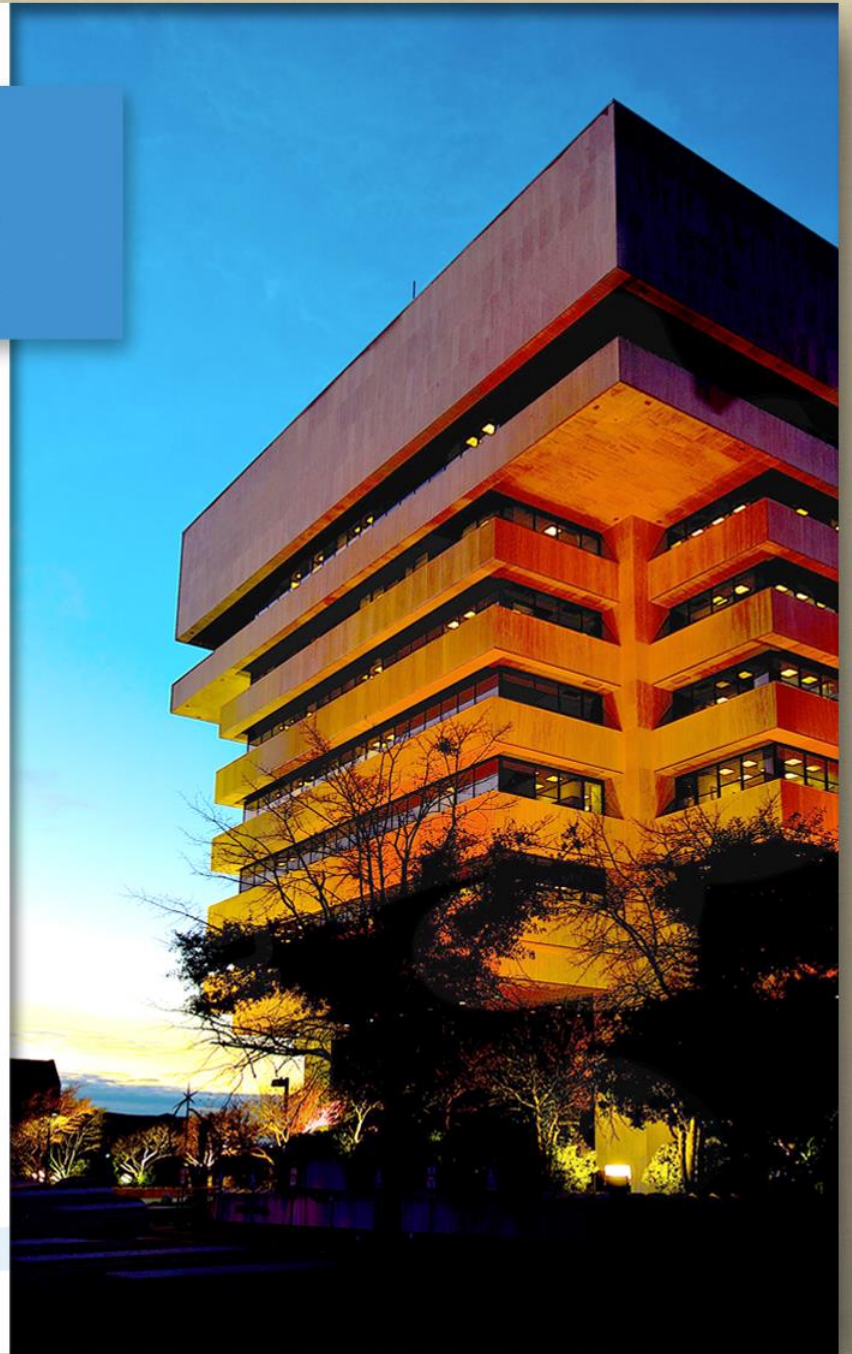


HAMPTON VA

PANHANDLING

**STEVEN BOND
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017



HISTORY

- 2007: City staff and citizen stakeholder committee considered panhandling issue.
 - Recommended aggressive solicitation ordinance.
 - Public Education Campaign
 - Encouraged businesses to enforce no trespassing and no solicitation policies.
- 2010: Adopted ordinance prohibiting solicitation in the right of way.
 - In response to state code change.

HISTORY

- 2016:
 - February - Repealed ROW Solicitation Ordinance in response to 4th Circuit caselaw (Reynolds v Middleton).
 - June – Adopted enhanced trespassing ordinance.

HISTORY

- 2017:
 - March - Repealed Aggressive Panhandling Ordinance in response to federal case law.
 - Action is covered by other criminal ordinances (assault, blocking passage, etc.).

LAW

- Panhandling is considered First Amendment Free Speech Activity.
- Streets, sidewalks and medians are considered traditional public forums.

HAMPTON'S EFFORTS

- 3 Pronged Approach:
 - Business Trespass Authorizations
 - Enforce Current Criminal Ordinances
 - Outreach and Education

TRESPASS

- Seventeen business owners have signed trespass authorizations, including:
 - Walmart
 - Peninsula Town Center
 - Coliseum Corner
 - Coliseum Marketplace
 - Power Plant
 - Queen's Plaza
- Once letters are signed, officers can ban people from property for engaging in panhandling if it's against the rules of the business.
- Next step is summons for trespass.

Existing Criminal Ordinances

State Code

- Possession of illegal substance.
- Pedestrian impeding Traffic
- Littering
- Loitering on DMV property
- Fraud

City Code

- Trespass
- Drunk or Drinking in Public
- Disorderly Conduct
- Assault and Battery
- Obstructing Free Passage
- Urinating in Public

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- Hampton Human Services Outreach Teams:
 - Engage people who appear to be homeless
 - Provide them with an opportunity for services
 - Work with community partners to provide shelter and wrap around services
- Barriers to providing assistance
 - Many panhandlers are not homeless (estimated less than 25%)
 - Many refuse assistance

CITIZEN EDUCATION

- Citizens can help by:
 - Giving to reputable charitable organizations
 - Not giving directly to panhandlers
- As long as panhandling is profitable, it will continue
- Money given directly to panhandlers does not have long-term impacts

OUTREACH CARD

Front

I want to help

But for more than just today

Contact these
community
resources to help
you get back on
your feet

Government programs

Food | Job services

Veterans services

757-727-1800

Hampton Human Services

**1320 LaSalle Ave |
Hampton, VA 23669**

Back

More Resources

**Private non-profit
H.E.L.P. | Shelter
program, clinic
757.727.2577**

**Housing Crisis Hotline
757-587-4202**


**Veteran Hotline
1-877-4aidvet**

**Workforce Development
1-866-786-2211**

Employment Opportunities

- Workforce Development:
 - 728-5171
- Goodwill Community Employment Center:
 - 1911 Saville Row
 - Hampton, VA
 - 248-9414
- Peninsula Worklink One-Stop Center:
 - 600 Butler Farm Road
 - Hampton, VA
 - 766-4900

NEW SIGNAGE

- We will be installing signs at high traffic intersections
 - Re-direct those in need and those who want to help to organizations designed to help
 - Focus on improving long-term outcomes
- 

**Please don't encourage
panhandling!**

**The city and local
non-profits help the
homeless.**

Housing Crisis Hotline

757-587-4202

Sign locations

- Power Plant Way @ Mercury
- Along Coliseum Drive (5)
- Armistead/LaSalle/I-64 (3)
- I-64/Woodland (2)
- Along Mercury @ King, Kilgore & Cunningham
- Big Bethel @ Hampton Roads Center & Towne Centre Way
- Magruder @ Hardy Cash
- Hampton Roads Center @ Armistead

QUESTIONS

