

From: susan231ashley@gmail.com
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Common Council
Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023 11:57:01 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It is my understanding that the Common Council is considering getting rid of certain restrictions such as sleeping on private property and similar other behaviors without the owner's permission, and restrictions on panhandling in certain locations when it is deemed a risk to public safety.

I WISH TO REGISTER MY OPPOSITION TO THESE CHANGES AS I BELIEVE CURRENT REGULATIONS PROVIDE A PROTECTION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AWAY.

Susan D. Ashley

6001 Ragan Street
Madison, WI 53718-8500

NEW EMAIL: susan231ashley@gmail.com

Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates: "Is it true?" "Is it necessary?" "Is it kind?"

From: [Joy Rosenberry Chase](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Panhandling Ordinance
Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 12:27:48 PM

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I live in Madison in 53719. I ask you to KEEP the panhandling ordinance, not get rid of it. I don't think panhandlers should be anywhere near an ATM, nor should they be in the middle of intersections. I agree that it's dangerous for everyone involved and distracting to drivers when people panhandle in the medians. We should be able to feel safe when using an ATM also, without people hanging around them.

Thank you.

Joy Rosenberry Chase

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: [PD PSRC](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Item #6 - Panhandling Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:29:08 PM

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PSCR Committee Members:

RE: September 13, 2023 Agenda Item #6

I am **OPPOSED to the repeal of the panhandling ordinance** that is on your agenda at Item #6. There are common sense provisions in the current ordinance that should not be eliminated.

On the west side of Madison, the panhandlers are ever-present at most high traffic intersections, including Mineral Point Road, Gammon, Odana and Whitney Way. This is an unsafe and unhealthy situation for everyone. I have seen numerous near-misses as the panhandlers walk the medians and into the traffic lane to reach for whatever food or money is offered to them. Distracted driving continues as the attention of the public is focused on the panhandlers, their signs/dogs/children. Drivers stop, slow down or ignore the traffic signals to hand something off. This puts everyone at risk. **NOT SAFE!!**

In addition, there is usually trash, leftover food containers and debris left behind. The City ends up with the responsibility to keep these areas clean.

To ensure the safety of everyone, I ask that you keep the provisions of the current ordinance in place. Thank you for your review of this issue.

Janet Hirsch
District 9

From: [Mary Kelly](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Restriction
Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 11:25:35 AM

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Please keep in place the restrictions to PRIVATE PROPERTY!

I suffer from PTSD, if someone was on my property, you can guess 911 would have to be called due to my fear of invaders!

It would not be pretty!

Vote smart!

Vote for the people who need these protections!

Sent from my iPhone

From: mmskyumah@aol.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Panhandling Ordinance Comments
Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 1:55:35 PM

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Madison Alders:

I am writing in opposition of the proposed appeal of the Panhandling ordinance in Madison. As a resident of the city for 28 years, naturally I have seen much evolution but among the more disturbing is the number and frequency of panhandlers in Madison. I live on west/southwest side and regularly encounter panhandlers within the Whitney Way/Odana intersection (as well as elsewhere). Sometimes there is more than one person at the intersection at a time.

There has also been an increasing trend of panhandlers with children and dogs by their sides, which raises even more concerns.

I don't think I need to spell out to you the many safety concerns this activity presents for both the panhandlers and the public. There's also the occasional encounter around retail outlets and parking lots that are not only unsettling, but often present a personal safety issue. There are questions about the legitimate needs of these people...Are they being used by others? Are they truly in need or is it more of a Scam that is increasingly common these days? The city and common council should be addressing the true needs of these people vs making it easy for them to approach the public to beg for money.

Finally, it is a blight on the city and an embarrassment when non-residents come to visit. It reinforces their perception of Madison being an odd dysfunctional city.

Marlys Miller

5717 Bartlett Lane

Madison, WI 53711

From: [Larry and Ginny White](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); [PD PSRC](#)
Subject: Don't Repeal the Panhandling Ordinance
Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023 12:59:22 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison Officials: We oppose the proposed repeal of Madison's panhandling ordinance.

The ordinance contains reasonable restrictions that promote public safety. It balances the free speech rights of panhandlers and the rights of residents and visitors who might be asked for money.

Madison is facing an array of challenges. Repealing a minor, totally rational regulation would create new issues. Please keep your focus on our city's most consequential problems.

Sincerely,

Ginny and Larry White
71 Oak Creek Trail
Madison, WI 53717

From: nwinston@chorus.net
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Panhandling
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:31:57 PM

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Nina Winston
Address: 15 Hemlock Trl, Madison, WI 53717
Email: nwinston@chorus.net

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email
Best time to call: 10am to 2pm

Message:

OPPOSED to the Common Council agenda item #43 on Panhandling-

After witnessing MANY close calls at the intersection of Gammon and Mineral Point Roads involving pedestrians and cars, I am compelled to submit my concerns. My daily route includes this intersection. There is a man who stands here virtually daily. On many occasions I have observed interactions that easily could have resulted in injury to this man or others who engage with him on foot or in vehicles.

One example: I was in the lane closest to this man, waiting for a left turn arrow while traveling south on Gammon onto Mineral Pt Rd. moving east. This is a very busy intersection that has seen many accidents due to people moving in all directions at all times on foot or in cars- including rush hours for both drivers and pedestrians attempting to get to, or from, school and work morning, noon, and afternoon.

When an arrow indicated time to move into a left turn, I glanced to my right. Fortunately, I saw this man walking against the walk light back to his "station" on my left, blocked almost entirely by cars in the lanes to my right. If I had been less vigilant or more accurately, had my view of him been totally blocked when I glanced to the right, it is not a stretch that I could have hit and seriously injured or killed him.

Another example: Today there was a mass exodus, from Memorial High School, of kids trying to navigate that intersection to go to lunch at nearby restaurants. Most students walked by this same man but one of them stopped, searched various backpack pockets, and ultimately produced money to give to him. This well meaning student didn't look especially well off but more to the point, her delay caused her to rush and diagonally enter the intersection to catch up with friends. Cars barely were able to avoid her. She easily could have been injured or killed.

This man appears to have NO concern for anyone's safety, not even his own.

In addition, the pile of garbage that accumulates at his feet is depressingly a regular sight- including multiple plastic bottles/bags, food boxes, etc.- despite the fact that one of the corners has a conspicuous garbage receptacle. It appears littering has become a form of "freedom of speech" as well.

There are others who have panhandled at the same intersection, not as regularly, but equally distracting to drivers and pedestrians. This is only one panhandler but the scenarios apply to others as well.

There are better ways to care for panhandlers in need. Not being a heartless individual, and having serious concerns about the safety of the aforementioned, I have used ways other than material handouts. My handing out cards with city and county services and their phone numbers has helped at least a few individuals that I know of access those services including finding a permanent home.

Please stop handing out “bandaids” to people on life support and come up with more creative ideas that help to solve rather than perpetuate societal problems that often lead to other, often more serious, problems.



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