

## **GIVING CHANGE TO PANHANDLERS DOES NOT HELP THEM!**

### **The Best Answer is a firm NO.**

In the vast majority of cases, when you give change to panhandlers, you're not helping them. The spare change you give to a panhandler usually goes towards cigarettes, alcohol and/or drugs.

1. Don't Encourage Panhandlers. Simply say "NO" and continue on your way. If a panhandler is persistent or if you feel harassed or threatened, contact Burlington Police Department at 658-2700. Aggressive Begging, Solicitation or Panhandling is prohibited in the City of Burlington.
2. Share This Information with Friends and Co-Workers. As more people understand the dynamics of panhandling, panhandlers will get the help they really need.
3. Give Your Spare Change to Non-Profit Organizations in our community, dedicated to helping those in need. Food, clothing, shelter and other critical services are provided by these organizations:

### **SHELTER/HOMELESS SERVICES**

COTS Waystation: 862-7776  
COTS Daystation: 862-5418  
Spectrum One Stop (Youth - 21): 862-5396  
Homeless Healthcare Project: 862-5418

### **FOOD**

Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf: 658-7939  
Salvation Army: 864-6991

### **CRISIS SERVICES**

Spectrum One Stop (Youth - 21): 862-5396  
Women Helping Battered Women: 658-1996  
Women's Rape Crisis Center: 863-1236  
Howard Center for Human Services

- Adult Crisis Line: 863-2400
- Act 1/Bridge Program: 654-1067
- First Call for Children & Families: 864-7777

### **MEDICAL HELP**

Community Health Center: 864-6309  
Fletcher Allen Health Care Emergency: 656-2434

**PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE**

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## **Burlington has a Panhandling & Solicitation Law!**

**Aggressive Begging, Panhandling or Solicitation IS PROHIBITED in the City of Burlington.**

### **That means, IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO:**

- Approach, speak or follow a person before, during or after soliciting if that conduct is intended or likely to cause a person to fear bodily harm or damage to or loss of property ... or otherwise be intimidated into giving money or other things of value
- Continue to solicit after the person has said no.
- Intentionally or recklessly touch another person or person's property without consent.
- Intentionally or recklessly block or interfere with the safe or free passage of a pedestrian or vehicle.
- Use violent, obscene or threatening gestures toward a person solicited.
- Follow a person being solicited, with the intent of asking that person for money or other things of value
- Speak in a volume reasonably loud under the circumstances.
- Solicit from anyone waiting in line.

### **IN THE CITY OF BURLINGTON, SOLICITATION IS NOT PERMITTED ...**

- ... within 15 feet of an entrance to a building
- ... within 15 feet from public toilets
- ... within 15 feet from an entrance or exit to a financial institution
- ... within 15 feet of an Automated Teller Machine
- ... within 15 feet of a handicapped space, public parking lot or structure dedicated walkway to a parking structure.
- ... within 15 feet of any valid vendor location
- ... within 15 feet from a pay telephone, or public information booth.
- ... by a person under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- ... in any public transportation vehicle
- ... in a poorly lit area
- ... on private or residential property

**PENALTIES:** Any violation of this law constitutes a civil offense and is punishable by a fine from \$50 to \$500. See Chapter 21, Offenses, Miscellaneous Provisions, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Burlington, Section 21-8:

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