

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 11/07/05

Prepared Date: 10/28/05

Reviewed by: _____

**SUBJECT: Social and Economic Justice Commission Recommendations on
Panhandling in Albany**

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to control aggressive panhandling in the City.

BACKGROUND

The issue of panhandling was referred to the Social and Economic Justice Commission by the City Council at its meeting of September 19, 2005. The Commission discussed this issue at its meeting of October 26, 2005. The Commission heard information from the City Attorney, the Police Chief, and members of the public. In addition, the Commission had been provided with a packet of materials to review.

The Commission members agreed that the aggressive panhandling that has occurred at the Bank of America was a problem, especially for older women who reportedly were followed down the block by individuals. The City Attorney and Police Chief noted the limitations in effectiveness of any ordinance, but nevertheless recommended that having an ordinance specific to aggressive panhandling would be useful in restricting at least some of the objectionable behaviors.

DISCUSSION

The Commission members recommended that in drafting the ordinance, the City Attorney consider the guidelines provided by a model ordinance proposed by the Center for Community Interest (www.communityinterest.org), which clearly defines aggressive behaviors. This document is attached. Once drafted, the Commission would review the ordinance, take additional public comment, and recommend to the City Council for adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact in drafting the ordinance. There could be City police and legal services resources expended in the enforcement of the ordinance.

Attachments

CCI Backgrounder #1: Aggressive Panhandling