

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 7-8-03

Submitted by: Assemblymember TESCHE

Prepared by: Department of Assembly

For reading: May 13, 2003

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2003-144

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ASSIST THE NEEDY, DISCOURAGING GIFTS OF POCKET CHANGE TO PANHANDLERS, AND REQUESTING THE ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS WHICH FORBID STREET SOLICITATION OR ACTIVITIES OF PEDESTRIANS WHICH UNDULY DISTRACT DRIVERS

WHEREAS, the Assembly is advised of a concern that panhandlers, individuals seeking contributions for charitable purposes, and business solicitors engage in those activities in public streets and rights-of-way, creating hazards to themselves and motorists; and

WHEREAS, AMC 9.20.060(A) provides that "no person may solicit a ride or other favor or engage in other conduct in a manner which unduly distracts a driver's attention." and AMC 9.20.060(B) also provides that "no pedestrian upon a roadway may solicit employment, business or contributions from the occupant of a vehicle on the roadway;" and

WHEREAS, contributions of pocket change to panhandlers, however well intentioned, are frequently used to purchase alcohol or drugs, only furthering a destructive lifestyle which only increases burdens on families, social service agencies, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a number of public and private organizations, including the Salvation Army, Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, the Brother Francis Shelter, Beans Café, the Anchorage Rescue Mission, AWAIC, United Way, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust all provide much needed services to the homeless and other needy residents.


NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves

Section 1: That Anchorage residents are urged to contribute generously to community programs that combat homelessness and unemployment instead of supporting panhandlers on public streets and public places.

Section 2: That the Municipal Administration is encouraged to work with community programs, public entities, and private organizations in order to direct community resources toward organizations and programs which make a difference in improving the lives of the homeless and the unemployed.

Section 3: That the Anchorage Police Department is requested to enforce existing traffic laws governing pedestrian conduct in roadways and adjacent areas consistent with the effective utilization of police resources and the need for public order.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 8th day of July, 2003.


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk

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5/13/03