



4<sup>TH</sup> STREET BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

May 5, 2011

To whom it may concern:

The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Business Improvement Association executive board has voted on 05/03/2011 unanimously to support the "Aggressive Solicitation Ordinance" by Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal.

4<sup>th</sup> street BID has seen a fair share of aggressive coercion especially in front of restaurants, cafes and other outdoor venues. Solicitors can be so aggressive or intimidating that customers feel like they have to give money or cigarettes just to get rid of the nuisance person, which in return makes the problem grow even larger.

We have tried to give out brochures to list facilities where help is available, confront the solicitor or file stay-away orders. The response is always the same: I am on public sidewalk and I can do what I want.

Aggressive panhandling is devastating to our businesses as it devalues our district, scares our customers and permanently damages the trust in the safety of our area.

We feel that this proposed ordinance is well crafted and an invaluable tool for our policemen and women in the field to deal with solicitors.

Sincerely,

Kerstin Kansteiner

President, 4<sup>th</sup> Street Business Improvement Association



T: 562.436.4259 • F: 562.437.7850 • 100 West Broadway, Suite 120 • Long Beach, CA 90802

March 29, 2011

Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Vice-Mayor Lowenthal:

This memo intends to provide you and your staff with a complete understanding of the development of the proposed Panhandling Ordinance, beginning with its genesis over a year ago to the collaborative research and partnerships that help to craft the language.

In response to complaints from business owners and residents frustrated with the perceived increase of incidents related to panhandling, the Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA) Public Safety Task Force began researching panhandling ordinances in other communities with the goal of recommending a more effective policy tool to the City of Long Beach.

While the efforts of the Task Force were inspired by the outcries of the Downtown community, the impact of panhandling on the community has been consistently raised as a priority throughout the DLBA's myriad outreach efforts. Participants in the DLBA's Strategic Plan Update (2010) ranked "improved safety and reduction of disruptive street behaviors" as the second overall priority for the Downtown. Additionally, the need to create a Panhandling Task Force developed separately through the 2010 Retail Visioning Plan, whereby plan participants identified panhandling as a difficult yet surmountable barrier to downtown retail revitalization. Vocalizing the need for more effective tools extends beyond the formal planning processes: Downtown restaurants with patio dining have been hard hit by panhandlers interrupting dining experiences with requests for change on a regular basis. In some cases, the panhandler has even tried to go table to table inside the business. Daily statistics collected by the Downtown Safety Guides detail an increase of 50% more calls for service related to panhandling this year over last.

Review of the City's existing ordinance revealed it an ineffective tool. While panhandling is protected under the First Amendment, the courts have upheld ordinances that include specific conditions on time, manner, and place. After developing an understanding of the legal environment, the Task Force sought to work collaboratively with Long Beach Police Department, City Attorney and City Prosecutor's Office to identify the components of best-practice ordinances and implementation methodologies from other California cities.

First and foremost, the Task Force felt it was important to define and prohibit aggressive solicitation. Second, the group identified areas where occurrences affect businesses or individuals feel most vulnerable, such as:

- In a public transportation vehicle or public transportation stop;
- In the outdoor dining area of a restaurant or similar establishment which serves food or drinks for immediate consumption;
- Within twenty feet of an Automated Teller Machine (ATM);
- In a vehicle traveling on a public street;
- In a public parking structure or surface lots open to the public;
- At a self-service fuel pump station; and
- Within fourteen feet of any freeway entrance or exit;

As you can see, the development of the ordinance is both responsive to a community need and well-conceived regarding its content. I appreciate all of the help and support that you and your team have provided to developing and sponsoring this important piece of legislation for the Long Beach community.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian  
President and CEO



**DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL COUNCIL**  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

5-10-11

R-9

May 6, 2011

City Council  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Councilmembers:

The Downtown Residential Council (DRC) would like to express its support of the proposed aggressive panhandling ordinance and respectfully requests that City Council adopt the legislation.

The DRC is comprised of six Downtown Long Beach Neighborhood Associations: East Village Association (EVA), North Pine Neighborhood Alliance (NPNA), Ocean Residents Community Association (ORCA), Promenade Area Residents Association (PARA), West End Community Association (WECA), and Willmore City Heritage Association (WCHA). In total, these six associations represent several hundred active DRC members and several thousand Downtown Long Beach residents.

Downtown Long Beach is our home, and we wish for our neighborhoods to be vibrant, inviting, livable, and safe communities in which to walk, dine, shop, raise our kids, retire, work, and enjoy our lives. We are in support of the proposed ordinance because aggressive panhandling has become a growing concern not only in Downtown Long Beach but throughout Long Beach as a whole. Threatening behavior deters residents and guests from visiting our local businesses and enjoying our great neighborhoods.

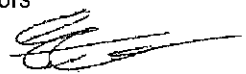
The City of Long Beach is not alone in working to address the challenges raised by aggressive panhandlers. Many communities across the state and country have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, similar measures. The proposed ordinance balances multiple issues, and codifies as illegal the threatening actions of aggressive panhandlers.


We thank the Downtown Long Beach Associate's Public Safety Task Force, Vice Mayor Lowenthal, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember DeLong, City Prosecutor Haubert, City Attorney Shannon, and the LBPD for their leadership in drafting the ordinance and for working together to find a solution for this ongoing issue. We urge City Council to consider and implement the recommendation regarding aggressive panhandling in the City of Long Beach.

Sincerely,

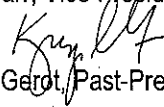
Downtown Residential Council Board of Directors

  
Michael Vanderbeek, President

  
Eric Carr, Vice President

  
Eric Gray, Secretary

  
Loara Cadavona, Treasurer

  
Kerry Gerdt, Past-President

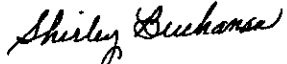
Michael Mosselli, EVA President

  
Pedro Costa, NPNA President

  
Mike Dunfee, ORCA President

  
Peter Johnson, PARA President

  
Joen Garnica, PARA

  
Shirley Buchanan, WECA

  
Patty Lund, WCHA

  
Phyllis McDaniels, WCHA

cc: Mayor Bob Foster, City Manager Pat West, City Council, City Prosecutor Doug Haubert, City Attorney Bob Shannon, Chief Jim McDonnell, City Clerk Larry Herrera, Kraig Kojian, DRC Board

S-10-11  
R-9

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
LONG BEACH, CALIF  
MAY -9 AM 11:08



May 6, 2011  
City Council  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Council Members:

The Promenade Area Residents Association fully supports the proposed "aggressive panhandling" ordinance and we request that City Council adopt this legislation.

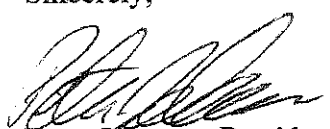
PARA represents residents within the following boundaries of Downtown Long Beach: First Street to Third Street and Pacific Avenue to Long Beach Boulevard.


We reside in Downtown Long Beach, and it is our desire that our neighborhood be friendly, inviting and above all else, safe. For us, our families and our friends.

Many of our residents have experienced the threatening behavior of aggressive panhandlers. We feel that it is a growing problem that needs to be addressed. That is why we, PARA, strongly urge you to adopt this ordinance and make these threatening actions illegal.

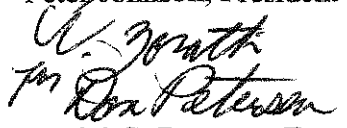
We sincerely appreciate the efforts of all those who have participated in working together to draft this ordinance and resolve the aggressive panhandling problem.

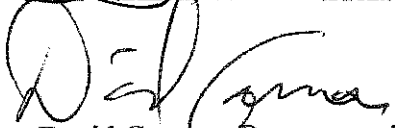
Sincerely,

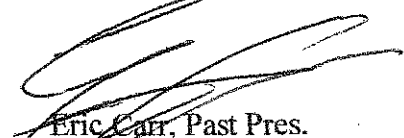
  
Peter Johnson, President

  
Joen Garnica, Vice President

  
Vince Zoratti, Secretary

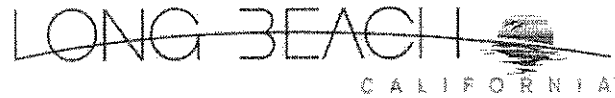
  
Daniel G. Petersen, Treas.

  
David Cannon, Representative

  
Eric Carr, Past Pres.

cc: Mayor Bob Foster, City Manager Pat West, City Prosecutor Doug Haubert  
City Attorney Bob Shannon, Chief Jim McDonnell, City Clerk Larry Herrera  
DRC Board, PARA Board

5-10-11  
R-9



May 9, 2011

Suja Lowenthal  
Vice Mayor &  
Councilwoman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
City of Long Beach  
Civic Center Plaza  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Suja,

The Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau appreciates and supports your efforts to limit aggressive panhandling in our city. Visitors and convention attendees are vital to the economic health of our city, and this ordinance will help to ensure that our visiting guests enjoy a safe, non-threatening atmosphere.

We also appreciate that the proposed ordinance targets the overly aggressive panhandler while being properly restrained to curtail any concerns regarding overzealous enforcement.

Thanks again for your efforts to implement an enforceable plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve", written over a white background.

Steve Goodling  
President & CEO



5-10-11  
R-9

May 9, 2011

Mayor Bob Foster  
Members of the Long Beach City Council  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: SUPPORT: May 10, 2011 City Council Agenda Item 9: Recommendation to respectfully request City Attorney to work with the City Prosecutor and City Manager to draft an ordinance protecting pedestrians and businesses from aggressive and passive solicitation.**

Dear Mayor Foster and Members of the Long Beach City Council:

The Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce urges your SUPPORT of the proposed agenda item relating to aggressive and passive solicitation otherwise known as aggressive panhandling.

The Chamber was supportive of the Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA) working with Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal and Councilmember Robert Garcia to respond to complaints from business owners and residents who are frustrated with incidents related to panhandling. The DLBA's Public Safety Task Force did an outstanding job of researching panhandling ordinances in other communities with the goal of recommending a more effective policy tool for the City of Long Beach.

*According to the DLBA, "Downtown restaurants with patio dining have been hard hit by panhandlers interrupting dining experiences with requests for change on a regular basis. In some cases, the panhandler has even tried to go table to table inside the business. Daily statistics collected by the Downtown Safety Guides detail an increase of 50% more calls for service related to panhandling this year over last."*

The Chamber supports the Task Force's outcomes that felt it was important to (1) define and prohibit aggressive solicitation; (2) identify area where occurrences affect businesses or individuals feel most vulnerable such as: in a public transportation vehicle or public transportation stop; in the outdoor dining area of a restaurant or similar establishment which serves food or drinks for immediate consumption; within twenty feet of an Automated Teller Machine (ATM); in a vehicle traveling on a public street; in a public parking structure or surface lots open to the public; at a self-service fuel pump station; and, within fourteen feet of any freeway entrance or exit.

The Chamber urges your support of the agenda item that will provide for the creation of an ordinance that will help mitigate aggressive panhandling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Gordon  
President and CEO

CC:

City Manager Pat West

S-10-11  
R-9



**Fw: a waste of time**

Irma Heinrichs to: Nancy Muth, Allison Bunma, Merianne Nakagawa, Carolyn Harris

05/11/2011 08:24 AM

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Irma Heinrichs  
(562) 570-6228  
(562) 570-6789 (FAX)

***My email address has changed to Irma.Heinrichs@longbeach.gov***

----- Forwarded by Irma Heinrichs/CC/CLB on 05/11/2011 08:23 AM -----

From: Janesb2001@aol.com  
To: cityclerk@longbeach.gov  
Date: 05/10/2011 05:51 PM  
Subject: a waste of time

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In this economy, who in their right mind would go after the homeless and down and out people in our community. You are calling it pan-handling but, in fact, it is just cruel. Do you people not have more pressing issues? We all know you do!!!!!!! Stop diverting and get to the real problems.





4313 Atlantic Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
p. 562/595-0081  
f. 562/595-0281  
info@BixbyKnollsInfo.com  
www.BixbyKnollsInfo.com

May 10, 2011

Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Vice Mayor Lowenthal:

The Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association (BK BIA) would like to express its support of the proposed aggressive panhandling ordinance and respectfully requests that the City Council adopt the proposed legislation.

While panhandling is not a huge issue at this time, we do have a growing concern about "greeters" frequently found at key entrances to community. Motorists exiting the 405 Freeway at Atlantic Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard are often confronted by individuals while waiting at the respective stop lights to turn north into Bixby Knolls. It is not only annoying to motorists, but it sends the wrong message to both business and residential visitors. The City has invested millions of dollars and countless hours over the years improving the streets, landscaping, signage and overall image of Bixby Knolls. As a result, the economic base is improving and we are excited about the future of the community. All of these improvements are undermined by these individuals and any effort to reduce this activity is most welcome.

We would like to thank you, the Downtown Long Beach Associate's Public Safety Task Force, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember DeLong, City Prosecutor Haubert, City Attorney Shannon and the LBPD for their leadership in drafting the ordinance and for working together to find a solution to this ongoing issue. We urge the City Council to adopt the recommendations regarding aggressive panhandling in the City of Long Beach.

Sincerely,

J. Brent Dunn  
President