

# CITY OF HIGH POINT

## AGENDA ITEM



<b>TITLE:</b> Panhandling Update	
<b>FROM:</b> Rase McCray, Human Relations Manager	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> February 8, 2023
<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> N/A	<b>ADVERTISED DATE/BY:</b> N/A
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> Council 240208 Panhandling PowerPoint	

**PURPOSE:** Staff will provide an update on a proposed pilot program to address panhandling in the community.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Panhandling has become an increasing problem in the community creating concerns around resources and housing available to individuals/families, as well as public safety concerns.

Since June, staff from Community Development and Housing, Police, and Communications and Public Engagement have met to discuss potential strategies for discouraging panhandling in locations near road medians, where there are heightened safety concerns.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** None

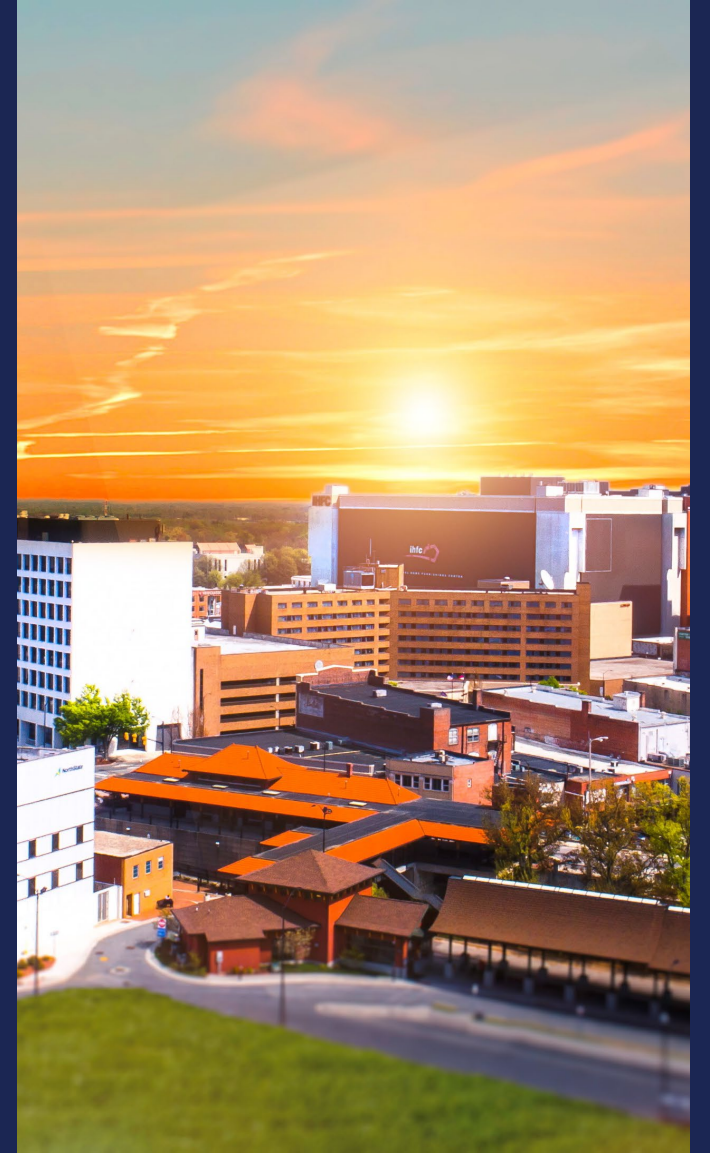
**RECOMENDATION /ACTION REQUESTED:** Human Relations staff will provide a presentation.





# PANHANDLING UPDATE

JERON HOLLIS  
MANAGING DIRECTOR





# ISSUE OVERVIEW

- **Panhandling is increasingly common across America**
- **Broadly protected by First Amendment**
  - Some aspects of panhandling can be limited by local ordinances
- **High Point ordinance prohibits “aggressive solicitation” and limits panhandling activities near locations like ATMs and schools**



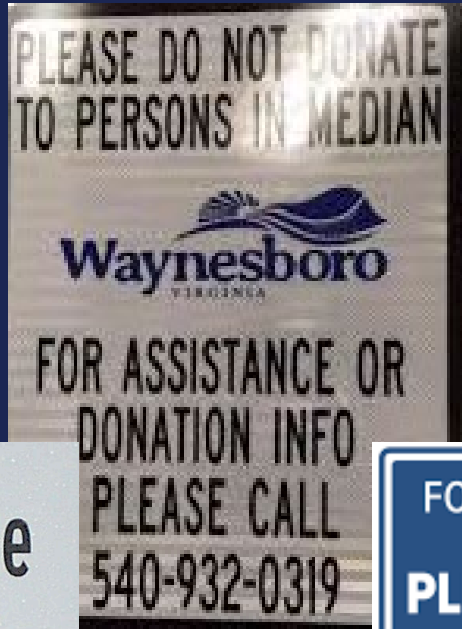
# STAFF APPROACH

**Objective: Develop strategies to discourage panhandling in locations with heightened safety concerns, such as road medians**

- **Staff Strategy**

- Create signage that might discourage drivers from interacting with panhandlers
- Consider future approaches that might address the factors that contribute to panhandling and homelessness

# EXAMPLE SIGNS



**Change The Way You Give**

Panhandling and Soliciting are Unsafe

Do not solicit for, nor hand out, anything from vehicles.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THEIRS, **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE TO PERSONS IN THE ROADWAY.**

CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTIONS

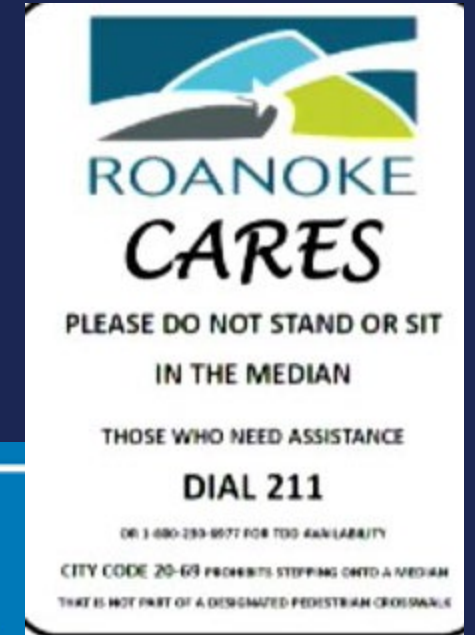
[BIGBENDCOC.ORG](http://BIGBENDCOC.ORG)



PIMA COUNTY

**SAY NO TO PANHANDLING. SAY YES TO HELPING AGENCIES SERVING THOSE IN NEED.**

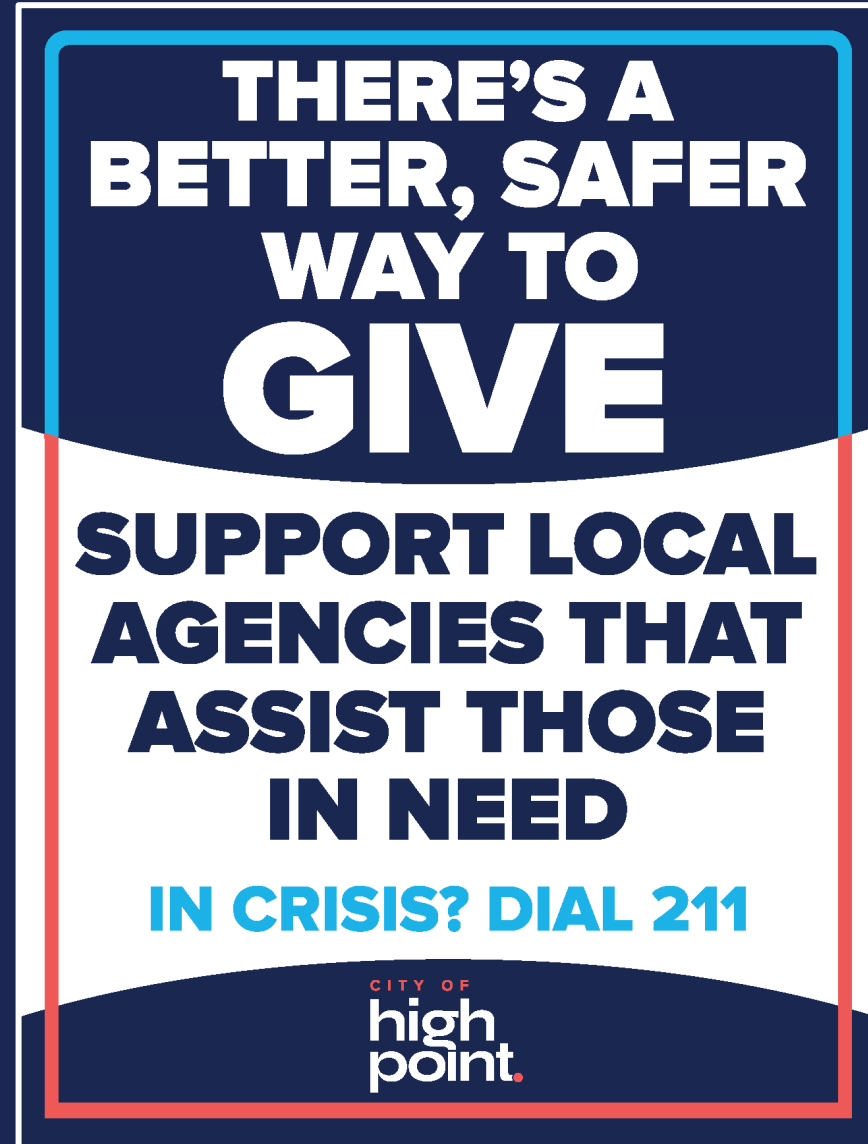
ORDINANCE NO. 2016-30





## PROPOSED SIGN

- Sign will be placed in three pilot intersections:
  - Eastchester & Main
  - Wendover & 68
  - Parkway & Main





# FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- **Work with local businesses to secure property that could become a safety hazard in traffic**
  - Examples: grocery carts or packing crates
- **Collaborate with local agencies to provide on-the-ground support for individuals in need**
  - Example: Partners Ending Homelessness
- **Develop education campaigns**
  - Assistance options for impacted populations
  - Support options for general public