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Subject: Panhandling

Attachments: Panhandling Statutes.pdf

To Precinct 4 Officers and Sergeants,

This morning the Majors and Captains had a meeting regarding the panhandling issue. As per Mayor J. Guillory a officer detail will be compiled to address panhandling from every day. This will require a total of officers to cover both rotations. To avoid pulling more from patrol, the detail will be filled by the CID officers currently assigned to patrol, officers and a sergeant from VIPER, Administration, Precincts and Services (Captains and Lieutenants).

If officers will begin enforcing the panhandling laws maybe we can lessen the problem and move on to other issues. This focus by Mayor Guillory is one of his main objectives. As per Major Dore and Major Potier, if an arrested individual has more than 4 violations of Panhandling the officer shall contact the Watch Commander who will in turn contact the Major to request booking at LPCC.

This needs to happen EVERY TIME an officer deals with any frequent law violator. The list of panhandlers can be found on the under "Panhandling". I am asking each of you to help resolve this issue by enforcing any panhandling violations.

Below are statutes for panhandling (see attachment for additional options):

\*\* Most recently from City Court on 12-13-21: If the suspect is witnessed (by a Police Officer) walking in the roadway to accept money, **charge the suspect with 62-68 Simple Obstruction of a highway of commerce** instead of 62-71 Begging and Soliciting. *Of note: frequent violator Anthony Willis, was found guilty in City Court and the charge was upheld in La. Supreme Court.* 

\*\*If a vehicle stops in traffic to hand money to a pedestrian the driver can be cited for Impeding the Flow of Traffic: 86-2: 64B.

With much appreciation and God bless, JAE

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