruled that the city of Medford's similar anti-panhandling ordinance violated Article 1, Section 8, of the Oregon Constitution, which prohibits passing any law restricting freedom of speech.² The court concluded that the ordinance's

¹ See *Provo City Corp. v. Willden*, 768 P.2d 455, n. 2 Utah, 1989; see also *American Bush v. City of South Salt Lake*, 140 P.3d 1235, 1242 Utah, 2006.

² See *Volkart v. City of Medford*, No. 08-1030-E1 (Oregon Circuit Court March 19, 2009) (order granting summary judgment).

prohibition against “in-person requests” for “immediate donations” in certain locations was unconstitutional under the Oregon Constitution.³

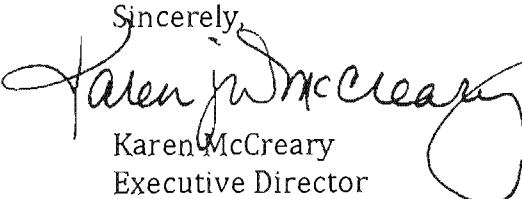
In Utah, it remains to be seen if an ordinance, such as your revised Commercial Solicitation Ordinance, which implicates free speech, will prove vulnerable to challenge under the similarly exacting Utah free expression standards.

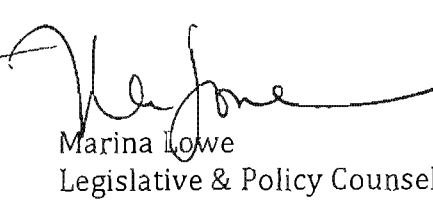
Finally, we must reiterate that passing an ordinance like the Revised Commercial Solicitation Ordinance is likely to be difficult to enforce and may prove ineffective. Police and prosecutorial resources are scarce, targets of this type of ordinance are unlikely to have funds to pay fines or to appear in court and jails have limited space and are already overcrowded with serious offenders. Furthermore, this type of ordinance may invite selective enforcement on the part of law enforcement, whereby certain speakers are targeted because of an unpopular message, while other more established charities are free to solicit charity, even in violation of the letter of the ordinance.

We respectfully urge the city to consider alternatives to criminalizing charitable solicitation, and instead focus on more positive ways to increase social services to those members of our community who are in need.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Karen McCreary
Executive Director


Marina Lowe
Legislative & Policy Counsel

cc: Russell Weeks

³ *Id.*

October 6, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Danica Farley
Organization: Downtown Alliance
Phone: (801) 333-1105

End Panhandling: Campaign Kick Off

Salt Lake City- The Downtown Alliance today unveiled a new educational campaign designed to discourage donations to panhandlers and encourage donations to local social service organizations.

Mayor Ralph Becker (Salt Lake City), Jason Mathis (executive director of the Downtown Alliance), Bill Paulos (president of The Summit Group) and Jake Boyer (chair of the Salt Lake Chamber), addressed problems associated with panhandling and presented an educational campaign to discouraged panhandling.

“The campaign is multi-year and multi-faceted,” said Jason Mathis. “Commercial solicitors have a negative impact on businesses and aggressive panhandlers intimidate patrons, employees and visitors. They detract from a dynamic environment in the Central Business District, and complicate development efforts.”

The campaign includes an informative Web site, www.endpanhandling.com, public service announcements, and signage on TRAX and FrontRunner. Additional elements will be added in coming months. As the campaign evolves, The Downtown Alliance will incorporate ideas from the community of how to support shelters, not panhandlers.

Panhandling is not an issue unique to downtown or Salt Lake City—it is a problem in communities across the Wasatch Front and across the nation. In many cases panhandlers are not homeless and often use donations to fuel addictions and other self-destructive behaviors.

But every problem has a solution. Even small donations can help to create significant programs to help people in need. Social service organizations in Salt Lake City provide services for people who find themselves in need. In the Central Business District, these organizations include Catholic Community Services, Volunteers of America, The Road Home, and the 4th Street Clinic. Instead of giving spare change to panhandlers, this campaign encourages residents and visitors to donate money or time to local organizations that are dedicated to solving problems in our community.

The campaign was developed in coordination with local service providers and is based on research conducted by the Utah program for Certified Public Management, part of the State Department of Human Resource Management.

“We are grateful for the efforts of community leaders like Glen Watkins with Jones Waldo, Vasilios Priskos with InterNet Properties who led this campaign and for Bill Paulos with the Summit Group who donated all of the creative work,” said Mathis. “This is a team effort led by and for the community.”

The Downtown Alliance is dedicated to building a dynamic and diverse community that is the regional center for culture, commerce and entertainment. For more information, visit downtownslc.org.

###

Danica Farley | Public Relations | Downtown Alliance | danica@downtownslc.org | 801.333.1105



**Salt Lake
Chamber**
Utah's Business Leader™

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801.364.3631 • Fax 801.328.5098
www.slchamber.com

July 26, 2010

Salt Lake City Council
Council Chair J.T. Martin
451 South State Street, Room 304
P.O. Box 145476
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5476

Dear Council Chair Martin:

On behalf of the 6,100 member businesses we represent, the Salt Lake Chamber applauds Mayor Ralph Becker and the Salt Lake City Council for working together to find a solution to this ongoing issue. We appreciate Salt Lake City's efforts to address the challenges associated with panhandling in a principled and pragmatic way.

Salt Lake City is not alone in working to address the challenges raised by panhandlers. Many communities across the state and nation have attempted to put into effect time, place and manner restrictions on panhandling. The moderate and thoughtful approach submitted by the Mayor to the City Council balances multiple interests and codifies as illegal the threatening actions of aggressive panhandlers.

Many Salt Lake area businesses have identified panhandling as one of their primary concerns. Panhandling can deter customers from visiting a specific business, street or neighborhood. Panhandlers negatively impact Salt Lake's convention business and have been cited as a significant concern by convention delegates and meeting planners alike.

Panhandlers may also often divert funds from legitimate homeless service providers in an effort to fuel chemical addictions or other self destructive behaviors. Working with our strategic partner the Downtown Alliance, we have launched a panhandling education campaign that encourages concerned residents of the Salt Lake Valley to donate money to shelters and other homeless service providers.

The Salt Lake Chamber praises the work of these providers in helping to find solutions to these challenging problems. The Road Home, Catholic Community Services, the Fourth Street Clinic and Volunteers of America are just a few examples of the many organizations who work very hard every day to help disadvantaged people in our community. We also recently started working with the Salt Lake Mission to support *The Street News*, a newspaper written and sold by members of the homeless community. As a business organization, we recognize the real needs of vulnerable and homeless people in Utah. We are committed to working with the faith groups, nonprofits, charitable organizations and government agencies to help address these needs.

The Salt Lake Chamber also recognizes that panhandling is not the answer to meeting these needs. In many cases it exacerbates the problem for individuals and society. We urge the City Council to consider and implement Mayor Becker's recommendations regarding aggressive panhandling in Salt Lake City.

Sincerely,

Lane Beattie
President and CEO



RALPH BECKER
MAYOR

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL




David Everitt, Chief of Staff

Date Received: 06/10/2010
Date sent to Council: 06/15/2010

TO: Salt Lake City Council
JT Martin, Chair

DATE: June 10, 2010

FROM: David Everitt, Chief of Staff
(801) 535-7732

SUBJECT: Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

STAFF CONTACT: David Everitt, Chief of Staff

DOCUMENT TYPE: Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor recommends that the City Council adopt a Commercial Solicitation Ordinance.

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: Salt Lake City Government has received a number of responses and complaints from the public regarding aggressive solicitation – an activity that fosters intimidation and precludes many from fully enjoying certain areas of the city. In an effort to promote a sense of safety and security for residents and visitors of Salt Lake City, this Commercial Solicitation Ordinance would prohibit aggressive panhandling, per the time, place and manner restrictions identified herein.

This Commercial Solicitation Ordinance compliments the business community's public education outreach regarding panhandling, which encourages residents to refer their charitable dollars to service providers who can direct funds specifically where they are needed.

PUBLIC PROCESS: From July 29 to September 18, 2009, the Mayor's Office solicited and received public comment on the proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance. Feedback came from businesses, individuals, organizations and members of the homeless community. Sixty-nine percent of respondents expressed support for the proposal, twenty-six percent of respondents opposed and 5% were neutral (see attached public comment section). During the public comment period the Mayor's Office hosted or attended meetings with stakeholders which

included: American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, Catholic Community Services, Crossroads Urban Center, Downtown Alliance, Fourth Street Clinic, the Salt Lake City Business Advisory Board and the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission.

Based on the feedback received during the official comment period, and subsequently thereafter, several important changes to the draft Commercial Solicitation Ordinance were implemented. Concerns regarding the “false pretense” section of the original draft ordinance, meant to prohibit misrepresentation while panhandling, created a “burden of proof” on individuals to confirm their status (i.e. as a veteran or as homeless). Similarly, such a provision would be difficult to enforce. Because of these reasons, this section of the draft ordinance was omitted.

Additionally, all distance restrictions regarding commercial solicitation were reduced from twenty feet to 10 feet to better balance the sense of safety and security with First Amendment concerns.

After the implementation of these changes, the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission has expressed their support for the ordinance, as they state it strikes a balance between these various community concerns. Their letter of support is also attached for your review.

SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE

No. _____ of 2010

(Commercial Solicitation)

An ordinance enacting Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to commercial solicitation.

WHEREAS, the City Council intends in enacting this chapter to recognize free speech rights for all citizens while at the same time protecting the coexistent rights for all citizens to enjoy safe and convenient travel in public spaces free from intimidation, threats, and harassment that stem from certain types of abusive solicitation; and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that "requests for immediate payment of money create a strong potential for fraud or undue pressure, in part because of lack of time for reflection." *International Society for Krishna Consciousness v. Lee*, 505 U.S. 672 (1992) (concurrence by Justice Kennedy); and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that there are numerous forms of solicitation that are not in and of themselves inherently threatening or aggressive, including non-vocal requests for a donation; carrying or displaying a sign requesting donations; shaking or jingling a cup of change; and ringing a bell in compliance with any applicable noise ordinance; and

WHEREAS, however, the City Council finds that there has been an increase in aggressive solicitation in the City, which threatens the security and privacy of both residents and visitors and may constitute harassment of such persons; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also finds that the presence of solicitors near banks or automatic teller machines in certain locations or at night can be especially threatening to persons; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that certain solicitation impedes the orderly flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic that leads to concerns regarding traffic and public safety; and

WHEREAS, this chapter is not intended to impermissibly limit an individual's right to exercise free speech associated with solicitation; rather it aims to impose specific time, place, and manner restrictions on solicitation and associated conduct in certain limited circumstances; namely, aggressive solicitation, solicitation at locations or times deemed particularly threatening and dangerous, or soliciting in places where people are a "captive audience" and there is a wish to avoid or reduce a threat of inescapable confrontations; and

WHEREAS, in promulgating this chapter, the City Council seeks to impose regulations that are narrowly tailored to serve the aforementioned significant government interests.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to commercial solicitation be, and the same hereby is, enacted as follows:

11.70.010 Commercial Solicitation:

A. Definitions.

"Commercial solicitation" or "to commercially solicit" is any request made in person on a street, sidewalk, or public place, asking for an immediate donation of money

or other thing of value, including the purchase of an item or service for an amount far exceeding its value, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the purchase is a donation. Commercial solicitation shall not include passively standing or sitting with a sign or other indication that one is seeking donations without addressing the request to any specific person, and does not refer to conduct regulated by chapter 5.64 of this code.

B. Prohibited Conduct

(1) Commercial solicitation in certain areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially solicit when the person solicited is in any of the following places within the city:

- a. Inside or within ten (10) feet of a sidewalk cafe or any outside eating or dining establishment;
- b. At or within ten (10) feet of a line of people waiting to gain admission to a place or vehicle or waiting to purchase an item or admission ticket;
- c. At or within ten (10) feet of a food-dispensing street vendor;
- d. In any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility, excluding airports;
- e. At or within ten (10) feet of a bus or train stop; or
- f. Within ten (10) feet of the entrance to a place of religious assembly.

(2) Money dispensing areas. It shall be unlawful to commercially solicit if the person making the solicitation knows or reasonably should know that the solicitation is occurring within ten (10) feet in any direction of an automated teller machine, including

within ten (10) feet in any direction of any entrance or exit to a building containing an automated teller machine that is visible from the street.

(3) **Particular manners.** The following manners of commercial solicitation are expressly prohibited, at any time and in any manner, because of the coercive nature of each:

a. Hindrance to traffic.

1. Commercially soliciting in any manner that serves to intentionally block, obstruct, or interfere with orderly flow of either vehicles or pedestrians.

2. Commercially soliciting in any manner that intentionally and unreasonably causes a pedestrian or vehicle operator to take evasive action to avoid physical contact.

3. Commercially soliciting in any manner that violates traffic regulations for pedestrians or vehicles.

b. Aggressive commercial solicitation. It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially solicit in an aggressive manner, including any of the following actions:

1. Approaching or speaking to a person, or following a person before, during or after commercial solicitation, if that conduct is intended or is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm to oneself or to another, or damage to or loss of property or otherwise be intimidated into giving money or any other thing of value;

2. Intentionally touching or causing physical contact with another person without that person's consent in the course of commercial solicitation; or

3. Directing violent or threatening gestures toward the subject of the commercial solicitation:

(a) By blocking the path of the person solicited; or

(b) By following or walking behind, ahead of, or alongside the person solicited;
or

(c) By using profane or abusive language, either during the solicitation or
following refusal; or

(d) By accosting or forcing oneself upon the company of another; or

(e) By any statement, gesture, or other communication that a reasonable person
in the situation of the person solicited would perceive to be a threat; or

(f) By commercially soliciting in a group of two (2) or more persons fourteen
(14) years of age or older.

(4) **Nighttime commercial solicitation.** It shall be unlawful for any person to
commercially solicit after sunset and before sunrise.

C. Violation.

Violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of
its first publication.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah this _____ day of
_____, 2010.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

CITY RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Salt Lake City Attorney's Office
Date 6-3-10
By [Signature]

Transmitted to Mayor on _____.

Mayor's Action: _____ Approved. _____ Vetoed.

MAYOR

CITY RECORDER

(SEAL)

Bill No. _____ of 2010.

Published: _____.

HB_ATTYY-#7038-v4-Ordinance_regulating_panhandling

SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE

No. _____ of 2010

(Commercial Solicitation)

An ordinance enacting Chapter [11.70](#) of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to commercial solicitation.

WHEREAS, the City Council intends in enacting this chapter to recognize free speech rights for all citizens while at the same time protecting the coexistent rights for all citizens to enjoy safe and convenient travel in public spaces free from intimidation, threats, and harassment that stem from certain types of abusive solicitation; and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that "requests for immediate payment of money create a strong potential for fraud or undue pressure, in part because of lack of time for reflection." *International Society for Krishna Consciousness v. Lee*, 505 U.S. 672 (1992) (concurrence by Justice Kennedy); and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that there are numerous forms of solicitation that are not in and of themselves inherently threatening or aggressive, including non-vocal requests for a donation; carrying or displaying a sign requesting donations; shaking or jingling a cup of change; and ringing a bell in compliance with any applicable noise ordinance; and

WHEREAS, however, the City Council finds that there has been an increase in aggressive solicitation in the City, which threatens the security and privacy of both residents and visitors and may constitute harassment of such persons; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also finds that the presence of solicitors near banks or automatic teller machines in certain locations or at night can be especially threatening to persons; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that certain solicitation impedes the orderly flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic that leads to concerns regarding traffic and public safety; and

WHEREAS, this chapter is not intended to impermissibly limit an individual's right to exercise free speech associated with solicitation; rather it aims to impose specific time, place, and manner restrictions on solicitation and associated conduct in certain limited circumstances; namely, aggressive solicitation, solicitation at locations or times deemed particularly threatening and dangerous, or soliciting in places where people are a "captive audience" and there is a wish to avoid or reduce a threat of inescapable confrontations; and

WHEREAS, in promulgating this chapter, the City Council seeks to impose regulations that are narrowly tailored to serve the aforementioned significant government interests.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 11.70 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to commercial solicitation be, and the same hereby is, enacted as follows:

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or other thing of value, including the purchase of an item or service for an amount far exceeding its value, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the purchase is a donation. Commercial solicitation shall not include passively standing or sitting with a sign or other indication that one is seeking donations without addressing the request to any specific person, and does not refer to conduct regulated by chapter [25.64](#) of this code.

B. Prohibited Conduct

(1) Commercial solicitation in certain areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially solicit when the person solicited is in any of the following places within the city:

a. Inside or within [twenty-ten \(210\)](#) feet of a sidewalk cafe or any outside eating or dining establishment;

b. At or within [twenty-ten \(210\)](#) feet of a line of people waiting to gain admission to a place or vehicle or waiting to purchase an item or admission ticket;

c. At or within [twenty-ten \(210\)](#) feet of a food-dispensing street vendor;

d. In any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility, excluding airports;

e. At or within [twenty-ten \(210\)](#) feet of a bus or train stop; or

f. Within [twenty-ten \(210\)](#) feet of the entrance to a place of religious assembly.

(2) Money dispensing areas. It shall be unlawful to commercially solicit if the person making the solicitation knows or reasonably should know that the solicitation is occurring within [twenty-ten \(210\)](#) feet in any direction of an automated teller machine,

including within ~~twenty ten~~ (210) feet in any direction of any entrance or exit to a building containing an automated teller machine that is visible from the street.

(3) Particular manners. The following manners of commercial solicitation are expressly prohibited, at any time and in any manner, because of the coercive nature of each:

a. Hindrance to traffic.

1. Commercially soliciting in any manner that serves to intentionally block, obstruct, or interfere with orderly flow of either vehicles or pedestrians.
2. Commercially soliciting in any manner that intentionally and unreasonably causes a pedestrian or vehicle operator to take evasive action to avoid physical contact.
3. Commercially soliciting in any manner that violates traffic regulations for pedestrians or vehicles.

b. Aggressive commercial solicitation. It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially solicit in an aggressive manner, including any of the following actions:

1. Approaching or speaking to a person, or following a person before, during or after commercial solicitation, if that conduct is intended or is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm to oneself or to another, or damage to or loss of property or otherwise be intimidated into giving money or any other thing of value;
2. Intentionally touching or causing physical contact with another person without that person's consent in the course of commercial solicitation; or
3. Directing violent or threatening gestures toward the subject of the commercial solicitation:
 - (a) By blocking the path of the person solicited; or

(b) By following or walking behind, ahead of, or alongside the person solicited;
or

(c) By using profane or abusive language, either during the solicitation or
following refusal; or

(d) By accosting or forcing oneself upon the company of another; or

(e) By any statement, gesture, or other communication that a reasonable person
in the situation of the person solicited would perceive to be a threat; or

(f) By commercially soliciting in a group of two (2) or more persons fourteen
(14) years of age or older.

~~(4) False or misleading solicitation. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly
make any false or misleading representation in the course of commercial solicitation.~~

~~False or misleading representations include, but are not limited to, the following:~~

~~a. Stating that the solicitor is from out of town and stranded when such is not
true;~~

~~b. Stating or suggesting falsely that the solicitor is either a current or former
member of the armed services;~~

~~c. Wearing or displaying an indication of physical disability when the solicitor
does not suffer the disability indicated;~~

~~d. Use of any makeup or device to simulate a deformity;~~

~~e. Stating that the solicitor is homeless, when he or she is not;~~

~~f. Stating that the donation is needed to meet a specific need, when the solicitor
already has sufficient funds to meet the need and does not disclose that fact; or~~

~~g. Stating that the donation is needed to meet a need that does not exist.~~

(54) **Nighttime commercial solicitation.** It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially solicit after sunset and before sunrise.

C. Violation.

Violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a class B misdemeanor.~~[Input regarding enforcement options is encouraged and welcome.]~~

SECTION 2. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of its first publication.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah this _____ day of _____, 2010.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

~~CHIEF DEPUTY~~-CITY RECORDER

Transmitted to Mayor on _____.

Mayor's Action: _____ Approved. _____ Vetoed.

MAYOR

CITY RECORDER

(SEAL)

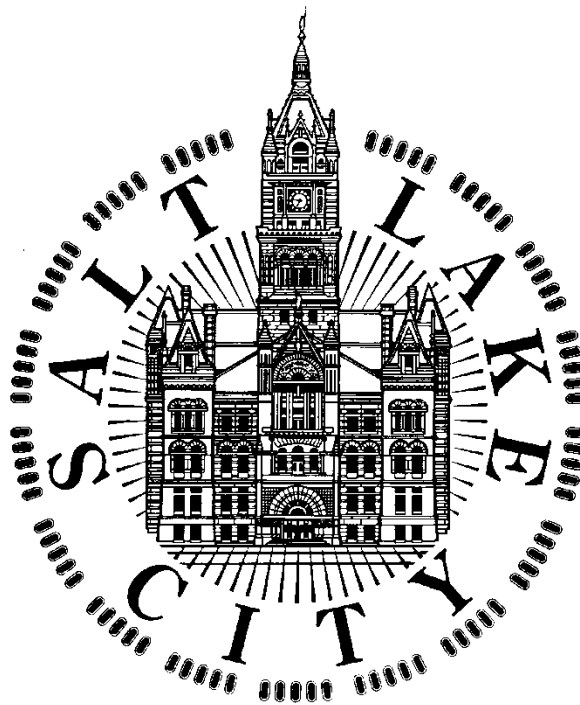
Bill No. _____ of 2010.

Published: _____.

HB_ATTY-#7038-v3-Ordinance_regulating_panhandling

Commercial Solicitation

Public Comment Summary



10/26/2009

Salt Lake City Corporation

Matt Lyon, Assistant to the Chief of Staff

On July 29, 2009, Salt Lake City released the proposed commercial solicitation ordinance for public comment and review. An email notice was sent to almost 100 stakeholders from various homeless and low income organizations. Comment was also solicited from Salt Lake City business organizations, community councils, and boards and commissions. The proposed ordinance was made available online at www.slcgov.com and covered extensively by multiple media outlets on numerous occasions. Although comments were accepted after the deadline, the official comment period ended on September 18, 2009.

In all, Salt Lake City received 61 unique comments, representing 6 organizations, regarding the proposed commercial solicitation ordinance. Comments were received from individuals, businesses, organizations, and a few (four) self-identified homeless individuals. The majority of comments, 70%, spoke in favor of the changes, 25% opposed the proposal, and 5% of the comments remained neutral or did not express a position.

	Number	Percentage
Support	42	68.9%
Oppose	16	26.2%
Neutral	3	4.9%
Total	61	100.0%

Copies of the emails and comments received can be seen below.

In addition to verbal and written comment, meetings were held with the following organization at their request:

- American Civil Liberties Union of Utah
- Business Advisory Board
- Catholic Community Services
- Crossroads Urban Center
- Downtown Alliance
- Fourth Street Clinic
- Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission

Public input varied. The below tables provide an overview of the types of comments received. The tables do not reflect the frequency of the comments or public input made.

- SUPPORT -

- Panhandling is not just a Downtown problem
- Panhandling negatively impacts the economy
- Panhandling discourages people from coming downtown
- Panhandling discourages tourism
- Panhandling creates a negative image of downtown Salt Lake City.
- Aggressive panhandling deters conventions from coming to Salt Lake City
- Some panhandlers are aggressive and threatening
- Panhandlers work in professional circuits
- Salt Lake City has a reputation of being a good place for panhandling
- Panhandlers do not pay taxes
- Panhandlers are not homeless
- Panhandling is an increasing problem in Salt Lake City
- The same panhandlers are seen day after day
- Panhandling creates feelings of unsafe environments
- Services are available for those truly in need
- Enforcement may be difficult
- Proper enforcement will be needed

Many comments support of the draft ordinance sought to add locations to the list where commercial solicitation was prohibited. These included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Business Entryways | • Gas Stations |
| • Entrances to Residential Buildings | • Grocery Stores |
| • Freeway Onramps | • Parking Lots |
| • Vending Machines | |

Additionally, a number of the comments expressed a desire for the ordinance to go further in restricting panhandling activity, including creating panhandling free zones, prohibiting people from holding signs and passive panhandling, and prohibiting people to panhandle with an animal.

- OPPOSE -

- Ordinance pushes the issue of homelessness “out of sight, out of mind”
- Ordinance will hurt an already needy community
- Salt Lake City has other laws which prohibit the aggressive behavior and address public safety concerns
- Ordinance will place additional pressure on homeless shelters
- Ordinance violates the 1st Amendment and other Constitutional provisions
- Ordinance discriminates against low income individuals
- The bad economy is making it hard to find work
- False pretenses provisions will lead to harassment of homeless people
- False pretenses provisions unfairly pushes burden of proof on to panhandlers
- Law enforcement are not trained to enforce the false pretenses section
- Panhandlers are in need of assistance
- People of different lifestyles is part of a vibrant community
- Discomfort is the fault of the person, not the panhandler
- Ordinance cannot be enforced
- Money from panhandling is a needed source of income
- Rights of homeless people are being eroded
- Panhandlers do not make much money
- Panhandling is a minor problem in comparison to other social issues
- Increase harassment of people who look indigent
- The term “Commercial Solicitation” is misleading
- Panhandlers will turn to more severe crime if they cannot panhandle
- Other alternatives exist to address issue of homelessness and poverty
- Anti-panhandling is a bad message given the current economic recession
- Is panhandling an increasing problem?
- Sidewalks are places for free speech and should be protected as such
- Time restrictions prohibiting panhandling between dusk and dawn are overly broad

A number of comments specifically opposed the provision that prohibited commercial solicitation outside of a church.

- NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT -

EMAIL FROM: Matt Lyon, Assistant to the Chief of Staff

DATE: July 29, 2009

SUBJECT: Call for Comment – Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Dear Salt Lake City Residents,

Aggressive panhandling and commercial solicitations are becoming more common in our City, especially in the Downtown and Sugarhouse areas. In response to concerns and comments from a number of businesses, tourism associations, individuals, and homeless providers, Salt Lake City is exploring additional methods for regulating commercial solicitations in public areas.

To be clear, the City is not interested in the outright prohibition of panhandling, commercial solicitations, or the free expression rights of individuals. Rather, we are working to address a specific type of behavior that makes people feel unsafe or threatened, prevents free access and movement of individuals, and discourages individuals from coming to Salt Lake City.

We are releasing a draft ordinance for public comment. The draft is intended to be a starting place for healthy dialogue and input. The draft is expected to change and evolve in response to feedback we receive over the next several weeks. We welcome and appreciate your comments.

Please submit your comments to mayor@slcgov.com by Friday, September 18, 2009.

Sincerely,

Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City Mayor

- EMAILS AND COMMENTS -

From: Barry Rose

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 2:32 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: FW: Call for Comment - Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

I would support the adoption of this ordinance and in fact would support a stricter version if possible to address the large number of these individuals that station themselves at street corners, off ramps, parking lot exits etc. It feels like harassment. Also, I would include proximity to liquor stores as an added deterrent to the individuals who position themselves near liquor stores and are clearly using the money collected for alcohol.

Thanks

Barry Rose

CTP

From: Barbara Sidener

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 12:10 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: panhandling

I would like to see an outright ban due to knowing full well the folks who are very well organized (at Smiths on 4th and 6th) and taking turns getting money from folks at the entrance and exit, have funds and are using others money for ????? Not acceptable and I am happy to assist them in getting benefits if needed. My guess will be they are well benefited (funds, social security, food stamps, housing, bus passes, food banks, free meals, free clothes) Thanks, Barb

From: Michael Brough

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 12:09 PM

To: Mayor

Cc: Ellen Reddick

Subject: Panhandling ordinance

I have reviewed the attached draft and I believe that it is well crafted and addresses a very critical and growing problem in our city. I would suggest that under "B - Prohibited Conduct" that another subsection or two be added as follows:

g. Within 20 feet of any outdoor vending machine or fuel dispensing equipment (i.e. fueling stations, self serve car washes, etc).

h. On or within 20 feet of any entrance to any privately owned property that services the public in general, including parking areas.

It is very threatening to have someone approach while the driver is either alone or has passengers (especially when the passengers are disabled, elderly or small children) sitting inside the unlocked vehicle and the driver is outside the vehicle while fueling the car. The driver is preoccupied with the fueling, likely has a credit card out, and when approached in the confined area between the car and

the pump, must be concerned about his or her own safety, the safety of his or her credit card, and more importantly the safety and vulnerability of the passengers sitting in the stationary vehicle which cannot be driven during the period of refueling. The driver is literally trapped with the responsibility for the fueling vehicle and for the passengers and he/she cannot walk away or avoid the panhandler. This situation occurs frequently to me at the Chevron located at the intersection of 13th East and 2100 South in SLC, for example. The panhandlers stand at various points surrounding the property and approach the drivers at different islands as the drivers exit their vehicles to begin fueling. It is unnerving and threatening because you cannot get away from them. They stand right there at the pump with you and while they are not approaching one driver as a group, there are multiple panhandlers on the property approaching different drivers and vehicles.

Thanks for considering these additional circumstances in the proposed ordinance.

Michael R. Brough

Senior Vice President / Corporate Banking Group
Zions First National Bank - Mail code UT-ZB02-0321

From: carol oldshield

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 2:50 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: commercial solicitation ordinance

I like the wording and intent of the document. There was obviously a lot of thought that went into the drafting of this ordinance.

Thank you,

Carol Oldshield RN/ QI
Fourth Street Clinic

From: Byron Gibbs

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 4:53 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Proposed anti-solicitation ordinance

I believe your agenda has this inherent flaw:

'We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people.'

Byron Gibbs
Salt Lake City

From: Anne Milliken

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 5:02 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Panhandling ordinance

I sit on the board of the Fourth Street Clinic which provides health for the homeless in Salt Lake City.

While I feel the ordinance intent is fair and an attempt to keep our society civilized , our city safe , businesses thriving, citizens from being frightened etc...I wonder if there has been input from homeless folks (with healthy mental state of mind)?

The reason I ask if there has been input from this section of our town is that for this ordinance to work, it seems to me, you need the healthy part of the homeless community to buy into this ordinance. To ask for their feedback is a productive way of "seeing" and engaging them as individuals who are a part of our community.

I understand this is not going to be easy and will require extra hours of work. However, it seems the "right thing to do" if you have not already done it.

Thank you,
Anne Milliken

From: Susan Keene
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2009 10:10 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Your Honor,

My opinions do not reflect Valley Mental Health or the Forensic Unit or the CATS program. I am a therapist who has experience in working with homeless persons, over the past 20 years. It has not been my primary focus but many of my regular clients are homeless.

I read the proposed ordinance. **The portion that intends to protect people from unwanted aggressive panhandling looks very well crafted. It will be fairly easy for everyone to understand.**

The section that spells out what the beggar can and cannot claim regarding homelessness, veteran status, disability status is not really needed and seems to me to be punitive in nature. We know that many of the people who are panhandling are probably lying, but certainly citizens need to practice some caution, and this is an area the city does not have to intrude upon, in my opinion. I think that dropping that portion of the ordinance will make it easier to enforce. A justice court will not need to investigate whether the cardboard sign reflected the truth. I'm sure our prosecutors and judges have enough to deal with; if the defendant asked for counsel in the case then we have even higher administrative cost.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions.

Susan Keene, LCSW

From: Richard Hillier
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2009 5:02 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Re: Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

I think the Ordinance is comprehensive and much needed, but I would like to see how it will be or could be enforced.

Thank you,

Richard Hillier

From: Holman, William (F)
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2009 2:22 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: Steere, Jared (F); Carla Wiese; Willie, Greg
Subject: Panhandling Ordinance

Mr. Mayor,

I miss Salt Lake City and my direct association with you and your office now that I work in Provo, and now that I am only indirectly involved with our Salt Lake hotels (Courtyard and Residence Inn). I received notice that you are accepting public comment regarding the commercial solicitation ordinance. I have a few thoughts:

* I imagine the panhandling ordinance does not address panhandling on private property because it is covered by the trespassing affidavit. Am I correct to assume? Can we include a reminder that it is unlawful to solicit on or from private property (i.e. parking lots or landscape)? What about solicitation from the park strips (area between street and sidewalk)?

* I think the presence of animals during a solicitation needs addressed in the panhandling ordinance. I have had guests of the Residence Inn panhandled by individuals with dogs and it is very intimidating. I.e. We had a woman with babe in arms approached by a man with a pit-bull on a rope. Not fun!

I am glad something is finally being attempted to address panhandling. It is unwelcoming and threatening to both visitors to Salt Lake City and the staff that accommodate them.

Thank you for all you do,
Arthur Holman

From: Kent Gibson
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2009 11:25 AM
To: Mayor
Cc: Carla Wiese
Subject: Panhandling Ordinance

Dear Matt Lyon,

In my 27 years of working in the downtown area, I have seen the city endeavor to gently deal with this subject. During that time, I have observed that the situation is becoming severe and the panhandlers are more organized. It is intriguing to know that the city is able to regulate money flow in most areas, but this situation. It appears that several individuals are engaged in an active business enterprise in the heart of the city on public right of ways totally unregulated. The enterprise is the selling of self-worth. Individuals will for a price sell improved self-worth by allowing a payment to help a perceived need.

This unregulated business activity pays no taxes, provides limited services, and is damaging to other regulated businesses functioning in the downtown area. It also potentially diverts large sums of money away from service organizations established to help families and individuals with significant needs.

I believe that the ordinance should ban the business practice of solicitation or severely regulate and tax the activity. The business activity should be separated from the occasional request of an individual or family who desperately needs a little help.

Concerning the subject of violation, I personally believe that individuals who violate the ordinance should help to defray the cost of enforcement and more importantly be required to provide 100 to 200 hours of community service to the various service organizations that are helping families and individuals with significant needs.

Sincerely,
Kent Gibson

From: Quilter, Carole

Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 1:37 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: FW: Call for Comment - Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Importance: High

Hello,

This was forwarded to me. I think it looks great. Enforcement will definitely be the hard part. Educating the public is key. If someone is in real need, there are many resources available to them. We have a handout titled Salt Lake Area Homeless Resource List that I have Gallivan on-site security give to anyone who asks for money. Either they are grateful for the info or they leave.

Also, I believe there is a typo in the paragraph below, found on page 2 paragraph 3. It looks like it should read "flow of pedestrian" not "flow or pedestrian".

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that certain solicitation impedes the orderly flow or pedestrian and vehicular traffic that leads to concerns regarding traffic and public safety; and

Good luck!

Thanks for asking for input.

Sincerely,

Carole Quilter

Maintenance Supervisor

Gallivan Center

From: Maxfield Family

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 9:18 AM

To: info@downtownslc.org

Cc: lbeattie@sallakechamber.org; Mayor; afalk@desnews.com

Subject: Panhandling

I read with interest the article in this morning's Deseret News regarding a proposed ordinance to restrict panhandling. I also read the comments posted on the Deseret News website. Most of the comments related to giving to charity but not giving to panhandlers.

I work in downtown and pass by the same panhandlers time and time again. I usually do not give to them, but I do make generous contributions to charitable organizations. I spoke with some of these panhandlers and told them that I would not give them money, but I would say "Hi" to them when I see them.

I have an idea that has been in my mind for a long time, but I have never acted on it. Reading today's article has caused me to propose my idea to the Downtown Alliance. Here is my idea:

Have the Downtown Alliance print business cards and create collection jars (or locked boxes). These would be dispersed throughout the businesses, restaurants, theaters, Salt Palace, Gateway, Salt Lake Temple, etc. The business cards would read something like.

"I have made a contribution in your behalf through the Downtown Alliance ??? Program. I do not give money to panhandlers, but please know that my contribution will assist you though one of the many organizations that assist people with needs. The following is a list of organizations that can help assist you with meals, medical care, dental care, finding work, ????,????.

"Provide a list of community organizations address, phone number, email etc."

The wording on the card could change, but you get the idea. The jar (or a sign next to the jar) would ask people to contribute money to the Downtown Alliance rather than giving to panhandlers. They can take a card if they contribute to the jar. (Even if they did not contribute to the jar and took a card, they would be helping the panhandling situation by giving a card to the panhandlers.)

The cards would be located beside the collection jars. I know that hundreds of people would cheerfully contribute a dollar or more in the jar and cheerfully give a panhandler the card. Within a few weeks, if everyone only gave cards to the panhandlers, the panhandlers would start disappearing. The Downtown Alliance would also be able to collect a great deal of money that could then be donated to the various organizations that help people in need.

I know that this may create a short-term litter problem as panhandlers throw the cards on the ground. This would only be a short term problem, and would disappear as the panhandlers disappear. As soon as the panhandlers get a few cards, they would also stop accepting more cards. I hope this idea has merit and will be considered. If the panhandlers disappear, then the City may not need to pass an ordinance.

Kind regards,
Brent Maxfield
Salt Lake City resident

From: I. Brown Zundel
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 8:29 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Restricting Panhandling

Dear Mayor and staff,

Thank you so very much for taking on this delicate issue. My wife and I walk around town for a hour every day and have seen many of the same people panhandling for the last 7 years. They block sidewalk traffic, lie about their reasons for doing so, and take advantage of the good nature of tourists and others unaware of their scam!

So, anything that can be done is certainly an improvement. Everyday I take plastic sacks to pick up trash on our walk and there are lots of cigarette packs and empty liquor bottles left behind by this population on a routine basis. They also smoke at will at Trax platforms and become quite nasty when the no-smoking signs are pointed out to them.

Thank you,
Brown Zundel

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705321532/SL-proposing-ordinance-to-restrict-panhandling.html>

From: Judith Huff
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 11:54 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandling in Salt Lake City

Dear Mayor & Staff,

The panhandling in downtown Salt Lake City and especially Temple Square is out of hand. There is one panhandler that swears at people for not giving him something. They step in front of you while you are walking; they put their stuff on the sidewalk 12-18 inches in front of them so you have to walk around them. If they are so desperate why are they spending money on cigarettes. I wouldn't give any panhandler a penny if they smoked.

A survey was done in the West Palm Beach area a number of years ago that found panhandlers made hundreds of dollars a day. The money they got never had taxes paid on it and they lived in a very nice houses or apartments.

Panhandlers cause loss of money to the city and store operators because tourists avoid where the panhandlers are.

I look forward to seeing and hearing what the city can do about getting rid of the panhandlers.
Judith P Huff

From: Ginger Riggs
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 1:11 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandling

Thank you so much for considering this law regarding panhandling.
I live downtown and see the same people all the time.
Those who are in real need rarely panhandle.

Thanks again,
Ginger Riggs

From: Gerald Wilcox
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 3:43 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Restricting pan handling.

Thank you, thank you. This is a real big problem. Being right down town, we see the same people day in day out. The faces are most always the same, although occasionally we will see a new face, but only for a couple days, then they are gone.

We try to help the "new ones", as we know there are people who need a helping hand.

Gerald Wilcox

From: Judith A. Kay
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 6:16 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandling

Good move to support the panhandling ordinance. It's an eye sore on our beautiful downtown. They are there for years on end.

One lady has been there for at least three or four years. One day she answered her cell phone (from her backpack) and told the person on the other end that she had made \$75 already (it was not quite noon).

The other lady accepted money from a woman with five small children (each on handed a dollar bill to her). Probably hard earned, needed money for her own family.

Please don't change your mind on your support of this ordinance and be sure that it can be enforced.

Judy Kay

From: Martin Baron
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 5:25 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Thank you.

As a downtown resident I am grateful for the new initiative by our Mayor to curb the scams being perpetrated downtown by so called "Pan handlers" I understand that people get down on there luck sometimes & as a whole I believe we are a generous city as a people. However Salt lake has gotten a reputation from Vegas to Chicago as a place of refuge for scammers claiming to be something they are not.

Good job Mayor Becker!

Regards,

Mr & Mrs Baron

From: John L. Udseth
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2009 9:22 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandling

Mayor Becker,

I just wanted to respond to the Panhandling Issue. I work with Judge John Baxter and the Homeless Court Project, and live on 500 East across from Smiths Market Place a regular hangout for panhandlers, and they are even kind enough to use our dumpster as a rest-room.

The Panhandlers there are a professional circuit and none of them are homeless, in fact many drive brand new expensive vehicles. I actually have seen them run off homeless people in front of ZCMI and Crossroads mall when those were the locations of choice.

I see very few of the homeless people that we work with at the homeless court panhandling and we see even less in citations for associated offenses come into the court. There may be more at 200 E. Municipal court.

Another way to approach this issue is to work with the Utah Tax Commission and to determine how many of these folks have not filed a State Tax Return in the last few years, if I remember that is considered tax evasion, and I am willing to bet some owe thousands of dollars, which can help offset some of our deficit issues in the city, especially the professional panhandlers surrounding Smiths.

In addition to just being a nuisance, these folks leave trash laying around, and defecate in bushes or behind dumpsters and have already been trespassed from the properties that they stand in front of. From what I have seen, there is a higher percentage of professional panhandlers than homeless panhandlers in this city.

I am in support of this effort to take steps to curtail panhandling in the city.

Regards,

John L. Udseth
National V.I.T.A. Development Manager
The National Urban Technology Center, Inc.

From: Steve Berry
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2009 6:18 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandling ordinance

Mayor Becker,

I used to live in Tacoma Washington, that city had a huge panhandling problem, they passed an ordinance and last time I was up the they were not a problem.

here is what their ordinance is:

Panhandling is not allowed within 15 feet of the following places citywide: building entrances, ATMs, bus stops, parked cars, pay phones, gas stations, car washes, and outdoor cafes. It's not allowed at any time on buses. And you can't panhandle at intersections, freeway ramps, or in any way directed toward traffic. it's prohibited everywhere from dusk to dawn.

I live downtown and sometimes walk to work and usually I am asked 2 or 3 times and it is the same people day in and day out, I hope the city can pass a panhandling ordinance soon.

Sincerely,

Steve Berry

From: Stanford Nielson

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 10:50 AM

To: Mayor

Subject: Regarding the Panhandling Ordinance

I think the ordinance is great however I think you may have a problem with the constitutionality of the provision that prohibits solicitation after sunset and before sunrise.

I would think the free speech and free association provisions of the constitution would prohibit a somewhat arbitrary cutoff. It is O.K. to solicit at 8:00 p.m. but not at 8:01 pm? Also, when is sundown? The weather people know when the official time is but it is not what the layman thinks it is. I think sundown is when it is dark which is often up to an hour after the official sundown time of the weather service. Making a homeless person know this seems unreasonable. It also, in general, seems very arbitrary. Why not prohibit solicitation during the "lunch hour" or from 2:00 to 3:00. Again the answer is because these times are just arbitrary.

Also, how will the police who enforce this law know if someone is telling the truth? Will the police have to violate the privacy rights of a panhandler in order to make a determination of need? How do I prove that I don't have a home? The police will have to follow me at night to see where I go. It seems somewhat intrusive. Just a thought.

Also how do we protect the legitimate charities? I remember seeing the heart association who set up a "Jail Cell" in the food court of the Crossroads mall. They had "arrested" prominent persons in the community who were soliciting passersby for "bail" money (donations) to get them out of jail. That program would have violated this ordinance in several ways. Perhaps you could add a provision where legitimate organizations could register to solicit for a limited time (up to 3 days for 12 hours a day) at a specific location (food court) (city park) and thereby obtain an exemption.

Other than the above I think it is fairly good.

Stanford Nielson

Vice President

Zions Bank-Office of the President

On Aug 11, 2009, at 12:40 PM, David Rosenbloom wrote:

Bill,

Dave Rosenbloom here, it wasn't clear if you are the contact for this ord, but if you are, my thoughts are that this is going to further put pressure on Road Home and associated shelters as they take in people who were previously supporting themselves. Secondly, clearly if these people receive a ticket, they are not going to appear in court absent a warrant creating a further load on the system, one which is already strained at the JC, DC and jail levels; paperwork alone is a problem. Lastly, from a pure Fourth A perspective, this Ord will increase hassling of people who are and look indigent, and it doesn't seem at all clear that one can constitutionally prohibit one from holding a sign asking for donations; if it were then every non-profit would be at risk at x mas time, unless they were always on private property (most are as I understand it)

Sincerely,

Dave Rosenbloom, Esq.

From: Rusty Cannon

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 1:35 PM

To: Slcpd

Subject: loitering enforcement

I was wondering if somebody could tell me what the loitering laws are in downtown SLC?

I am getting very tired of the large gathering of vagrants/homeless individuals that gather every day on the planter boxes under the trees on the west side of the street on 4th South and Main. They are consistently noisy, intimidating, and disruptive. Something needs to be done to clear them out so that people can enjoy that section of downtown without feeling threatened or intimidated.

Please let me know what the police department can or cannot do to make this happen. Thanks.

Rusty Cannon

President and Chief Investment Officer

RKC Capital

From: Judy Reese

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 8:44 AM

To: mayor@slc.gov

Cc: Sue Stahle; Ellen Reddick; Akerlow, Michael

Subject: Public Discussion Draft of Commercial Solicitation ordinance

Congratulations on an excellent proposal with regards to commercial solicitation/panhandling. I believe that your draft strikes the right balance between recognizing free speech while at the same time protecting citizens from feeling threatened or harassed as a result of unwanted contact by an individual soliciting money.

One comment that I would like to make, however. As one who parks downtown on a daily basis, there are times where I feel like I am a sitting duck as I pull into my parking place and am descended upon by individuals who happen to be close by as I pull into my parking space. I then must make the choice to either 1) not park my car in my designated spot, and circle the block until these individuals

leave, 2) sit in my car and hope they go away or 3) get out of my car and deal with the situation. I have had dealt with this issue personally on a number of occasions, and have also witnessed the same situation when guests of our Gastronomy restaurants park their cars in our lots, particularly in the morning when there are no valets present.

I am therefore curious if there is any way to add additional verbiage to the ordinance that deals with this issue. When I brought it up at the Business Advisory Board meeting yesterday, several others in the group nodded their heads in agreement, having been through the same experience.

The lots of which I am referencing are private lots owned by Gastronomy – I am unclear if that makes a difference versus a public parking lot.

Any feedback you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Again, thank you for a well drafted ordinance to deal with this problem.

Regards-

Judy Reese

Communications Director

From: Zachary Dwight
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 10:59 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandling ordinance

Please limit if not ban pan handling. I don't feel safe when a guy with needled up arms comes up 'needing gas money'. I'm originally from Washington state and if you don't stop it, homeless communities build up in parks (tents, fire pits, etc) and form panhandling rotations. Only recently has the state of Washington started tearing them down.

Zach Dwight

Database Analyst
Westminster College

From: Brad Hart
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 10:04 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Comments regarding commercial solicitation/ panhandling ordinance

Hello,

I want to commend the city council for drafting this ordinance. I think it is well thought out and very timely, as the panhandling problems seem to be escalating.

This draft ordinance has my full support. As I read through it, every scenario I could think of regarding uncomfortable and threatening situations with panhandlers was addressed. I live very close to the North Temple corridor, a particularly bad area for this type of behavior.

I would like to suggest also prohibiting this behavior at freeway exits. 1300 South and 1300 East exits are plagued with phony homeless. I think it makes our city look trashy and definitely has a negative effect upon quality of life for the residents here.

I hope to see this ordinance passed and I hope it will have enough teeth to have a deterrent effect.

Thank you.

Brad Hart
150 N. 1000 W.
SLC, UT.

From: Doane, Kerry (Strategic Planner III)
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 5:03 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Dear Salt Lake City Mayor and City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance on commercial solicitations. I support the effort and have the following suggestions:

1. In Section 1A. Definitions – In my opinion the definition as proposed is confusing with regard to the “purchase of an item”. Is the intent to prohibit the sale of tickets or crafts or foods for the price a vendor can get? It may just be my own personal experience, but I have never understood buying something on the street to be purely a donation. If there are aggressive salespeople out there that I have not run into and the ordinance aims to restrict, then the definition ought say the “selling of an item or service for an amount far exceeding its value”. The phrase about a donation isn’t needed because it doesn’t matter what the purchaser thinks if the salesperson is being too aggressive.
2. Section 1C. Request for input on violations. I am not in law enforcement, but it does seem like this ordinance will be hard to enforce, especially verifying the truthfulness or lack thereof of claims made by solicitors. I would think some sort of hotline would need to be set up for the public to call to alert public safety officers of situations that fall under this ordinance. It could be part of the education campaign that encourages the public not to give to panhandlers. If solicitors who violate the ordinance are brought in at least once for a background check, those who make false claims could be exposed to the public by a webpage or pictures and fined if they are able to pay. Others can be referred to the social services and/or assigned some community service. If this process took a lot of time sitting

at a police station, it could be part of the consequence and would prevent the individual from waiting until an officer left before continuing the offending practice.

Respectfully,
Kerry Doane

From: I. Brown Zundel
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2009 10:09 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Please don't let the special interest groups deter you!

Dear Mayor,

The homeless problem in SLC is severe. We have an \$80 Million Library that effectively serves as a daytime homeless shelter. Other communities have established a "Hygiene" requirement for the use of similar facilities. There is no reason why SLC should not do the same. There are many young families that live in the city that will not take their small children to the Library because of the exposure to the "gangbangers" that smoke, promote drug use, and hang out at the entrance to the Library that is often filled with the Homeless. That is why I supported the Public Safety Complex on the Library Square as a potential deterrent to such activity,

With regard to Panhandling. I very much support your initiative to bring them under greater control. Once again, the actions of several dozen professional panhandlers impact the appearance, viability, and welcoming environment of the city to our "real" citizens and those thousands of visitors that come from all over the world to enjoy the unique features that SLC offers. Many of us make a significant contribution to the Church's and other organizations that insure that those who need food or shelter have what they need. The panhandlers are often looking for additional cash for drugs or alcohol. As we walk around town every day, we see the very same group of panhandlers at their regular spots. With their luggage bags, signs, cups, etc, they often take up a third

or more of the sidewalk space that is already crowded with regular foot traffic or they block the entrances to businesses or traffic exits. The "public forum" freedoms surely do not include a provision for them to be able to impede foot or vehicle traffic.

So, please continue in your attempt to regulate such behavior. I have often wondered how many of the homeless are Utah citizens in the classic sense. I used to take the State street bus from downtown to 3300 South several times a week. You would be amazed at the conversation that goes on there that has convinced me that there is a significant "Field of Dreams" context to our homeless population. Because SLC provides many benefits to the homeless population, the word is out and transients from all over the country flock here to take advantage of the services available to that population.

Thanks for addressing this most significant issue. You have the support of hundreds of my SLC citizen friends that are just like me [retired, financially secure, and with SLC ties that go back many generations].

Brown Zundel

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705323466/Homeless-advocates-ask-Becker-to-bag-begging-ban.html>

From: Gat, Liat
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2009 8:25 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: comments on solicitation ordinance
Hello,

I just read the proposed ordinance on solicitation and appreciate the intention of the ordinance. I was approached on my way into the building this morning and asked for a donation, as has happened many times before. I think this legislation is timely and appropriate, and respectful.

Thank you!

Liat Gat

Senior Secretary
Community & Economic Development Department
Salt Lake City Corporation

From: Koob, Doug (F)
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 2:24 PM
To: Mayor
Subject:

I would like speak in support of this. We regularly have guest who express their concerns about the homeless and pan-handling. Something has to be done and this is a good start.

Douglas Koob
General Manager
Salt Lake Marriott City Center

CALL: Paul Cutrer
August 20, 2009

All of the panhandling keeps Paul from wanting to go downtown. Could the city possibly put up collection boxes near where people generally panhandle? The money these boxes collect would go to homeless shelters so that people could still give, but not be forced to give to a person who may spend the money on drugs or alcohol. They could have signs on them stating what they are for and why they are there.

CALL: David Aston
August 24, 2009

David used to be a street performer and he believes that panhandling (just standing begging for money) is perpetuating laziness.

Recently spoke with two different panhandlers on the street. The first travels with a group of other panhandlers who work a circuit from Salt Lake to Las Vegas and down to Arizona then back around. The second was living off of his military retirement and he only panhandles to make some extra not taxable income. Both men were doing this as a profession.

David's idea is that we make all panhandlers register with the city/police department in order to verify that they are needy and to make sure we are not allowing wanted criminals run a business on our streets. They are professionals so we should make them register the same as any business.

From: Sarah Thompson
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 4:05 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: Garrott, Luke
Subject: Panhandling ordinance

Dear Mayor Becker,

I am writing to let you know I strongly OPPOSE the proposed panhandling ordinance with the exception of the prohibition of panhandling around ATMs. I would not want a stranger to approach me while I was using an ATM.

Panhandlers have as much right to be on the streets as people using cafes, waiting in line for tickets, patronizing food stands etc. They are fellow human beings, not some other species with fewer rights.

My understanding is that interfering with traffic, assault, and harassment are already against the law. Why do we need yet another law? And I can't imagine how anyone would go about enforcing a law against lying. If you propose to do so, I think it should apply to everyone.

In my experience, the problem is rarely the panhandler him or herself, but rather the discomfort experienced by the person being solicited, whether due to guilt, inability to simply say no, or fear of people who live differently than they do. These problems simply cannot be solved by legislation.

Personally, I enjoy helping people in distress, and do not want my city government interfering with my right to speak or be spoken to by any person who believes he or she needs assistance.

Please withdraw this panhandling ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Sarah Thompson

From: Joy Dantine
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Solicitation Compromise

May I suggest panhandlers be allowed to operate only at locations where people walk by versus where people have "no choice" but to come out or enter in to buildings.

Similiar to smoke; stay 25' away from any access/exit - pedestrian or vehiculer. Plus congested areas are more unsafe for everyone. Almost no one is intruded upon any more than other pedestrian traffic versus persons being trapped at access/exit points.

I like you style of conducting matters of a sensitive nature. I trust the City will make the right decision to best suit everyone.

Most sincerely,

D. Joy Dantine

From: Arthur Malia
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 2:01 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Panhandlers

Mayor Becker I am mailing you some information regarding U.S. Codes that prohibit the use of uniforms , medals or insignia by those who are not veterans. The information you will receive might help you weed out the phonies.

A veteran will have a DD 214 that is his discharge paper. Active Duty, Reservist and Retirees have picture ID's called DD form 2 followed by the branch of service.

DD form 2AF or DD form 2 AF Retired each ID is made out this way reflecting the individuals branch of service

Military dependents of active and retired personnel have a yellow card while active duty members have a green card and us retirees have a blue ID Card. Reservist have a pink ID card. I have never known any active duty or retired veterans panhandling. Most panhandlers claiming to be veterans have never even stepped into a recruiting office let alone spent time in the service.

This is from SSgt Arthur B. Malia (PhD), USAF Retired

From: DJ Bruhn
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 12:41 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Pan Handling

Thank you so very much for taking on this delicate issue. I walk around town almost every day and have seen many of the same people panhandling for the last several years. They block sidewalk traffic, lie about their reasons for doing so, and take advantage of the good nature of tourists and others unaware of their scam! Some of them even act out violently when you refuse their requests. I don't always feel safe walking down the streets in the middle of the day due to some of these individuals.

Again Thank you!

DJ Bruhn

ZIONS SECURITIES

From: Joy Dantine
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2009 12:37 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Solicitation/Panhandling Part II

In addition to initial comment dated August 25th, I request permission to suggest no solicitation at intersections for that delays action on vehicles proceeding past said intersection - and may result in injury to person(s) involved.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008968918_webbeggarsbash01m.html

<http://www.thestar.com/News/article/245532>

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local-beat/Slain-knife-wielder-idd-by-cops-55722407.html>

http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/content/news/stories/2009/08/17/081809_3A_median_ordinance.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=7

Most sincerely,

D. Joy Dantine

name : J A Carbine

Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 7:00 AM

Dear Mayor Becker,

You asked for input on the question of panhandling in the city. There are several persons who frequent downtown sites that have been there in excess of three yrs. I pass by three of these individuals four or more times a day, and see these people plying their trade on a daily basis. I witness soft-hearted individuals handing them money all the time. One who claims to be homeless lives in a house, rides the bus and comes to "work" clean every day. Another who claims to be in "poor health", seems to be able to stand on his feet for hours at a time and accept money. A third person claims that her insides are falling out, and needs money to support her two children. She lives out on North Temple, and is able to come to "work" every day and stand for hours begging for money. It is certain that all three pay no taxes, and it is evident that they don't intend to find work in some productive effort. Judging by the frequency of the acts of kindness on the part of passing individuals, they make a tidy living on the kindness of others, rather than earning a living through their own productive efforts. Their presence around important tourist attractions casts an impression of blight on the character of the city. Recent news stories have indicated that the plights of beggars are probably not genuine, and they are conducting a scam on the soft-hearted individuals who are their prey. If nothing can be done to curtail their activities, they should at least be directed away from certain areas where encounters with the public shed a poor light on Salt Lake City.

Sincerely,

J A Carbine
Salt Lake City

From: Shad | LUNAwebs.com

Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 8:27 AM

To: Mayor

Subject: commercial solicitation support

I support this ordinance which defines commercial solicitation.

My employees and myself have been verbally harassed many times in the few years we have worked downtown because we haven't given of our change.

I get solicited at least 2 times every day on my walk to my vehicle.

It would be nice to just be able to walk by without having to make an excuse for not helping someone out.

Often times - I don't have any change anyway, and when I say I don't have any change I'm ridiculed, sworn at and called names.

It does get a bit threatening not knowing what some of these people will do, because some are drugged out or drunk and are not in the proper frame of mind.

Although I support this ordinance - it will be no good without any enforcement of some type. A lot of these homeless folk (and I'm sorry for their state), choose to be where they are at because of worldly habits. They don't care if they break the law or get caught - so I'm curious how you'll enforce it to make citizens feel comfortable.

--



Shad Vick - CEO

From: Arthur Franks

Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 2:25 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Salt Lake City Ordinance regarding Commercial Solicitation

Concerns and recommendations:

1. Section "B" Prohibited Conduct Subsection 1.
 - a. Consider adding the 20 foot requirement to any business entrance in this section.
 - b. Strongly consider adding the 20 foot requirement to any residential entrance. Especially with the growing number of new units to the downtown area.
 - c. Consider increasing the distances shown in this section to 25 feet for all occurrences. (This matches county's clean air act distances for non smoking regulations)
2. Section "C" Enforcement
 - a. What is a victim to do when an event occurs?
 - b. Do they have to stay with the perpetrator until Officers arrive?
 - c. Will the Officer take the word of the victim or does the Officer have to witness the event as they do now in order to site the perpetrator?
3. When this request was sent to your office, from the Downtown Alliance, it was to have the entire Central Business District changed to a NO PAN HANDLING DISTRICT. This would have made the issue more defined and easier to enforce without victims being pressed into the process.
4. As it is written here, it along with it's new and desired changes will not be enforceable. This will continue to leave the public and the police department to go in circles and not improve the situation and the image of our great city.

Thanks for your consideration and I would be available for further discussion regarding this proposed ordinance. Remember I also live at 270 South Main Street and deal with this situation every day.

Arthur Franks
Director of Membership
EDCUtah

From: Maxfield Family
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 11:16 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Commercial Solicitaion Ordinance

To whom it may concern:

Section B(4) of the ordinance lists "False or misleading solicitation." I agree with these items. However, in A "Definitions," it states, "Commercial solicitation shall not include passively standing or sitting with a sign or other indication that one is seeking donations without addressing the request to any specific person, and does not refer to conduct regulated by ..."

Please change the ordinance so that these people passively standing or sitting must also follow the "False or misleading solicitation" requirements. The way I read the ordinance, these peoples signs do not fall under the ordinance because they have been excluded from the ordinance by definition.

I think that the ordinance should prohibit anyone with a sign from being near a cash dispensing machine, not just the "Commercial Soliciters." I get nervous if there is anyone loytering near a cash dispensing machine.

Brent Maxfield
Salt Lake City

From: Sue Stahle
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 9:56 AM
To: Lyon, Matt
Subject: Re: Call for Comment Reminder - Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Great job Matt, I am satisfied with all the terminology.
Sue



SALT LAKE CITY
**Downtown
Alliance**

AN AFFILIATE OF THE SALT LAKE CHAMBER

September 15, 2009

Mayor Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City

Dear Mayor Becker:

The Downtown Alliance supports Salt Lake City's proposed commercial solicitation ordinance. On behalf of the 2,500 business and property owners we represent in the Central Business District, we applaud you and the Salt Lake City Council for taking a leadership role on this complex issue. We appreciate efforts to find legal solutions to the challenges posed by aggressive panhandling in our community.

The city's approach carefully balances important free speech protections with place, time and manner restrictions, limiting commercial solicitations and requiring accountability of panhandlers who request money on city streets. It is appropriate to ask panhandlers to verify claims they make regarding past military service or current housing resources. It is also appropriate to exclude commercial solicitation from the areas identified by the proposed ordinance.

Clearly, there are people in our community who have legitimate needs. There are also excellent social service organizations that work diligently every day to meet those needs. In the Central Business District, these organizations include Catholic Community Services, Volunteers of America, The Road Home, and the 4th Street Clinic. The Downtown Alliance encourages donations to legitimate organizations to help the homeless. We recognize a clear distinction between panhandlers who claim to be homeless and people in our community who truly find themselves in need. We discourage the business of panhandling.

Commercial solicitors have a negative impact on businesses. Aggressive panhandlers intimidate patrons, employees and visitors. They detract from a dynamic environment in the Central Business District, and discourage development. We recognize that the proposed ordinance will not solve all of the problems associated with commercial solicitations in the downtown area, but we think it sends an important message to panhandlers and to the public. We hope that it empowers residents and visitors to make good decisions about ways they can support legitimate charities in our community.

Panhandling is not an issue unique to downtown or Salt Lake City—it is a problem in communities across the Wasatch Front, and across the nation. We are grateful to live in a city where political leaders are fully engaged in this issue, and are willing to support public dialogue to find solutions to this ongoing problem. The Downtown Alliance commends Salt Lake City's political leaders for their efforts to build a more dynamic and welcoming capital city, and recognize this as an important step in continuing to build a Great American City.

Sincerely,

Jason Mathis
Executive Director

CC: Salt Lake City Council

From: Karen Silver
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 11:35 AM
To: Mayor; Karen Silver
Subject: solicitation

Following are comments on the proposed solicitation ordinance:

1. Why is the term "commercial" used in this context? Are people going to need a business license? Is this needed legal language? If it is not needed, it seems to me that just the word "solicitation" is enough.

2. In (3) Particular Manners I am wondering how b.1. will be enforced. Intent is hard to enforce. It seems like the language used later in the text about swearing, threatening, etc. would cover this.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Karen Silver



Thursday, September 17, 2009

Dear Mayor Becker and the Salt Lake City Council,

Last night Crossroads Urban Center held a gathering of homeless people to collect comments on the draft of the city ordinance regarding panhandling. The enclosed letters were all written by low-income people who attended that meeting. Please carefully consider their comments as you work through this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Martindell, social justice advocate, Crossroads Urban Center
sarah@crossroads-u-c.org
801-364-7765, ext. 130

Executive Director
Glenn L. Bailey
Board Chairman
James Kris Koford

347 South 400 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
ph: 801.364.7765
fax: 801.364.7228
www.crossroads-u-c.org

u.
To Mayor Becker,

Please don't pass the bill on panhandling. Some of us are legitimately homeless and are not working yet. I fly a sign and don't ask out loud - where's our freedom of speech? Do you have a job for me? I'll do anything within reason - I'm over 50 and finding steady work isn't as easy as it used to be. Don't punish us all for the tactlessness of a few.

Thank you,
Heidi

I have recently become homeless, & am a direct individual that has been affected by the economy. Jobs are very difficult to obtain in this era & pushes me to ask others to help out in my time of need. Coming together as a community & more realistically a family you never want to see a fellow brother or sister go hungry & onsheltered. Asking for change is not a thing that we need to regulate when we have so many other issues at hand that need addressing. Such a minor thing as asking for help from another human being is not a crime. It is a time to give back to another that has fallen upon hard times & treat another as Jesus would. Christ says that we need to love one another not judge your fellow man. Are we not the state that has been blessed so immensely to be the hub of the Latter day saints. Let us prove to other states & religions that we are abiding to Jesus's laws to Love one another & help feed each others needs.

Dear Mayor Becker

I am a homeless man who lives in Salt Lake City, and I am very concerned about this panhandling ban you are trying to pass. This ban is very clearly aimed at discriminating against the homeless populations. As a homeless man panhandling is mainly my main source of income, I have tried to get a job but at this time it's nearly impossible to get a job. So I ask you Mayor Becker to rethink this ban. Stop listening to your rich business owner who asks you to discriminate against us homeless people. I ask you instead to ask these rich business to hire us homeless more. I thank you for your time Mister Mayor.

Signed
Drew Tessing
a concerned citizen

Dear Mayor Becker

Even though I don't panhandle myself,
I feel that as a homeless ~~person~~
person, our rights are being further
and further eroded.

This law proposal seems to be ^{I not} ~~just~~
another aspect of granting the police
agency to harass people in unfortunate
circumstances.

I believe this panhandling ordinance
proposal is so controversial, that it
will ultimately embarrass you and your
office.

Jeff Williams

~~A law against panhandling~~

Panhandlers do NOT
make much money & crime
will go UP if panhandling
is illegal. If you
think an alley street or
grass or sidewalk is being
ritch try it. being homeless
& not having \$ for a towel or
toothpaste

From: Bill Germundson
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 11:45 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: draft ordinance

The Honorable Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City Mayor's Office

September 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Mayor

I'm writing to ask that Section B.1.F. Of the Draft Ordinance of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to Commercial Solicitation is stricken entirely from the ordinance.

I was an Assistant Minister at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church for several years. During that time I was able to reach out to help individuals who came to the church seeking assistance. As Christians we are bound to reach out a hand the needy and societies downtrodden.

Here is a case in point. An individual who you could call a "panhandler" came to the church. He was new to town, had no money, and was homeless. We found out this person was actually sleeping on the church property. With help and guidance from church members and the grace of God this person went on to become a church council leader and respected member of the church.

I believe Section B.1.F. of the ordinance would infringe on our ability to reach out and change lives through Christ and should be taken out.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Germundson
Member of Mount Tabor Lutheran Church.

The Honorable Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City Mayor's Office

September 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I have reviewed the Draft Ordinance of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to Commercial Solicitation. I have some concerns especially relating to Section B.1.f. *It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially solicit when the person solicited is within 20 feet of the entrance to a place of religious assembly.*

I am a member of Mount Tabor Lutheran Church located at 175 South and 700 East in Salt Lake City. It is not uncommon for people to approach church members outside our building or come to our door asking for help. This is not repugnant to our community. Quite to the contrary! We, as most religious assemblies do, see it as part of our Ministry to help people in need where we can. We don't see that it would be necessary for these people to make "non-verbal" requests for aid.

In particular, I have the following comments:

1. I assume that the violent and aggressive and otherwise dangerous activity mentioned in the Ordinance is already prohibited by other laws, ordinances or statutes. If not, perhaps we should criminalize such behaviors specifically, not poor people in general.
2. Our church has had persons such as are those that are referred to in the Ordinance who came to our doors seeking aid and then became members of our community.
3. **I would request that the entire Ordinance be reconsidered. At the very least it is my request that Section B.1.f. *Within twenty feet of the entrance to a place of religious assembly* be entirely stricken from the document as this part of the Ordinance in particular would make it more difficult to help the very people that we are bound by our religious beliefs to assist. Airports are excluded; I would expect that "Religious Assemblies" could be excluded as well.**

I, along with Brothers and Sisters in many "Religious Assemblies", would be glad to support any serious effort on the part of the Mayor and the Salt Lake City Council to constructively address the root causes of poverty in our City such as (but not limited to) **Food Insecurity** and **Lack of Low Income Housing** for it's residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Stephanie F. Wilson
Member of Mount Tabor Lutheran Church

From: Jessica and Scott Patton
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 8:23 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: glenn@crossroads-u-c.org; fumc200@earthlink.net
Subject: panhandling ordinance

To whom it may concern:

My name is Scott Patton, Outreach Coordinator at First United Methodist Church located at 203 South 200 East in Salt Lake City. I am responding to a call for comment regarding the proposed panhandling ordinance. In the past decade I have experienced many people coming to our church who have been in need. Although at times I have felt uncomfortable (I have never been threatened) in attempting to address their needs, it is my calling and my

church's calling to help. As a Christian this ordinance is antithetical to me, in particular the provision banning panhandling near houses of worship. While the intent of some of the proposal would increase public safety (prohibiting panhandling near an ATM makes sense), I feel it only further marginalizes those suffering from poverty and sends the wrong message about our community. I also strongly disagree with the perception that many of those asking for money do so as an occupation. Almost all of those that come to our door asking for assistance have lost their way and are truly in need. I question if the police, their resources already stretched thin fighting crime, are going to have the ability to enforce this ordinance and determine with due process which panhandlers are telling the truth and which ones are not. Our city should be more focused and committed to helping those in need rather than passing laws which unfairly penalize them especially in these tough economic times. Please reconsider passing this ordinance. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Scott Patton

(801)583-3327



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

Mayor Ralph Becker
Office of the Mayor of Salt Lake City
PO Box 145474
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5474
mayor@slcgov.com

September 18, 2009

Re: Salt Lake City's Proposed Commercial Solicitation Ordinance

Dear Mayor Becker:

The ACLU of Utah appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to you regarding your proposed "Commercial Solicitation Ordinance" (hereafter "the proposed ordinance"). Following is a compilation of our concerns, as well as our suggestions for alternatives.

I. CONCERNS WITH "COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION ORDINANCE"

A. Name of Ordinance is Misleading

We feel that the name of the proposed ordinance is misleading as to the nature of the expression it attempts to restrict. Your proposed ordinance purports to target "commercial solicitation." However, the Supreme Court of the United States has long recognized that charitable solicitations fall within a category of speech close to the heart of the First Amendment, distinguishable from "purely commercial speech." Commercial speech is "primarily concerned with providing information about the characteristics and costs of goods and services," and as such enjoys lesser first amendment protection.¹ Courts have recognized that "[b]eggars at times may communicate important political or social messages in their appeals for money, explaining their conditions related to veteran status, homelessness, unemployment and disability, to name a few.... While some communities might wish all solicitors, beggars and advocates of various causes be vanished from the streets, the First Amendment guarantees their right to be there, deliver their pitch and ask for support."²

B. Activities Defined in Ordinance are Sufficiently Regulated Already

While the city's goals in enacting such a regulation may be laudable in its attempt to create a safer atmosphere for citizens, laws already exist which punish criminal activity on public streets

¹ See *Schaumburg*, 444 U.S. 620, 632 (1980) ("[C]haritable appeals for funds, on the street or door to door, involve a variety of speech interests ... that are within the protection of the First Amendment.").

² *Gresham v. Peterson*, 225 F.3d 899 (7th Cir. 2000).

including impeding traffic and menacing, disorderly conduct. As such, it is our position that the proposed ordinance is unnecessary.

C. Potential Constitutional Issues with Regards to Free Speech

While courts have issued mixed rulings regarding anti-panhandling ordinances, some more recent rulings indicate that courts have found similar ordinances to be unconstitutional under theories that state constitutions may provide greater free speech protection. In Utah, our Supreme Court has recognized that the free speech clause contained in the Utah Constitution is broader than that contained in the corresponding Federal clause, and so any regulation restricting speech may prove vulnerable to challenge under state law.

As you know, cities that have enacted similar anti-panhandling ordinances have been subject to legal challenges, on grounds that anti-panhandling ordinances violate the First Amendment to the Constitution as well as state constitutional provisions protecting free speech. Indeed, in the majority of cases where this issue is considered, courts have held that panhandling or solicitation for money is speech entitled to First Amendment protection.³ While courts have come to different conclusions regarding the constitutionality of anti-panhandling ordinances, several recent decisions have struck down similar laws as violating state free speech provisions under state constitutions.⁴

In March 2009, a judge in Oregon ruled that the city of Medford's anti-panhandling ordinance violated Article 1, Section 8, of the Oregon Constitution, which prohibits passing any law restricting freedom of speech.⁵ The court concluded that the ordinance's prohibition against "in-person requests" for "immediate donations" in certain locations was unconstitutional under the Oregon Constitution.⁶

While not yet tested as applied to charitable solicitation, Utah's constitutional provisions regarding free speech have been interpreted by the Utah Supreme Court as providing for

³ See *Henry v. Cincinnati*, 2005 WL 1198814 (S. D. Ohio 2005) (upholding ordinance as valid time, place, manner restriction, but recognizing that panhandling is a protected form of speech); *Smith v. City of Ft. Lauderdale*, 177 F.3d 954 (11th Cir. 1999) (upholding law but acknowledging that begging is a form of speech); *Blair v. Shanahan*, 919 F. Supp. 1361 (N.D. Cal. 1996) (striking down ordinance as unconstitutional); *Heathcott v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officers*, No. CV-S-93-045 (D. Nev. Mar. 3, 1994) (striking down ordinance that prohibited all panhandling); *Loper v. New York City Police Department*, 999 F.2d 699 (2nd Cir. 1993) (striking down law and holding that begging constitutes expressive conduct or communicative activity for the purposes of First Amendment analysis); *Benefit v. Cambridge*, 424 Mass. 918 (1997) (striking down law as a violation of the First Amendment); *Ledford v. State*, 652 So.2d 1254 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1995) (striking down statute that prohibited all begging).

⁴ See *Volkart v. City of Medford*, No. OB-1030-E1 (Oregon Circuit Court March 19, 2009) (order granting summary judgment); *Los Angeles Alliance For Survival v. Los Angeles*, 987 F. Supp. 819 (C.D. Cal. 1997).

⁵ *Volkart v. City of Medford*, No. OB-1030-E1 (Oregon Circuit Court March 19, 2009) (order granting summary judgment).

⁶ *Id.*

greater protection than the federal counterpart.⁷ As such, any ordinance passed which implicates free speech is necessarily vulnerable to challenge under the more exacting Utah standards.

The First Amendment is meant to protect many messages and varieties of speech that may be difficult and uncomfortable for the public to confront. It is important that all messages, with only the most reasonable of restrictions, are allowed to be shared in the increasingly rare true public spaces of our city. Regulations enacted to shield citizens from the ugly and painful truth of poverty are decidedly inappropriate, particularly in these hard economic times.

D. Practical Enforcement Difficulties

Anti-panhandling ordinances are difficult to enforce in a sustained manner over time, as police and prosecutorial resources are scarce, targets of this type of ordinance are unlikely to have funds to pay fines or to appear in court and jails have limited space and are already overcrowded with serious offenders. While on its face the proposed ordinance outlaws commercial solicitation in any form and by any individual, this type of ordinance can invite selective enforcement on the part of law enforcement; individual police officers may be inclined to allow solicitation by established charities, such as a group of firefighters or the Salvation Army but enforce the ordinance against a homeless war veteran, despite the fact that both are exercising the same First Amendment right.

Section B(4) of the proposed ordinance presents a particularly difficult enforcement scenario. Under this section of the proposed ordinance, police officers would be charged with spending valuable police time determining whether an individual is being truthful in soliciting charity. Pursuant to this provision, ostensibly police officers would be required to verify whether a war veteran requesting a donation had documentation to prove that he/she had served in a war, establish whether an indigent individual actually has funds, and determine whether a disabled person suffers a disability, among others. Surely Salt Lake City is better served when police officers devote their time to the investigation of serious crime.

E. Public Safety Concerns

There are serious practical consequences of passing such a regulation with regards to public safety. While few studies exist to establish the consequences of passing anti-panhandling ordinances, the experience of Toronto, Ontario in outlawing "squeegee workers" from 2000 to 2003 may prove instructive. During the 1990s, many homeless individuals derived income from cleaning windshields at public intersections.⁸ In 2000, the city of Toronto passed a statute prohibiting "squeegeeing" and other forms of active panhandling. Several years later, a survey of homeless youth was conducted to determine how these former "squeegee workers" now gain an income.⁹ The results indicated that many homeless youth had turned to far more dangerous

⁷ See *Provo City Corp. v. Willden*, 768 P.2d 455, 456, n. 2 [Utah 1989]; see also *American Bush v. City of South Salt Lake*, 2006 UT 40 ¶21.

⁸ Ontario Safe Streets Act, 1999, S.O., ch.8 [Can.].

⁹ O'Grady, Bill and Carolyn Greene, *A Social and Economic Impact Study of the Ontario Safe Streets Act on Toronto Squeegee Cleaner*, Online Journal of Justice Studies 1 [1](2003).

and socially unacceptable behavior, including selling drugs, and participating in prostitution, in order to survive.¹⁰

Additionally, we expect that enforcement of this ordinance will be guided primarily by business owners demanding intervention by our city police department. Time spent confronting, citing, dispersing, arresting and detaining beggars is time that otherwise could be spent dealing with serious crime that actually threatens the safety – rather than simply the delicate sensitivities – of Salt Lake City residents. This ordinance will criminalize harmless panhandling activities as truly harmful activities associated with panhandling, such as obstructing traffic and physically threatening pedestrians, are already against the law. We prefer that our tax-funded police force be free to investigate more serious crimes that disrupt life in our city.

II. ALTERNATIVES TO INCREASED CRIMINALIZATION THROUGH REGULATION

While many localities have turned to criminalizing behavior in an effort to clean up city centers, it has become clear that *this approach alone is not effective in remedying the underlying problem*.¹¹ Those localities that have taken a more constructive approach to tackling the poverty, homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction and other problems that underlie the practice of panhandling, have enjoyed greater success.

For example, in Broward County, Fla., non-profit agencies have partnered with law enforcement to: inform individuals of social services available in the community; ensure access to bed and services; and successfully lobby the state for a detoxification program specifically for homeless people. Such community efforts, with contributions from law enforcement and social service agencies aim to resolve the roots of the problem of homelessness, rather than simply criminalize its more innocuous – though inconvenient – symptoms.

After anti-panhandling ordinance was enacted in Cincinnati, an outreach team made up of non-profit organizations and the Downtown Business Improvement District worked to help frequently-arrested panhandlers receive services such as job placement, mental health counseling and government benefits.

In Washington D.C., members of the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District fund a day center to meet the needs of the homeless during the hours when shelters are closed. The facility serves up to 260 people a day with indoor seating, laundry, showers and a morning meal. Local service providers come regularly to the day center to provide medical, psychiatric, legal, substance abuse and employment services. Business owners finance the center through a 1-cent tax per square foot of property owned.

We appreciate that Salt Lake City has already made similar strides to end homelessness in our community. Unfortunately, we fear that the proposed ordinance will only serve to hamper these efforts.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO CRIMINALIZATION*, viewed at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/crimreport/alternatives.html>

III. CONCLUSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

It is our sincere belief that the proposed ordinance is unnecessary and infringes on protected speech activity. We recommend that the city not enact this regulation. Should the city nonetheless choose to enact regulation, it should do so in conjunction with social services to cure the causes underlying panhandling. Otherwise, a very vulnerable population of our city will be continually subjected to criminal prosecution for activities to which there are few actual alternatives.

The ACLU of Utah applauds the city's recent actions to make Salt Lake an open, diverse and welcome place to all as evidenced by the City's proposed non-discrimination ordinance. We hope that this sentiment will extend to these vulnerable members of our community as well, without regard to the appearance of these residents or the inconvenience they may appear to pose to others.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen McCreary
Executive Director



Marina Lowe
Staff Attorney

Cc: Members of Salt Lake City Council



September 18, 2009

Mayor Ralph Becker
City of Salt Lake City
451 S. State St., 3rd floor
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Mayor Becker:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Crossroads Urban Center, a low income service provider in Salt Lake City since 1966, I urge you to abandon the proposed ordinance on "commercial solicitation" (panhandling) currently being circulated for public comment. Below are just some of the problems we see in attempting to regulate the free speech of people engaged in begging on the streets.

1. Any ordinance attempting to regulate free speech in such a manner is potentially unconstitutional regardless of how it's written. It's how the law is enforced that presents the major problem. We already have laws on the books to guard against aggressive solicitation such as blocking traffic or sidewalks, threatening behavior and extortion, and a variety of public nuisance ordinances. If the ordinance in question is passed, it will set up the unreasonable expectation that police officers will be putting an end to panhandling. The police, however, will not have any additional resources and should be understandably reluctant to divert the precious resources they do have from gang activity, robbery, and actual assault. In the event an officer does choose to enforce this ordinance, the manner in which the enforcement occurs will become the main issue. Legal action against the City will certainly result in many cases. This ordinance just isn't necessary.
2. Our forty plus years of work with Salt Lake's religious communities lead us to believe that restricting begging at a house of worship is exactly the opposite of what most religious teachings emphasize. Is the religious community really asking the City to help defend it from the poor?
3. There could not be a worse message for the City to send the public during the current recession. With the ranks of the unemployed swelling, access to public assistance such as General Assistance being cut off, and more and more people exhausting the unemployment benefits that they may have access to, why would Salt Lake City choose to respond by outlawing begging? Surely the message that would be sent by this type of ordinance is callous at best. The criminalization of poverty doesn't solve anything. It simply indicates that we are more focused on perception than reality.

Executive Director
Glen L. Bailey
Board Chairman
James Eric Keforn

307 South 600 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
ph: 801.361.7766
fax: 801.361.7278
www.crossroads-uc.org

4. Many people on the street, especially beggars, really are desperately poor. Despite the perception that panhandlers are all well off people with comfortable lifestyles, our experience is that this simply isn't true. A lot of people you meet on the street are desperate for many different reasons. Individuals should decide if and when to give for themselves and not have it determined based on government restriction of free speech. We are attaching a University of Texas study on panhandling that indicates that most people begging on the street are truly in need. We encourage you to take a look at it.

5. The "anti lying" provision is troublesome and unworkable. Do we really expect the police to ascertain the veracity of people on the street? Do we really want to burden citizens with the requirement that prove they are homeless, poor, disabled, etc. just because they are desperate enough to resort to begging? How can this possibly occur without creating an enforcement situation ripe for abuse? Again, this type of regulation simply isn't necessary, yet alone worth the negative repercussions.

Taken together the provisions of the ordinance create a broad prohibition against begging, not the narrow restriction of "commercial speech" indicated in the preamble. The idea seems to be to list enough restricted areas to prohibit panhandling. If that doesn't work, we'll ask people to prove they're in need. If we applied the requirement to verify the truth of solicitations upfront to politicians, salesmen, lawyers, and others, it would be an unacceptable violation of free speech. Applied to beggars on the street, however, it's OK. Why?

The importance of free speech and the need to allow citizens to freely interact is essential. Free speech requires that each of us endure something sometime that makes us uncomfortable. It's the price we pay to live in a free society. It is neither appropriate nor wise to abandon this principle in regard to desperate people begging on our streets. Please reject this misguided ordinance.

Sincerely,



Glenn L. Bailey
Executive Director

Encl.



**DISABILITY
LAW
CENTER**
Utah's Protection and Advocacy Agency

Public Comment

September 18, 2009

Contact: Andrew Riggle

Public Policy Advocate

(801) 363-1347 or

ariggle@disabilitylawcenter.org

Mayor Ralph Becker
City and County Building
451 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Proposed Ordinance Imposing Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions on Commercial Solicitation in Salt Lake City

The Disability Law Center (DLC) is a private, nonprofit organization designated as Utah's Protection and Advocacy agency. The DLC is federally mandated to enforce and strengthen laws that protect the opportunities, choices, and legal rights of Utahns with disabilities.

On July 23, 2009, Salt Lake City published a public discussion draft of a proposed ordinance imposing time, place, and manner restrictions on individuals engaging in activities related to commercial solicitation. The DLC is specifically concerned with sections 4(c) and (d) of the proposed ordinance. The language "wearing or displaying an indication of physical disability" and "use of any makeup or device to stimulate a deformity" is particularly problematic because:

- Disability exists and manifests in a myriad of forms. Some disabilities may be obvious; double amputations, for instance. However, a much larger proportion of disabilities are causally related to physical or mental conditions that are not visually apparent. To name just one current example, returning veterans who have sustained serious Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) may not bear the physical signs that would be obvious under casual observation by law enforcement personnel.
- The provision may have the effect of suggesting to law enforcement personnel that they need to challenge solicitors who appear to have some kind of disability. For example, an officer observing a solicitor in a wheelchair may believe it appropriate to demand medical proof or documentation, or attempt a field sobriety evaluation.
- As a result, solicitors with genuine disabilities may be unintentionally subjected to more invasive contact. Asking law enforcement to explore the perceived disabilities of solicitors will likely result in a disparate and discriminatory impact on people with genuine disabilities.



September 21, 2009

Different by Nature.

Mayor Ralph Becker
Mayor of Salt Lake City
City & County Building
P.O. Box 145474
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5474

Dear Mayor Becker:

There are many things that make Salt Lake a great convention destination. Some of our greatest selling points include competitive hotel rates, normalized liquor laws, significant space at the Salt Palace Convention Center, stunning scenery and easy access to outdoor recreation. Unfortunately, aggressive panhandling in and around the Salt Palace Convention Center detracts from our attributes, creating a negative experience for convention attendees and making Salt Lake City more difficult to promote to meeting planners.

During large conventions, the Salt Palace can be surrounded by commercial solicitors, intimidating visitors and creating a hostile environment. During the recent Outdoor Retailer Trade Show in July, dozens of panhandlers converged on the convention district during the first day of the show. We received multiple complaints from the meeting planner. This situation seems to be getting worse, not better. And now is the time to aggressively address the problem. This ordinance will help to make Salt Lake City a more welcoming place for regional, national and international travelers.

The hospitality industry is one of the world's great economic drivers and provides jobs for some of the most disadvantaged workers in our community. The behavior of Salt Lake City's aggressive panhandlers threatens the livelihood of hundreds of city workers – many of whom are on the bottom rung of our community's economic ladder. Fewer conventions and visitors to our downtown mean fewer hotel rooms to maintain, meals to prepare and jobs for many low wage employees. Rampant panhandling in the convention district may have the unfortunate side effect of limiting opportunities for people working to overcome homelessness. This ordinance will help to stop inappropriate aggressive commercial solicitations downtown.

Because we have seen the results, first hand, of aggressive panhandling in the convention district, we support Salt Lake City's efforts to regulate commercial solicitations. The city has gone to great lengths to ensure that the proposed ordinance is fair and constitutional. On behalf of the entire hospitality community, we endorse your administration's efforts and encourage the City Council to move quickly to adopt this important ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Beck".

Scott Beck
President and CEO
Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau

Salt Lake Convention
& Visitors Bureau

90 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Telephone 801.534.4900
www.VisitSaltLake.com

September 18, 2009

Mayor Ralph Becker
P.O. Box 145474
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Mayor Becker,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Ordinance on Commercial Solicitation. After a careful reading, I have written my objections below:

In the preamble, in the first paragraph beginning, "WHEREAS...":

What is meant by the term "abusive solicitation"? It conjures up images of panhandlers using brass knuckles (the realm of the criminal code). Did you mean "aggressive solicitation"?

The Salt Lake City Code already has two chapters that put time, manner, and place restrictions on first amendment rights on sidewalk space: chapter 14.36 (Newsracks) and chapter 14.38 (Sidewalk Entertainers and Artists). Both use identical language to articulate the government interest at stake: "The city has an obligation to the general public to ensure reasonably unobstructed passage over the public ways in a clean, safe and orderly manner"¹. Did you consider using this same articulation in the present ordinance instead of the new and more verbose clause that begins, "...while at the same time protecting the coexistent rights..."?

In the preamble, in the third paragraph beginning, "WHEREAS...":

Why is "including many vocal requests for a donation" omitted from the list of forms of solicitation that are not in and of themselves inherently threatening or aggressive? Certainly, I am not threatened by the majority vocal requests.

In the preamble, in the fourth paragraph beginning, "WHEREAS...":

I take issue with the claim that "...the City Counsel finds that there has been an increase in aggressive solicitation in the City....". I made a formal request to the Mayor's Office for "...copies of the facts or studies or reports or whatever information has been used to justify...."² this statement. I received copies (very promptly and professionally) of fifteen citizen complaints (fourteen emails and one letter) and the following explanation:

"I've tried to track down documentation from other departments, but have not heard back and didn't want to keep you waiting. I did learn that the police do not track "commercial solicitation" complaints.

Although we could get those numbers, we would need to look through all the past police reports.....Finally, much of our experience comes from conversations with a number of businesses,

1. Salt Lake City Code, chapter 14.36.010 B and chapter 14.38.010 F

2. email sent by me to the Mayor's Office on Sept , 2009

organizations, and individuals in the area. Unfortunately, at least not that I could find, we don't have a strong record of phone and other verbal conversations which have been guiding our thought process."³

Of the citizen complaints I did receive, a few seem reasonable in tone; others are laden with stereotype or worse. With no independent study to investigate the claims made, no numbers, no base year established for comparisons, and much of the thought process occurring in off-the-record conversations, I feel all you can claim is something along the lines of, "...the City Counsel has received feedback that there has been an increase..."; or "...the City Counsel suspects there has been an increase..."

In the preamble, in the seventh paragraph beginning, "WHEREAS...":

In the list of limited circumstances that justify time, manner, and place restrictions, the fourth item is a repeat of the third item: "... and there is a wish to avoid or reduce a threat of inescapable confrontations..." is the same as "... soliciting in places where people are a 'captive audience' "

In section A (Definitions):

A typo occurs in this clause: "and does not refer to conduct regulated by chapter 2.64 of this code". Chapter 2.64 of the Salt Lake City Code is the section on city records. What section of the code did you intend to reference?

In section B, subheadings (1) and (2) [Place Restrictions]:

The place restrictions of section B. (1) ostensibly target soliciting in places where people are a captive audience. But the last restriction, which prohibits soliciting "within twenty (20) feet of the entrance to a place of religious assembly", seems incongruent with the rest: there is nothing to prevent a person solicited outside a place of worship from walking away or going inside. Its inclusion, of course, invites cynical speculation: are we prohibiting panhandling from places where we prefer to ponder our own holiness?

I find item (d), which prohibits soliciting "... in any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility, excluding airports", to be ironic since it is the inverse of the logic from the Supreme Court ruling cited in the preamble.⁴ In that ruling, airports were found to be the LEAST sacrosanct forum for speech among the public transportation spaces. Why the reversal? Why the exemption of airports from your restrictions?

In section B, subheading (3) [Manner Restrictions]:

What is meant in the first sentence when it is written, "the following manners of commercial solicitation are expressly prohibited, at any time and any manner: ..."? The subject-verb-prepositional phrase construct of "... manners... prohibited... in any manner" doesn't make sense. Did you mean the second "manner" to be "place"?

3. email received by me from the Mayor's Office on Sept 9, 2009

4. *International Society for Krishna Consciousness v. Lee*, 505 U. S. 672 (1992) 683 Opinion of the Court

In section B, section (3) a. [Hindrance to Traffic]:

"Expressly prohibit[ing] [solicitation], at any time and any [place]"⁵ if it "interfere[s] with orderly flow of either vehicles or pedestrians"⁶ doesn't sufficiently acknowledge that public sidewalks are not simply people moving machines, but also quintessential public forums where expression, debate, protest, and solicitation can often be expected to disrupt the flow of pedestrians. This restriction is too strongly worded.

Two adverbs are used in sections (3) a. 1. and (3) a. 2. to measure if solicitation unacceptably hinders traffic: "intentionally" and "unreasonably". I find "intentionally" an unclear measure: disruption in the orderly flow of pedestrians is inherent in commercial solicitation, intentional or not. Consider Justice Rehnquist's observations:

"Solicitation requires action by those who would respond. The individual solicited must decide whether or not to contribute (which itself might involve reading the solicitor's literature or hearing his pitch), and then, having decided to do so, reach for a wallet, search it for money, write a check, or produce a credit card.¹⁷ [Pedestrians] who wish to avoid the solicitor may have to alter their paths, slowing both themselves and those around them. The result is that the normal flow of traffic is impeded."⁸

"Intentionally" should be eliminated; "unreasonably" alone is a better measure.

In section B, section (3) b. [Aggressive Commercial Solicitation]:

There is a major grammatical ambiguity in this sentence from section B. (3) b. (1):

"Approaching or speaking to a person, or following a person before, during or after commercial solicitation, if that conduct is intended or is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm to oneself or to another, or damage to or loss of property or otherwise be intimidated into giving money or any other thing of value".

It is not grammatically clear if the modifying clause, which begins, "if that conduct is intended...", modifies all three verbs - approaching, speaking, and following - or just the last verb. Of course, the meaning changes dramatically, depending on which is the case.

In section B, section (3) b. 3. [Violent or Threatening Gestures]:

In the list of prohibited violent or threatening gestures, item (c) ["... profane and abusive language ..."] is completely contained within item (e) ["... any statement, gesture, or other communication that a reasonable person would perceive to be a threat."]. Item (c) should be eliminated: it is repetitive and unnecessarily enshrines the attitudes of the local religious hegemon.

I am not convinced that "... commercially soliciting in a group of two (2) or more persons"⁹ constitutes a violent or threatening gesture or amounts to aggressive manner. This restriction should be eliminated or modified by a clause that in essence says, "if done in a threatening way".

5. section B. (3). First sentence.

6. section B. (3) a. 1.

7. *Kokinda, supra*, at 734; see *Heffron*, 452 U. S., at 663 (Blackmun, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part)

8. *International Society for Krishna Consciousness v. Lee*, 505 U. S. 672 (1992) 683 Opinion of the Court

9. section B. (3) b. 3. (f)

In section B, subheading (4) [False or Misleading Solicitation]:

Honestly, this entire subheading is absurd. How do you possibly plan to enforce these restrictions? Either you would need a new police department rivaling the Schutzstaffel, whose only purpose would be to know the intimate life details of every panhandler in the city, then lie in wait for deception to occur; or you are planning to shift the burden of proof from the State to the panhandlers themselves, who at all times would need to carry ID; military ID; a doctor's certification of illness, deformity, or disability; a social worker's certification of true homelessness and specific need, and an accountant's certification of no funds - then produce them upon request! Both scenarios are preposterous. This whole subheading should be eliminated.

In section B, subheading (5) [Time Restrictions]:

Restricting "... any person [from] commercially solicit[ing] after sunset and before sunrise ..." no matter the manner, place, or purpose makes this ordinance overly broad. See my comments below, titled, "The ordinance is overly broad".

In section C (Violation):

Nothing will reveal how this ordinance will affect the soul of the city more than whether or not the planned enforcement is heavy-handed. Why is this not spelled out? I want to see another draft with proposed enforcement delineated and have a chance to comment.

The ordinance is overly broad

The biggest risk of unconstitutionality in this ordinance is that it is overly broad. Widening the scope from panhandling to any commercial solicitation - any person or group raising money or seeking donations on a street, sidewalk, or public space! - and including certain restrictions that target manners, times, or places that MIGHT be aggressive or threatening but aren't necessarily so,¹⁰ causes some really silly ramifications.

Consider that the following activities would now be illegal in Salt Lake City: a sidewalk lemonade stand run by more than two children; a car wash held by a cheerleading squad in a school parking lot, if staffed by more than two cheerleaders - that's one cheerleader to wash the car and one to hold the sign!; a PTA carnival held at an elementary school after dark; a PTA carnival held at an elementary school if more than two individuals are staffing the Fish Pond. In fact, you've outlawed any fundraising event at an elementary school, middle school, high school, state college or state university if held after dark or staffed by more than two people. And what about Halloween? Trick-or-treating is now prohibited on a street, sidewalk, or public space if done after dark; by more than two children together; by a parent accompanying more than a single child; by children claiming they are from out of town (i.e. extra-terrestrials, princesses, exotic beasts); by children using make-up or a device to simulate a deformity (i.e. witches' noses, animal whiskers, masks); or by children suggesting they are a member of the armed services (G.I. Joe is going to be huge this year).

10. section B. (3) b. 3. (f): "...commercially soliciting in a group of two (2) or more persons; section B. (5): "...commercially solicit[ing] after sunset and before sunrise."; section B. (4): False or misleading solicitation.

Obviously, these ramifications are ridiculous. If you can't eliminate or refine those restrictions that target times, places, and manners that MIGHT be aggressive or threatening but aren't necessarily so, then reduce the scope of the ordinance from commercial solicitation back to panhandling.

Does this ordinance have social wisdom?

I recognize the government's obligation "... to ensure reasonably unobstructed passage over the public ways in a clean, safe and orderly manner",¹¹ but no wisdom is in an initiative to simply move our social problems out of sight and out of mind. To be honest, I feel both motives at play in this ordinance at different times.¹² As you prepare further drafts, please clearly delineate in your mind the line that separates legitimately reducing aggressive or threatening behavior from coddling citizens who are simply annoyed or inconvenienced or bothered by the grit of a dynamic city. An insightful resolution to any aggressive panhandling problem we may face will not be reached by a gated community or any of its derivatives.

Thank you for reading.

Alan Staker

September 18, 2009

Mayor Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City

Dear Mayor Becker:

The Salt Lake Chamber applauds you and the Salt Lake City Council for addressing the issue of aggressive panhandling in our capital city and we support the proposed commercial solicitation ordinance.

Unfortunately, the kind and generous nature of many Utahns makes them a target for aggressive panhandlers. Many panhandlers are neither homeless nor destitute. They prey upon the charitable disposition of their fellow citizens both taking funds that would otherwise be donated to those who legitimately need help, damaging the friendly atmosphere in our capital city in the process.

While compassion for the less-fortunate members of our community is an essential element in policy decisions, the negative impact on the image of Salt Lake City and the accompanying economic impact must also be considered. Numerous social service organizations provide excellent care for the underprivileged in Salt Lake City and the Chamber emphasizes the need to give to legitimate organizations rather than panhandlers.

I commend you for your leadership in this important effort. Our capital city is important to all Utahns and your efforts to further enhance the welcoming atmosphere, particularly downtown, are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lane Beattie
President and CEO

From: Haley McLennan
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: City County Building Incident

Dear Mayor Becker,
I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing concerning an incident that just occurred at the City County building this afternoon (Sept. 25th) concerning a couple of transients and

myself. I went into the City County Building around 1:15 p.m., to obtain a business license.

I approached the building from the southeast corner, and crossed a pair of men sitting on the benches closest to the building. One of them spoke to me, and I didn't hear what he said because I was wearing headphones. I took my headphones off, and apologized, assuming that he had asked me for money. I didn't stop or slow down, and the other man sitting with him said to me, "You better be careful now..." I was disturbed to the point where I continued to check behind me to make sure they weren't going to follow me in the building.

I don't have a problem with homeless people, transients, or any of the number of people in our city who are suffering and publicly asking for help. I don't really care when people ask me for money on the street. I do care when they get aggressive and threatening. There is only so much you can do in controlling the behavior of people in a public space, but it is shameful that I cannot step foot on city property without being harassed. Allowing that kind of behavior to occur on your property reflects poorly upon your office as a administration that has been elected to maintain a level of public safety, as well as the City of Salt Lake.

In my visit to the City County Building today, I spent almost \$206.00 on a business license, and will spend thousands in paying taxes on this business. I have recently moved back to Salt Lake City, and am very happy to be home, and am so impressed with how this city has grown. Incidents like this scare and disappoint me, and make me think twice about wanting to permanently settle here and contribute to the city's economy.

I spoke with Julian **Tippits** from your office this afternoon, and I appreciate his sympathetic ear concerning this event. He requested that I email you, and he also explained the new laws that are have been discussed concerning policing solicitors. I know that you are extremely busy, and I sincerely appreciate how responsive your office has been to my complaint.

Best wishes,

Haley McLennan

Constituent called with the following: left no contact information:

Sugarhouse resident/does not shop there because there are too many aggressive panhandlers – want Mayor Becker not to just focus his efforts in downtown area – this resident does most of their shopping in Murray or other areas so sees SLC could be suffering economically.

From: John Marks

Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2009 8:29 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Suggestion Re Controlling Panhandlers

**Honorable Mayor Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City, UT**

Dear Mayor Becker:

Congratulations on your efforts to regulate panhandlers. You realize that you cannot eliminate them entirely. However, if you are interested in a suggestion on a simple but effective solution to controlling panhandlers, you are invited to telephone or meet with me at your convenience. My suggestion is based on experience in 1947, a year following military discharge from WW II. Your secretary may arrange a mutual time.

Since you don't know me, for your information, I am a 48 year resident of Holladay, twenty years retired from Hercules [now ATK], 1985 recipient of Engineer of the Year award of Utah American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and of patents for novel rocket motor processes.

Sincerely,

John D. Marks



June 8, 2010

Mayor Ralph Becker
Office of the Mayor
City & County Building
451 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Re: Proposed *Commercial Solicitation Ordinance*

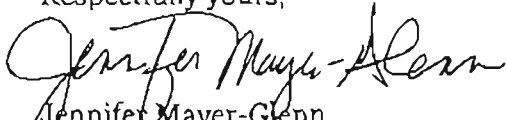
Dear Mayor Becker,

Thank you for working with the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission in addressing many of our concerns with the proposed *Commercial Solicitation Ordinance*.

While the commission does not support criminalization of poverty, we recognize the perceived public safety concerns of aggressive pan handling. We believe that the proposed ordinance addresses those concerns in a balanced manner.

We sincerely appreciate the consideration you have given the Human Rights Commission in this process.

Respectfully yours,


Jennifer Mayer-Glenn
Chair
Human Rights Commission