

## CHAPTER 131: BEGGING, PANHANDLING AND SOLICITING ALMS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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### § 131.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**ACOSTING ANOTHER PERSON.** Approaching or speaking to someone in a manner as would cause a reasonable person to fear imminent bodily harm or the commission of a criminal act or damage to property in his or her immediate possession.

**BEG.** Asking for money or goods as a charity.

**FORCING ONESELF UPON THE COMPANY OF ANOTHER PERSON.**

(1) Continuing to request or solicit alms in close proximity to the person addressed after that person has responded negatively;

(2) Blocking the passage of the person addresses; or

(3) Otherwise engaging in conduct, which reasonably could be understood, as intended to force, a person to accede to demands.

**INTIMIDATE ANOTHER PERSON.** Acting in a manner as would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm and therefore to do something he or she would not otherwise have done.

**OBSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC OR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.** Walking, standing, sitting, lying or placing an object in a manner so as to block the passage by another person or vehicle, or to require another person or a driver of a vehicle to take evasive action to avoid physical contact.

PANHANDLE. Asking for money or goods as a charity.

PUBLIC PLACE. Includes streets, sidewalks, alleys and other public property, as well as town-owned and town-controlled property and private property open to the public unless permission to solicit has been obtained from the town or from the private property owner or other person in authority.

SOLICIT ALMS OR CONTRIBUTIONS. Asking for money or goods as a charity.

TO BEG, PANHANDLE OR SOLICIT ALMS OR CONTRIBUTIONS. Includes, without limitation, the spoken, written or printed word or other acts as are conducted in furtherance of the purpose of obtaining alms or contributions.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002)

#### § 131.02 INTIMIDATION.

No person shall beg, panhandle or solicit alms or contributions in a public place in a manner so as to intimidate another person or by accosting another person, or by forcing oneself upon the company of another person.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002) Penalty, see § 131.99

#### § 131.03 STREETS AND ROADS.

No person shall beg, panhandle or solicit alms or contributions while sitting, standing or loitering in the right-of-way of any street or road.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002) Penalty, see § 131.99

#### § 131.04 OBSTRUCTION OF TRAFFIC.

No person shall beg, panhandle or solicit alms or contributions in such a manner as to intentionally obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic in a public place.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002) Penalty, see § 131.99

#### § 131.05 PROHIBITION IN CERTAIN PLACES.

No person shall engage in begging, panhandling or solicitation of alms or contributions at the following locations or times:

(A) Within 50 feet of the entrance or exit of any residential, commercial or industrial structure;

(B) Within 50 feet of any automatic teller machine or any other machine at which money is dispensed to the public; or

(C) At any location between dusk and dawn.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002) Penalty, see § 131.99

#### § 131.06 EXCEPTIONS.

This chapter shall not apply to recognized religious, governmental or civic organizations that are soliciting charitable contributions.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002)

#### § 131.99 PENALTY.

Begging, panhandling or solicitation of alms or contributions in any form is a misdemeanor offense and may be punished by a fine of not to exceed \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days.

(Ord. passed 2-25-2002)