

CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Richard Eddington, Chief of Police
1454 Elmwood Ave., Evanston, Illinois 60201
911/EMERGENCY
847-866-5000/NON-EMERGENCY
311/Request City Services or Information
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/>



PANHANDLING LAWS AND REGULATIONS



Concerns about panhandling have been a long standing issue for residents of Evanston as well as visitors to our city. Is it illegal? How can I help? Are panhandlers homeless? Are there services and resources for panhandlers? What do they do with the money I give to them? Questions are many but solutions a few in the minds of many, so please review the information below for clarity of our panhandling ordinance to discover what's permissible and what's not.

Contrary to popular belief, our panhandling ordinance does not ban panhandling, but rather sets limitations upon it to reduce the harm and negative effects of it. Those Limitations are as follows:

It shall be unlawful to engage in an act of panhandling:

- If the person to whom the panhandling is made is located in a sidewalk cafe, in a public transportation vehicle, or in a public transportation facility.
- If the panhandler or the person to whom the panhandling request is made is located at any of the following locations: a bus stop; in any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility; in a vehicle which is parked or stopped on a public street or alley; in a sidewalk cafe, or within twenty (20) feet in any direction from an automated teller machine or entrance to a bank.
- By perpetrating a fraud or misrepresentation of any kind. In a manner that creates a danger or threat of any kind to the public health, safety, or welfare, or that violates any provision of the ordinance.

Aggressive Panhandling: A person's manner is aggressive if the person engages in any of the following acts of panhandling: Within 10 feet of a person near an A.T.M or within 15 seconds after the person begins to leave the machine, repeating after a citizen refuses, touching the person, blocking their path or entrance, following behind, alongside, or ahead of the person, directing profane or abusive language at the person, making any statement other than the panhandling request or acting in any other manner which, in light of the circumstances taken as a whole, e.g., darkness, would cause a reasonable person to feel harassed, intimidated, or compelled to contribute.

Notice Prohibiting Panhandling: Any owner or occupant desiring to prohibit any individual from entering their premises for the purpose of engaging in panhandling or soliciting shall give notice to panhandlers with the appropriate signage indicating "NO SOLICITORS ALLOWED," "NO SOLICITING," or a statement substantially similar to the foregoing that reasonably informs a panhandler that the owner or occupant of the premises refuses invitation to panhandlers.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO CONTACT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES BUREAU AT 847-866-5019