

*Municipal codes that allow police to cite for panhandling with the panhandler holding a sign within city limits.*

Our City Attorney's Office is drafting an ordinance making it illegal to use signs to solicit money, food, work or other donations. Besides the issue with promoting the perception of blighted conditions, it is a traffic hazard as it diverts driver's attention to the signs. The traffic hazard is the legal basis for the ordinance. When the ordinance is adopted, we will begin a community education program via local media to announce the program. Small cards are being prepared to hand to transients as warnings prior to the issuance of any citations. We will also work with local businesses and citizens asking them not to enable these people by giving them cash, but to assist them long term by referring them to social service agencies and homeless shelters.

When the ordinance is drafted and adopted by the Council we will forward to CPCA for inclusion on the website.