



CAPITOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMERCIAL SECURITY UNIT

AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLERS

IF A PANHANDLER ASKS FOR MONEY AND YOU WISH TO GIVE SOMETHING:

- Have the money ready in your pocket or hand before you encounter the panhandler. This way you can quickly hand it to them without opening your purse or wallet in front of them.
- Do not stop and indulge in conversation. Do not develop a "relationship" with them. You might be manipulated and it could prove dangerous for you.
- **REMEMBER: Giving money to panhandlers may encourage them Panhandling and provides no incentive for them to seek the help they really need.**
- If you wish to help panhandlers, mail a check directly to a non-profit organization that serves the needy. For a list of non-profit organizations check the telephone directory Yellow Pages or call the Capitola Police Department, Community Services Section at (831) 462-6138.

IF A PANHANDLER ASKS FOR MONEY AND YOU DO NOT WISH TO GIVE:

- Keep a safe distance away. Do not let the aggressive panhandler get close to you. Step back if the person advances towards you. Hold your hand up, palm facing the person and say "No."
- If you are walking, don't stop. Keep your distance and walk around the person. Don't "stare them down," but keep your eyes on them.
- You needn't apologize for not giving money but don't offer any advice or respond with arrogance or hostility.
- If the panhandler becomes aggressive and blocks your path, keep your distance. (Remember: "Hand Up"). Advise them that they are blocking the walkway and unless they let you pass, you'll call the police.
- If they persist, and you feel threatened, call the police immediately and give as good a description of the person as you can. The number to call is (831) 471-1141.
- If the panhandler becomes offensive, threatening and follows you, go the nearest business or place where other people are and dial 911. For emergency calls using a Cellular phone, dial (831) 471-1141.
- For more information regarding this bulletin contact: Capitola Police Department. Commercial Security Unit at (831) 462-6138. Fax: (831) 479-8881