

CITY OF MADISON, WISCONSIN

AN ORDINANCE _____

PRESENTED
REFERRED

June 12, 2012
PSRC _____

Amending Section 24.12 of the Madison General Ordinances to prohibit panhandling within 150 feet of a licensed alcohol establishment and in the State Street Mall Concourse.

Drafted by: Marci Paulsen

Date: June 4, 2012

SPONSOR: Mayor Soglin

DRAFTER'S ANALYSIS: This ordinance creates definitions for licensed establishments, the Mall Concourse and what it means to procure a handout. This ordinance prohibits individuals from procuring or attempting to procure a handout within 150 feet of a licensed establishment and in the Mall Concourse area.

The Common Council of the City of Madison do hereby ordain as follows:

1. Section 24.12 entitled "Menacing or Aggressive Panhandling Prohibited" of the Madison General Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

"24.12 MENACING OR AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLING PROHIBITED.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure unimpeded pedestrian traffic flow, to maintain and protect the physical safety and well-being of pedestrians and to otherwise foster a safe and harassment-free climate in public places in the City of Madison. The City of Madison has a significant government interest in encouraging the public presence of residents and visitors, and their use of public areas and private businesses throughout the City and insuring that residents and visitors are able to walk freely down the State Street Mall Concourse without being asked for a handout. The City has determined that a significant number of individuals that request handouts turn around and use this donated money to purchase alcohol and by eliminating the ability to ask for a handout in close proximity to liquor establishments the City in turn hopes to reduce the cycle of alcoholism.

(2) Definitions. As used in this section:
(a) "Intersection" has the meaning designated in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(25).
(c) "Known panhandler" means a person who within one year previous to the date of arrest for violation of this section has been convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction of any civil or criminal offense involving panhandling.

"Licensed alcohol establishment" means any retailer that is licensed to sell alcohol beverages under Chapter 38.

"Mall Concourse" is defined to include the 100 through 800 blocks of the State Street Mall and the Capitol Concourse consisting of the first blocks of North and South Carroll Streets, the first blocks of East and West Main Streets, the first blocks of North and South Pinckney Streets and the first blocks of East and West Mifflin Streets as well as the additional areas of Elizabeth Link Peace Park and the Municipal Building Vending Area.

Approved as to form:

“Procure a handout” means to request from another person an immediate donation of money, food, goods or other gratuity, and includes but is not limited to seeking donations.

(b) “Public place” or “Place open to the public” is an area generally visible to public view and includes streets, sidewalks, bridges, alleys, plazas, parks, driveways, parking lots, automobiles (whether moving or not), and buildings open to the general public including those which serve food or drink, or provide entertainment, and the doorways or entrances in buildings or dwellings and the grounds enclosing them;.

~~(d) — A conversation or gesture or both shall be construed as “threatening” if a reasonably prudent individual would perceive such conduct as intending to result in the procurement of money or goods by threat or coercion.~~

~~(e) — Behavior shall be construed as “aggressive” or “intimidating” if a reasonably prudent individual could be deterred from passing through or remaining in or near any thoroughfare, or place open to the public because of fear, concern or apprehension.~~

- (3) In or near any thoroughfare or place open to the public, no person either individually or as part of a group shall procure or attempt to procure a handout from another in a manner or under circumstances manifesting an express or implied threat or coercion. Among the circumstances which may be considered in determining whether such purpose or behavior is manifested are the following: that such person is a known panhandler; that such person repeatedly and in a threatening fashion, beckons to, stops, or attempts to stop passer(s)-by; that such person engages passer(s)-by in threatening conversation; or that such person utilizes threatening bodily gestures. A conversation or gesture or both shall be construed as threatening if a reasonably prudent individual would perceive such conduct as intending to result in the procurement of money or goods by threat or coercion. The violator’s conduct must be such as to demonstrate a specific intent to induce, solicit, or procure from another goods or money by threat or coercion. No arrest shall be made for a violation of this subsection unless the arresting officer first affords such person an opportunity to explain such conduct, and no one shall be convicted of violating this subsection if it appears at trial that the explanation given was true and disclosed a lawful purpose.
- (4) In or near any thoroughfare or place open to the public, no person either individually or as part of a group shall procure or attempt to procure a handout from another in an aggressive or intimidating manner. Among the circumstances which may be considered in determining whether such purpose or behavior is manifested are the following: that such person is a known panhandler; that such person continues to beckon to, accost or follow or ask passer(s)-by for a handout after the passer(s)-by has failed to respond or has told the person “no”; that such person engages in a course of conduct or commits any act which harasses or intimidates the passer(s)-by; or that such person utilizes or attempts to utilize bodily gestures or physical contact to impede the path of any passer(s)-by, including but not limited to unwanted touching or blocking the path or impeding the free movement of the passer(s)-by. Behavior shall be construed as aggressive or intimidating if a reasonably prudent individual could be deterred from passing through or remaining in or near any thoroughfare or place open to the public because of fear, concern or apprehension of said behavior. The violator’s conduct must be such as to demonstrate a specific intent to induce, solicit, or procure from another goods or money by aggressive or intimidating behavior. No arrest shall be made for a violation of this subsection unless the arresting officer first affords such person an opportunity to explain such conduct, and no one shall be convicted of violating this subsection if it appears at trial that the explanation given was true and disclosed a lawful purpose.
- (5) It shall be unlawful for any person to procure or attempt to procure a handout within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a licensed alcohol establishment or within fifty (50) feet of an automatic teller machine (ATM) or within twenty-five (25) feet of any open sidewalk cafe.
- (6) It shall be unlawful for any person, after having been warned that such activity is prohibited, to procure or attempt to procure a handout within twenty-five (25) feet of an intersection or within twelve (12) feet of any building that contains nonresidential uses or within twenty (20) feet of any building entrance that contains nonresidential uses.

- (7) It shall be unlawful for any person to procure or attempt to procure a handout within the Mall Concourse area.
- (78) It shall be unlawful for any person to sit or recline on a public sidewalk with an intent to procure or attempt to procure a handout.
- (89) Penalty. Any person violating this section shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500), notwithstanding any provision of this chapter setting a different penalty.
- (910) Severability. The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section is held to be invalid or unconstitutional or if the application of any provision of this section to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or applications. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Common Council that this section would have been adopted had any invalid or unconstitutional provision or applications not been included herein.”

2. Subdivision (a) of Subsection (3) entitled “Schedule of Deposits” of Section 1.08 entitled “Issuance of Citations for Violations of Certain Ordinances and Providing a Schedule of Cash Deposits” of the Madison General Ordinances is amended amending therein the following:

<u>“Offense</u>	<u>Ord. No./Adopted Statute No.**</u>	<u>Deposit</u>
Menacing p Panhandling prohibited.	24.12	\$100, 1st \$200, 2nd \$300, 3rd and sub”