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**SOUTHTOWN COUNCIL**  
**Southtown Planning Center**  
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Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
City of Kansas City Missouri  
414 E. 12th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64106

**RE: Proposed Roadway Safety Ordinance to address unauthorized solicitation of funds / panhandling**

Dear Committee members:

This letter is written in support of modifying City ordinances to better address panhandling in our Kansas City business districts, neighborhoods and community. We work closely with numerous businesses, institutions and neighborhoods throughout South Central Kansas City. We also meeting regularly with private security hired by area shopping centers, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods to help address panhandling and other security issues. We host safety and security discussions and each month we receive complaints about panhandling and related concerns for safety.

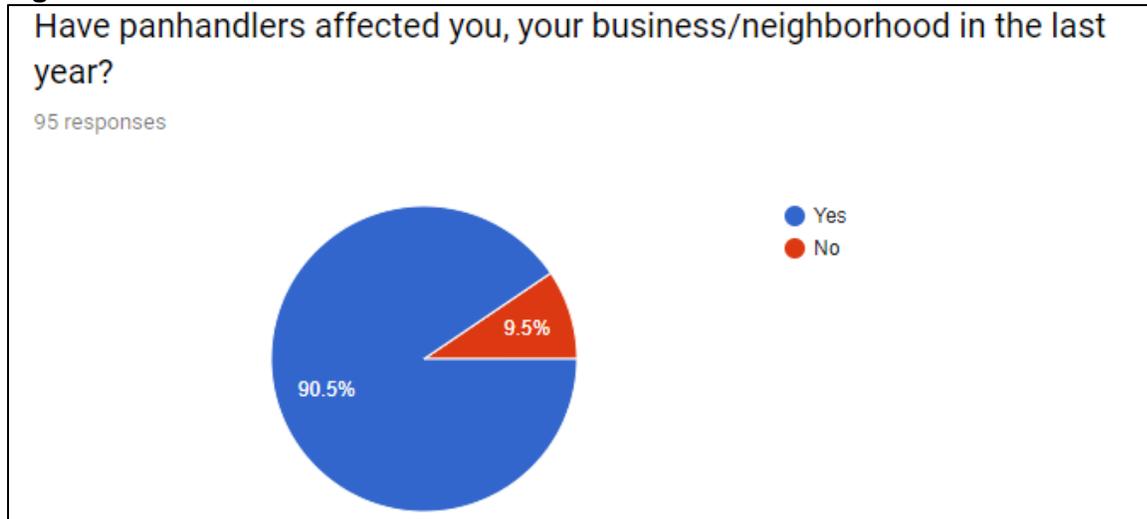
Many in our community are compassionate about helping those in need and want to help our homeless and others that need resources. Many of the area panhandlers are neither, instead making careers out of swindling money from good intentioned people, tying up our emergency service and public safety resources and leaving a bad impression of the areas where they frequent. We hear fear and frustration from residents, business owners, employees, customers, transit riders and others. Aggressive behavior, verbal abuse, and invading personal space are common descriptions shared with complaints about panhandlers. In the end, intimidation works – many are scared and end up giving small amounts of money in hopes the individuals will leave them alone. For public safety, we encourage business and patrons to donate to known organizations rather than give personal handouts. We also suspect that since people often think they are helping the homeless, the money given to panhandlers diverts funds away from real community resources.

We also experience and receive reports of panhandlers prone to other crimes of opportunity (shoplifting and stealing contents from vehicles and properties), public intoxication and drug use. We also know that several panhandlers we experience are not from Kansas City, but come here because of the minimal consequences experienced. In one recent example, the individual explained he was visiting from another metro county because he couldn't get away with panhandling there.

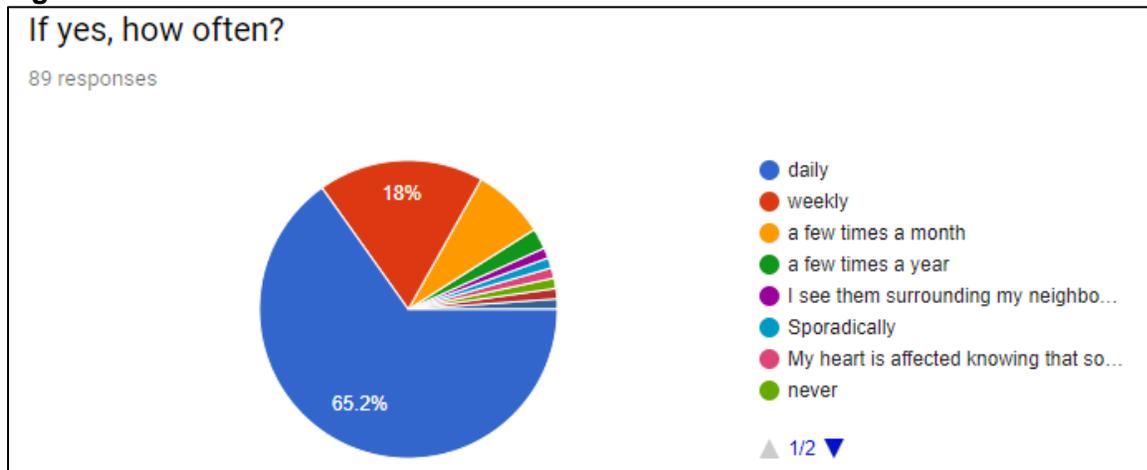
To help better understand the impact on our community, we sent out a brief survey to ask businesses and neighborhood leaders if panhandling impacts them and if so how. The survey link was also open to anyone else interested and was posted and shared by other organization and the Kansas City Star. Over the last week we received nearly 100 responses. Over 90% of the respondents reported that they had been affected in the last year (Figure 1). 83.2% of those

who said they were affected, responded that they are affected at least weekly (Figure 2). Nearly all shared their experiences. See responses on the following pages.

**Figure 1:**



**Figure 2:**



Based on the community feedback received, I encourage Kansas City to consider steps toward better addressing panhandling to minimize the impacts on our community. We also encourage the City to continue to promote and support programs and organizations that provide services to those truly in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**SOUTHOWN COUNCIL**

Sean Ackerson  
Executive Director

**Comments / concerns about panhandling received as of 4:00 pm, 8-29-18**

**For those that answered that they were impacted by panhandling we asked the following. "To help the City better understand the impact please share examples, personal experiences, feedback from your business/neighborhood."**

Panhandlers bother our customers outside our store - and often down the street not directly in front - and customers share that dislike with us verbally at the counter and then the entire store full of customers gets a bad taste in their mouths about Brookside. My sister, Casey, and I are fearless cheerleaders for our neighborhood and city and our staff is as well and we try to turn these conversations into discussing solutions but many customers just despise the experience with the panhandler.

It is very uncomfortable for me and my staff. I have had customers with children approached, very scary. I walk to other businesses (as do most of us) Being approached by a stranger in my neighborhood makes me angry and sad.

Earlier in the year we had some very aggressive panhandlers that were intimidating my customers on the parking lots. Even a few inside the store. We had multiple customers call to complain and even a fair number of people who called and said they were no longer comfortable shopping at my store. It was even visible in our sales line when it was at its worst. Most recently we have had a person that has asked for money from customers and being inappropriate with my female staff members. He returned a couple of weeks later and actually passed out on my patio after urinating himself due to his intoxication. In my short time at this location, I have already had customers talk about how bad it had been and how some of them had changed their shopping patterns or wouldn't let their wives or kids come in with them. Definitely not a good shopping experience when your customers are afraid for their safety.

My business has been here 30 years. Being approached on sidewalks, in their cars, walking to and from businesses has stopped MANY people from coming in. I hear about outright harassment from many customers. I always call security and have personally, run down and confronted countless panhandlers.

Panhandling makes my customers very uncomfortable. I've had to walk some of my female customers to their vehicles and handle the panhandlers myself. The panhandlers become very unpleasant on occasion when they are turned down. Brookside needs to be a comfortable, fun place to walk around so shoppers will stick around the community... so shoppers enjoy their visit and want to return. Any panhandling makes it so much less so...

The encounters occur most often when driving and I have to stop at traffic signals at the intersections of Brookside Boulevard/47th (Emanuel Cleaver Boulevard II) Brookside Boulevard and Volker.

There are groups of persons at these large intersections and medians, sometimes even come out into traffic (while cars are stopped at traffic signals) and approaching vehicles. There are times when these persons are not visible to the cars traveling because they are either sitting on milk cartons, not wearing safety vests, and are seated too low for traffic to see them. It's not safe for cars, who often travel at 35-40 mph, to have to deal with persons in the medians, darting out in traffic to get a donation, walking among cars at traffic stops.

In addition, I have observed persons/groups, panhandling customers at some of the BKS businesses. I have seen panhandlers approach customers as they are getting in and out of their vehicles, sometimes with groceries/items in their hands and panhandlers asking for "money." Sometimes the customer appears to be startled as the panhandlers approach them

Yelling and intimidating customers in the parking lot. Giving Waldo a bad rap on these panhandlers

They create a traffic liability and are scary to children. I have heard of fights over prime locations and seen trash left behind. I have been solicited going into stores as has my wife.

I have been solicited many times in the Waldo/Brookside area, usually someone asking for bus money or gas money. Oftentimes the person asks on several occasions, with no change in the story. The last time was last week, by someone who asked for money to get lunch--apparently he didn't realize I had been standing in line behind him at Chipotle, so I knew he'd had lunch.

<p>Greeting our customers in the parking lots and sidewalks asking for money or to borrow money to gas etc. It is already hard enough to get customers to your door and to have another person making it harder to do so just makes it easy for that customer to go elsewhere they will not be bothered especially across the state line in Kansas.</p>
<p>Because of our enhanced police presence, I feel like we have less of an issue than what I see in the neighborhoods and businesses that surround us.</p>
<p>We are a tax paying business and a regional referral center. Pan handling and crime in the neighborhood prevents people from wanting to come to RMC. It inhibits our growth which could threaten the tax base we provide. Patients and families perceive it as a dangerous neighborhood. Losing a \$515M dollar successful tax paying entity to OP KS would be a significant set back to our community.</p>
<p>Panhandlers are driving business out of the area and causing a disruption to the peaceful nature of Brookside. They are causing people to not want to return due to being harassed, bullied and constantly confronted by panhandlers almost forcing them to give them money, blocking side walks, yelling abuse at patrons, walking upto patrons vehicles as they are getting their kids out to go to dinner/shop. It's gotten so bad that we're had a panhandler heavily intoxicated making sexual comments to a minor in a business! This has caused a wide spread of fear amounts the Brookside businesses. People should not have to fear coming out to Brookside at anytime to enjoy themselves with their families. The panhandlers need to stop! They have resources they refuse, stop giving them the option to refuse the services, make it harder for these individuals to harass, bully and yell abuse to patrons. Give some power back to the good men and women in blue to protect Brookside from panhandlers!</p>
<p>Ugly piles of trash at key intersections. Men are aggressively approaching cars.</p>
<p>The presences of individuals on the corners at intersections is unsafe. Some step off the curb making it danerous for the drive as well as themselves. The areas have trash and litter.</p>
<p>Panhandlers come up to our customers in are parking lot. On a couple accasions they have come into our lobby asking for money or to use the restroom.</p>
<p>When exiting 71 hwy to Cleaver, it often feels unsafe, especially if I am the only car sitting at the light. Trash fills the corners where they sit.</p>
<p>Nuisance Crime, Thefts from Autos, trespass, often individuals who are Panhandling are intoxicated etc, big danger is Panhandlers who aggressively approach cars in parking lots and in the street while cars are stopped.</p>
<p>General harassment from panhandlers on private property and in front of and inside local businesses.</p>
<p>From 51st / Brookside leading north panhandlers are at every corner. Now by new Whole Foods.</p>
<p>It's honestly not the panhandling that is the problem. While it's not ideal, the panhandlers are generally polite. The bigger problem is the huge piles of trash left behind in panhandling areas -- particularly along 71 Highway &amp; Linwood/31st street areas.</p>
<p>Panhandlers shouldn't be allowed to stand at intersections with signs and beg for money. It's dangerous and threatening, both for the panhandler and the people they solicit. They shouldn't be allowed to loiter, especially near busy streets and intersections.</p>
<p>Trash at every corner. Caseing cars at night. Looking in peoples house windows</p>
<p>The guy standing at the 70 East off ramp on prospect used to bang on my window and call me a fucking white bitch. That affects me. They approach the car day and night. That affects me. I cannot drive with my windows open - that affects me. People hang outside Taqueria 2 demanding money, calling after you, they stand on the street corners and ramps and LITTER all over the place. They make a lot of money off the grid, obstruct traffic, intimidate me as well as others.</p>
<p>Constant piles trash in the areas where panhandlers frequent. Do gooder organizations pass out tents, clothes, supplies, food and the panhandlers discard these items, leaving trash everywhere they go. They eliminate in public, creating health hazards. No one wants to use our park because they might step in something or see someone bathing in the fountain. Some panhandlers become very aggressive, beating</p>

<p>on car windows and yelling. Some strip vacant homes of metals for salvage. Others break into houses and steal. Some are experiencing a mental health crisis and vandalize property at random.</p>
<p>Pan handlers at every on / off ramp for 135 N and South . Female pan handler dancing with her sign constantly at Chouteau and I35 exit.</p>
<p>At Walgreens on Hardesty &amp; Independence ave. there are drugged out/drunken panhandlers and one of them was harassing my 11 yr old for money when she was sitting in the car. Also there are aggressive panhandlers at the McDonalds, the Snyders, and other businesses on the Ave. I don't like to go shopping on the Ave. after dark because sometimes they get mad at you and yell at you and follow you to your car.</p>
<p>There are so many panhandlers that it makes me afraid to leave my house a lot of the times. There has been 1 instance at a stoplight where a male panhandler was mad because I wouldn't give him any money so he tried to force his way into my car! Luckily it was locked and my windows were up, but he tried to yank the door open and started to pound on my window, so I had to drive off quickly in fear for my life! I've been cursed at and called names, flipped off, it's just out of control!</p>
<p>On 63rd and 350 hwy there is a lot kids asking for money for their "team" you might want to check on that maybe someone is making a lot of money with them is been going for years am pretty sure you seen them</p>
<p>People have knocked on my door for hand-outs or come up to me on the sidewalk, as I'm coming &amp; going from my house. I also see panhandlers stationed, permanently it seems, in several locations, i.e. on Linwood Blvd. near Costco. One guy is at the intersection on Gillham where it divides into Gillham Road West, up the hill toward the Nelson and, east, along the park. He's there almost every day &amp; it strikes me as an eyesore annoyance, plus illegal, isn't it?</p>
<p>Before the Broadway CID (blue shirts) started, panhandling was an all day every day problem in Westport. There was a homeless camp in the building behind ours on Central, there were always panhandlers all along the buildings- some very aggressive. Cars were being broken into in the parking lot. There was one guy in particular that was very aggressive- knocking on car windows and stopping people as they tried to come into our store. It made our customers and staff very uncomfortable. I ran him off day after day- but he always came back. Everything changed when the CID started. Now, it is rare to see a panhandler in our area during normal business hours. Cars aren't getting broken into like they were. This makes Westport a more desirable area for our customers to shop- and they feel much safer coming down here.</p>
<p>A substantial percentage of these panhandlers are professional. I've witnessed numerous "shift changes" at the prime locations near Brush Creek. While once discreet, I've twice seen a well dressed woman in a black Cadillac pull up and let out one "bum" who then walked over to the working "bum", briefly chat and then taking the position while the prior went to the car and left.</p>
<p>they actually knock on our door</p>
<p>Many street corners, people showering in my yard, minor theft, loitering</p>
<p>I hate leaving work after a busy, exhausting shift and being asked for \$\$\$. I worked hard for the \$\$\$ I earned. I also hate being asked when I walk around my neighborhood. The panhandlers are bold and will ask from across the street.</p>
<p>People gather to panhandle in the usual places; Home Depot, 7-11, 39th n Main, all along Broadway. I am in those areas daily.</p>
<p>There are no panhandlers in Hyde Park; however, I work on the Plaza and encounter people panhandling there daily. They are all very polite and respectful, and most recognize me as someone who works there. When they recognize me, they don't ask for money but rather talk to me as a friend. I treat them the same way. I am more concerned for their health and safety than with the fact that they're panhandling.</p>
<p>This whole survey sounds really bad. Are you trying to ban panhandling? If that is the case, you will have a ton of protesters all over this. What is the reasoning behind this survey?</p>

<p>I have taken the bus to and from work downtown over the years and walked different places. I have been stopped many times by homeless people asking for whatever I could spare. I have offered food, water, cash, once even a newspaper, and it has mostly been accepted.</p>
<p>There are many panhandlers in the area and the larger Historic Northeast, especially at larger intersections. I would not feel comfortable going into many businesses in the area due to the possibility of an encounter on the sidewalk. I have heard many accounts of neighbors that have had experiences with panhandlers being extremely aggressive and threatening. They also tend to leave trash around the area where they hang out.</p>
<p>They have a system where they hit the cross walk signs to have "control" over traffic. They have become aggressive and leave behind a lot of litter. It makes people feel uncomfortable driving through an area that consistently has this problem.</p>
<p>It makes me feel like the city doesn't care about helping poor people. I'm a single mom and am already concerned about being priced out of my downtown apartment. I've seen others forced to move to less safe areas due to home prices. I'm also affected because downtown has a significant issue with parking- especially for those of us who live there. I live at 10th and Broadway and every time a homeless encampment is busted up in midtown or downtown, my dimly lit area becomes flooded with homeless folks seeking safety and shelter, making me feel even less safe having to walk 4 blocks from my parking spot to my apartment building with a five year old. The more this city refuses to address the growing income inequality and gerrymandering that's taking place, the more crime that will take place, which to be honest is far more of an issue than the panhandlers. All it's gonna do is push more people out of their homes and into panhandling.</p>
<p>The worst is when I'm just putting gas in my car and am approached by a panhandler. They are aggressive. What am I supposed to do? Stop fueling the car? I don't buy gas in my own neighborhood anymore.</p>
<p>I have been accosted a few times after refusing to give the transients money. I get approached all the time. Panhandlers also broke into my building here on Gladstone Blvd. panhandlers are sleeping and bathing at the Concourse and Colonnade. I've never seen it this bad. I'm scared and my family does not feel safe. They are camping all over Cliff Drive. Churches are feeding them. They leave a trail of trash and used needles, liquor bottles, and drug paraphernalia. They are using our parks as bathrooms. They are on drugs and very aggressive. I have dozens and dozens of photos if you would like to see them.</p>
<p>Every block should have a safe house where anyone in need can seek shelter, a place to secure valuables, wash body and clothing, and be treated as a fellow human.</p>
<p>It's affected me, but in a positive way. It humbles me and my family and opens a conversation with my children on helping those less fortunate.</p>
<p>I can't stop at an intersection without seeing or being approached by a panhandler. I've even had some come to our door.</p>
<p>Businesses that don't handle panhandlers lose my business- I am there to shop and not deal with a person taking my time to tell me some fabricated story about why they need money- "my kid is sick and he needs medicine, I just got off a bus from XYZ and have no money, somebody stole my money," etc.</p>
<p>I have caught individuals/groups going thru mine and several neighbors trash and recyclables and scattering stuff all over our yards and street that we have to clean up the mess.</p>
<p>My commute to work is to the downtown airport. There are more and more panhandlers over the last two years. Traffic is disrupted and more importantly these folks appear to have no where to turn for help.</p>
<p>There are panhandlers at all the corners of Independence &amp; Paseo. There are panhandlers on the corners of every off-ramp that leads on to Paseo. I frequently see fist fights between the panhandlers trying to claim corners. I've literally never been to a gas station in my neighborhood without someone approaching me for money, sometimes very aggressively. Going to any grocery store, any fast-food restaurant, one of the many Dollar Trees, there are panhandlers or homeless folks asking for money, following you to your car. I feel terrible because these folks are obviously in the worst spot in their lives-- asking a perfect stranger is literally a last resort. I'm particularly angry and disheartened about all the trash that is left behind. As a result, I try to lump all of my business activity outside the neighborhood</p>

<p>because I simply don't feel safe and it's draining to be asked at every stoplight, at every store, at every gas station for money.</p>
<p>From the moment you exit 29 at Paseo &amp; Independence, you're exposed to litter and panhandling campers approaching cars, sometimes aggressively. Squatters break into local empty houses. Petty theft. [Have the police really found a bicycle chop shop among the tents?] This is what the Northeast means to people approaching the Paseo Gateway... Kansas City's Welcome Wagon.</p>
<p>People always asking people for money or spare change</p>
<p>pan handling is not the issue. i know some of them and we would all fair much better with more support programs and affordable housing rather than anti poor, anti pan handling nonsense.</p>
<p>I think the term "affected" is not appropriate, so I don't know how to answer that part.</p> <p>I have a friend who comes to my block to rest. I know his name. I give him cash when I have it. I don't feel like people are harassing me. Sometimes, when you go to Westport, some people asking for "change" are a little cranky if you have to say no. Bottom line, I give when asked if I am able.</p> <p>This is not an "impact." I don't avoid businesses with "scary" homeless seeming or actual people outside. I take note that I just paid \$50 to eat plus \$15 to a server who has a job, and I talk to the "beggar" and I shake their hand, learn their name for a minute and am sad that, as experience has taught me, I will never see them again.</p> <p>Except Keith. We have talked several times. I guess this is because he is my neighbor. Do I feel horrible I can't offer him a home? Yes.</p> <p>I have met people who are selling a tale. Meh.</p> <p>Once, a person came to the door with a really bad story, kids, job, etc. I don't think, truly, people can lie so much. He even hugged me. I was not scared.</p> <p>My point: they are taking a risk, too. Love. I am not a Christian. But if you happen to be, please, act like it.</p>
<p>Man was talking to me as I rolled up my window, I heard him cussing me out.</p>
<p>Aggressively approaching, tapping and yelling on rolled up car windows, trash all over, stolen and broken in property (houses or cars for those quarters for the little liquor shots), panhandlers defecating and urinating on public spaces, soliciting drugs and prostitutes. They've fucked on my mother's home front steps, make it feel unsafe and followed by them when trying to walk even one block on the avenue of y neighborhood... absolutely horrendous.</p>
<p>They are on every corner of independence and Paseo and the I35 exit I use. Sometimes aggressive. They leave a trail of trash. It makes us uncomfortable and intimidated. It is a daily nuisance and stressful. It also makes a horrible impression for people visiting our area. It deters us from walking along Independence Ave. Please help!!! Thank you!!!</p>
<p>Trash, increase of squatters/transients, destruction of Kessler Park, crime and prostitution. Neighbors no longer want to use the park, paid and often improved by our community because encampments, funded by panhandlers has made it dangerous.</p>
<p>Aggressively approaching me, other residents and visitors</p>
<p>Have been acosted numerous times by aggressive transients standing at street corners and walking along our streets. They even enter my place of business and ask for money, often hanging around in the parking lot behind our office, lounging on the pallets we have stacked in back. There is a constant flow up and down St. John, mostly between Hardesty and Belmont. St. John &amp; Belmont is a literal sh*t show daily, attracting between 8-10 vagrants who cross the street in front of moving vehicles and leaving a string of litter and trash wheever they go.</p>

I was assaulted when I didn't give a panhandler money at the intersection of Paseo and Independence. Daily we are subjected to beggars at every intersection. We can't use the local gas station (BP) or quick marts, or the 7-Eleven because you are harassed for money. The trash they leave behind has to be picked up either by the City or advocate citizens. It's a nightmare.

They come right up to your car at a stoplight and beg. I have been spit on for not giving them money. They stop traffic. Many are the same people who walk by my house heading to Kessler Park where they leave human waste and strip out the items they have stolen to sell them for scrap.

We continue to see an increase in our area and not only are they panhandling they are living in the trees, parks and other non approved area. We have seen an increase in petty crime, trash, and other activities that have a negative impact on people feeling safe.

They get very aggressive and approach vehicles even when they are in motion. They cause traffic issues, yell profanities and make the area feel unsafe. They are a big part of our decision to relocate. You don't feel safe sitting at a stop light and can't drive with the windows down. We try to avoid driving near Zona Rosa and the highways downtown due to how aggressive they are. We are actively avoiding businesses in those areas because we do not want to be harassed or be involved in an accident due to the aggressive way they approach the cars.

aggressive panhandlers; leaving trash where they are panhandling, including glass; impeding traffic (standing in the middle of the road).

They harass people and leave trash everywhere

They are at every highway exit stoplight. Several, every day. They throw their trash everywhere. They camp over here. They hire prostitutes, so drugs, leave giant messes. A man in a wheelchair will just sit in the street because he cannot reach the cars if not.

They congregate and loiter all around the Paseo/Admiral intersection. They leave all their trash and debris behind consistently. They sometimes are rude and will yell or hurl insults at you if you do not engage or do not want to engage with them. They also come further in to our neighborhood and steal. The situation has reached critical mass.

The leave trash behind, make people feel unsafe. I've had the. Get mad at me because I will not give them money.

Panhandlers, scrappers, and the professional vagrants all go hand-in-hand. They lead to drug use, theft, prostitution, tent cities, and Urban blite. They cause people to support others drug and alcohol habits, and cause them to make just enough to stay homeless. most say they are vets but are not. Many have mental illnesses that are further compounded by the drugs and alcohol. There are an abundance of organizations to help them with food and shelter but they like their lifestyle. Part of the solution is to educate well-meaning people that giving to them actually damages them more and perpetuates the drugs, alcohol and mental illness problems by making it easy for them to live in that condition.

I am worried that the people who are standing at intersections asking for money are in danger for their lives since the intersections are busy and they could be hit by cars. I am concerned also for their health as it gets very cold and very hot in Kansas City.

My family often has many negative experiences with the panhandlers nearby. One man looks menacingly at certain people and approaches their car doors, demanding, not requesting, money. Another points at each person that comes to the stoplight and does a parody of each person that doesn't give him money. They leave trash at the intersections, including broken glass that ends up under our tires. Many of them live in the woods nearby, and they cause more trouble during their coming and going. For instance, one of them went all the way around our house, pounding on every door and asking for a name we didn't recognize. My wife spoke to her to let her know she had the wrong house, but she kept going around and around, trying to get into every locked door. Knocking, shouldering and tugging at doors until the police arrived and hauled her away, raving. The next day, she was walking free down our street again. Many of the panhandlers behave erratically. They often become agitated or act like they are on drugs or mentally unstable, depending on the individual. No one in my family feels safe walking to the park, in the park, or even down our own street for fear of running into these unpredictable people. They build makeshift camps in the woods nearby, and they generate enormous amounts of trash that blows all over the neighborhood. When I first moved in, I would clean trash out of my yard several times

a day. I have given up on keeping it trash-free, and now settle for picking up what hasn't blown further down the street only a couple times a week. But I literally cannot keep up with the chip bags, shopping bags, cigarette packs, paper, fast food trash, cups, etc. There is ALWAYS trash in my yard. When I clean it up, there is more within minutes. I sometimes pick up my own yard and the whole street and the neighbors' yards. I have traced the trash's origins many times to the panhandlers wandering the neighborhood. We see them drop it. That invites motorists to litter our streets too when they see its a trashed area. Furthermore, many of the panhandlers do buy, sell and take drugs and they are often publicly intoxicated. Some of them use drugs and alcohol openly, without fear of retribution. It's an unsafe environment. A few of them have wandered into our yard or up on our porch and behaved strangely, stood around, sat in our chairs, or even laid on our porch swing. We feel constantly threatened and are wary of anyone walking by because of our experiences seeing them talk to themselves or to signposts or trees or the fountain across the street. They bother the children going to the churches nearby, or going to or from the school. It's unbearable.

There is always trash (often containing alcohol bottles) and usually a bucket (for sitting on) at the intersection of Indep Ave & Paseo. They have hit my car twice (since it's nice, and I evidently should give them money, as they told me) and stumbled in front of my car intoxicated 3 times. I called 911 once on an unconscious person laying in the road, on the curb there (since I'm a mom with small children I waited in my car). Paramedics confirmed he was intoxicated (at about 11am). I use the intersection a couple of times a day. I decided a while back that I would not give anything so I always just roll up my windows, ignore the and act like they are not there, so not to stir up confrontation. It makes me anxious though, you never know who is going to say something to you, or even just stare, which they do. I think it's an intimidation thing, when they realize you're not giving anything.

My sister and I gave them spaghetti from the Plaza once (with a smile and conversation), they through it on her hood.

I recognize some of the "normals". They also approach people at the local gas stations. I feel that allowing one, condones the other.

Some come close to the car to make sure we see them and it scares my daughter and I; they leave garbage behind after a day of panhandling which is bad on so many levels; some stumble through our subdivision on their way "home" (Kessler Park, west) from "work"; we don't use the park as often as we'd like because we don't feel safe knowing that these people are living in the woods in our neighborhood

Some of those panhandling or hanging around them appear to be under the influence of various substances. This leads to myself feeling unsafe when I am walking with my young children

I see panhandlers at least twice a day. The most common location is The Paseo and Independence Avenue but there are other pretty common locations. Obviously

I have dozens of stories but the two most noteworthy are one instance when I honked at a car talking to a panhandler in the median, headed South on The Paseo, turning left on Independence Ave. The panhandler approached my car and motioned as if he was going to hit my car while yelling at me and telling me to get out of my car.

The other instance was when my wife was approached at the gas station on Independence Ave near The Paseo and after refusing to give money was yelled at and called names.

I have been yelled at and harrassed.

I was at Subway on Wilson when approached by man demanding money.

A woman at gas station on Avenue and Topping wouldn't take no for an answer

Trying to enter Walgreens on Avenue and Hardesty several times by different people.

Seems like anytime I go out to a business in the area I am harrassed by a panhandler

Most always not actual homeless people, but still people down on their luck, waiting on assistance or be the many who don't qualify for assistance yet still find themselves needing help. It still gets old because they are aggressive about it. Not all. The plaza people are just fine. The people in Independence Ave/paseo are definitely mental health issues transients jumping off the trains, and in squier park, they are able bodied young black men then I'm assuming either don't want or can't get hired for a job due to

lack of access to transportation or even education on professionalism. It's sad, but there is not one type of panhandler in KC.

These transients are camping in, panhandling and trashing my neighborhood. They've come from all around the country because it's easy here. They've developed a business model, and are exploiting resources.

Constant litter, public defamation & urination, over saturating what our neighborhood can keep up with as far as camping & debris. Local panhandlers have been caught stealing donations from City Thrift, then sorting & littering discards throughout the neighborhood .

When I pull up to intersections where the panhandles are, they start walking towards my vehicle asking for stuff, waving their signs. I'm generally alone in my vehicle, various times of the day & night. I am afraid to have my windows down or open while I'm sitting at stop signs or lights because I've had some stick their hands thru my open window even though I was not giving them anything. I'm uncomfortable sitting at an intersection with strange, filthy, haggard looking people staring at me, telling me I need to help them. I have had a panhandler throw a cup of something at the back of my car when I drove off after refusing to give them anything. I've had rude comments made towards me because I don't give them anything. I'm barely making it myself & can't afford to give somebody anything especially if they aren't willing to get jobs themselves.

Panhandlers at all corners at the entrance to HNE from Paseo/Independence - sometimes walk out into traffic, distract drivers and leave garbage behind. Sometimes they are just passed out on the side of the street. Everyone's safety - driver/panhandler/person waiting for the bus - is compromised. And coming home to a trashy neighborhood is demoralizing.

Coming in the store, coming up to cars and saying inappropriate sexual statements to myself around my 10 year old daughter....then not leaving.

Let me share a recent interaction. Two weeks ago as I drove to the Hy-Vee just over State Line, I saw an older man with a "will work for food" sign. It was a pitiful sight. After I purchased my groceries, I went into the deli area and bought a full dinner plus water for him and walked it over to him. As I crossed the street, I saw that he already had some pizza and a bag from another restaurant. I walked over and said hello, said "here's some lunch, do you want it?" First he put down his cell phone,(yes, his cell phone) then he replied "I can only eat so much." I asked how he came to be in this situation. He replied that he used to have a six-figure income job but was unjustly fired. Then, he worked at a Mc Donald's until a friend told him about how much \$\$ could be made panhandling. He said on a good day, he can make \$600; even more during the holiday season. I left with the lunch I'd bought, feeling foolish and manipulated, and I will never ever do that again. Not to mention all the years I'd hauled extra granola bars /fruit in the car to hand out. I know not everyone is like this man, but probably the majority of panhandlers are.

I just hate it. I think it demonstrates that we don't take care of our own.

Panhandlers near our building. Hangout fight, do drugs, as well as siphon power from our building. To charge their iPhones. I could go on...

They make customers feel unsafe. They hurt small and large businesses alike due to the perception. It also hurts us because you do not see them in Kansas so consumers are going there. Makes the state and city unattractive to well paying customers.

**We also asked “Anything else you'd like to share about panhandling?”**

There just has to be a way to deal with this. I look forward to the solutions. Talking points for business owners and their staff might be a plus. We have ours down but guidance for others might be good.
Please make it stop! It is not ok for anyone to be made to feel guilty while they are trying to spend money in Brookside. The customers will go elsewhere if this persists.
Just that it would be nice for customers to come in to shop without having to feel like they don't have to look over their shoulder as they are walking in.
It's rampant, harassing and ridiculous. Police need to be able to arrest repeat offenders. The panhandlers know it's all false pretenses when they are asked to leave Brookside.
I do not know the answer we give to charities and have compassion for those in need but there is no way to know if giving to panhandlers is a help or simply enabling bad choices
Our outdoor sidewalk cafe is filled with customers on a nice day and get hit up for money while they are eating.
I think that education from the entities and institutions that deal with the homeless is really key, with my presumption that most panhandling does not truly assist those in the greatest need. Educating people to make a truly informed decision about where they direct their resources in this area would be very helpful.
They are increasingly getting more violent. I have personally witness panhandlers all around the city fighting each other for Corners to panhandle on. I have witnessed panhandlers yelling abuse at patrons who refuse to give money to them. I've seen panhandlers making people feel threatened and striking fear into patrons and their families out of what might happen if they don't give this panhandler money, while trying to enjoy a night out. The patrons and their families should not be subject to this harassment on a daily basis! There's services to help these people but they refuse them by choice! Why should we have to suffer due to their poor life choices? Why should patrons be subject to fear when going out of being harrassed and constantly bothered/bullied by panhandlers. It's been proven in many studies a lot of these individuals that are panhandling are career panhandlers and make more than the average American, tax free! Something has to be done, they need to go!
An organization seems to drop these people off and collect them later. It's like a business....Must generate good tax-free money.
I live on the plaza and am affected by panhandling everyday just walking to and from my car. One time i offered to give them a labor job by raking the leaves around my house and putting them in trash bags 100 dollars for the job . I had to ask 15 people until i got a yes. There is no reason why panhandling makes more money than a day of work. These people are not trying to better themselves. They are trying to guilt the middle class who work hard eveyday for what they have. If you really want to help the homeless donate to a homeless shelter dont enable the individuals who get turned away from the shelters (drug addicts and violent offenders) .
It's difficult to tell who needs help and who doesn't. I have a mentally ill brother in another state who is homeless by choice. So my heart goes out them, however, there has to be a better way.
Quick Consumption Alcohol is a big motivator of panhandling.
Civil liberties are extremely important, but there must be a way to curb the massive amount of panhandlers in public right-of-ways, stepping off of curbs to approach vehicles, leaving trash and debris behind, and generally harassing citizens. Encouraging folks to not give money is clearly not working. I also think there need to be more resources from the City to assist those in need.
The tactics seem to be getting more aggressive ( tapping in windows, etc)
I've been a poor man my whole life, born and lived here in KC for most of my 49 years. I have NEVER ONCE asked a stranger for money. I don't appreciate people harassing me for money. Make them get permits, like they do for little girls' lemonade stands!
Companies can't hire workers Panhandle people are criminals

<p>I know there are constitutional rights issues with panhandling, but if you look up other cities best practices I imagine there will be some tried and true guidelines. Isn't it unlawful to stand on those ramp islands? Why not? Littering certainly is unlawful. A littering officer could earn their salary in a day here in Northeast Neighborhood.</p>
<p>I believe the concentration of "service providers" in Northeast is detrimental and unfair to all parts of KCMO. People in every part of the city are experiencing homelessness. When they are all forced to seek services in Northeast, how can Northeast help having a concentration of these residents fighting to survive all while competing for the same limited resources as those who chose to live a transient lifestyle? Suddenly, good, law abiding people down on their luck are mingling with those who are trying to avoid law enforcement, are perhaps violent, have addictions or are experiencing a mental health crisis. Meanwhile, every do-gooder organization thinks they're doing humanity a favor by dropping off supplies, thus anchoring the transient population to the area. If you dig a well and leave the village, when the well breaks, will the village fix it? If you help a village plan and find a loan to build a well and then offer guidance, they will build the well, maintain the well, fix the well, and own the well. Please help those who are experiencing homelessness build their own well. Quit building wells for the transients.</p>
<p>They have now moved into the woods in Cooley park. Constant stream of pan handlers / homeless in the woods now.</p>
<p>it is scaring customers away from shopping on Independence Ave.</p>
<p>It is uncomfortable to drive just about anywhere due to the sheer number of panhandlers all over the city. I won't let my teenage kids drive alone anywhere because I fear for their safety!</p>
<p>I'm sick and tired of seeing people panhandling.</p>
<p>Panhandling is rarely based on need but rather has become a business and a way of life for the regulars, especially on the Plaza.</p>
<p>Many are also connected to the homeless camps in Brush Creek and moonlight as thieves in the surrounding neighborhoods.</p>
<p>Busking is fine, they know to stand on city property so they can't be ticketed for loitering. Police can do NOTHING! Transients and homeless are a major problem in Historic Northeast, plenty of legit outreach programs—panhandling needs to be discouraged</p>
<p>It's my choice to engage panhandlers or not. But I want people to clean up the trash after themselves before they move onto their next spot.</p>
<p>I hope that whatever you intend to do or action you intend to take comes from a place of wanting to help the people who panhandle, not help businesses or people irritated by being faced with poverty. Address the systemic root of the problem, not the people looking to find their way through panhandling.</p>
<p>This sound like a gentrification measure. If it is you will have a ton of people protesting this.</p>
<p>As our city grows and develops into the great city we know it can be, we need more and better social programs to combat the economic inequality that throws people into homelessness.</p>
<p>There are many places in the area where the transients(who are doing the panhandling) are setting up camps. There have even been several in the trees directly across the street from my house. Considering many of these people have substance abuse and/or mental health problems, it is not a great feeling of security when you have young children. There have even been issues with the park areas with childrens' playgrounds. One neighbor even caught on camera a couple of transients trying to set up camp at the Collonade and smoking what seemed to be crack in broad daylight in plain view. Besides the direct problem of the panhandling, it indirectly fuels the fire to these sorts of problems.</p>
<p>The parks in the historic northeast has a large share of them due to the parks which provide them with shelter and disguise.</p>
<p>We can't walk certain streets because of the aggressive panhandlers. The trash. The drugs. Businesses with beggars outside the door. These people are not necessarily homeless. I have personally watched beggars on the Plaza get in nicer cars than mine and drive off. How much are they making? Tax free! I can't drive home from work without the gauntlet if beggars on the corners. Keep the windows up, they</p>

yell and curse when they don't get money. This summer has been the worst. Then there was the police officer who went off on me for saying something about the drugged out, drunken loiterers. Out of control.
It is at an epidemic level in Historic Northeast. These camps have got to be eradicated. These transients are feeding off our community. I've never seen it this bad in the 15 years I've lived here. We are at our breaking point.
The city should be ashamed for putting so few resources towards providing for the least of these.
Its a way of life, for some the only...
We must find a way to help these folks help themselves somehow.
It makes the area look bad with groups of people standing around with signs asking for money- even worse if they have old furniture and piles of trash. What do visitors think?
At neighborhood stop lights I get people coming up to my windows constantly asking for money.
Can we figure out a way to employ these people into bettering our community? Could the government put in place a program with Parks and Rec to pay these folks to pick up the trash in the parks and neighborhoods? That would be great. I know that other major cities like Forth Worth, Seattle, and San Diego have implemented programs like that with AMAZING success.
Old northeast continues to struggle with the perception that it's poor and crime is rampant. Panhandlers are the ambassadors to that image. If we're ever going to attract economic growth, this city I pay taxes to needs to handle this problem. Local charities only exacerbate the problem by attracting them to free meals and supplies yet providing nowhere to not only sleep but nowhere to contribute back to the community. They offer no housing, no rehabilitation, no community placement, no goals - just a logistical target that accommodates an immediate need and then sends them off to camp in very dangerous situations. Good intentions I get, but this is not right to our neighbors and shortsighted at best for transients' well-being.
So, what can the city do? One idea is to flip some landbank properties, or seized properties, for use as volunteer-for-rent housing. Maybe a partnership with some of these charities feeding them can oversee the program on the housing end, and the city can put together a public works program that contributes labor back to the city. A little bit like a halfway house I admit, but it does solve a few problems. Abandoned properties become accountable, transients no longer camp, homeless have a home, charities get better donations to help the programs and foster more-complex programs that can address the underlying problems that's making our community sick. Look to other cities that have the same problem and learn what can work for Kansas City.... Just my 2 cents.
We help our neighbors here. Do not make it harder to do that. Fining people needy enough to ask for money goes no where and is a waste of everyones time while digging their hole deeper. Job programs, higher education, and affordable housing would lead to a much more positive outcome for those panhandling and the whole community in general.
They need to find work & stop begging for money.
Make it illegal. KC is known by transients across the country for the kindness towards panhandlers so we get to deal with problems from other cities and states. Distribute the services offered around the city, not 50 of them in HNE and force "Samaritan " groups to give food and stuff by the city shelters and services. Otherwise they won't use what's already available and keep on destroying where we live
It needs to stop . Business and residents are uncomfortable with it. I can never get gas at any station along independence without someone coming up and asking me for money. PLEASE HELP!
Pass an ordinance to make it illegal. Other organizations will find ways to fundraise money for legitimate causes.
We have a much larger and more aggressive population of transients and panhandlers in the River Market within the past year. We've also had a significant increase in theft/attempted theft and simply more people wandering through our property and parking lot looking for "easy targets" or simply

<p>approaching people asking for a handout. They're more aggressive than ever before and don't always accept the answer "no" and walk on.</p>
<p>As we speak, Friday morning, 8/24/2018, there is a long row of makeshift tents and tarps lining the north edge MoDOT fence adjoining the soccer field at the southbound I-35 exit ramp to Independence Ave &amp; The Paseo. Do-gooders come every Sunday evening and feed them in the parking lot of the title loan place nearby causing the dumpster to be overflowing 90% of the time.</p>
<p>Our neighborhoods are becoming a mess, unsanitary, we are harassed and can't enjoy our neighborhoods. PLEASE DO SOMETHING</p>
<p>Please do whatever you can to stop this problem. These people are transients, not homeless and don't want help so stop feeling sorry for them and save our city. It is ruining our neighborhood and city. And some are dumped here by other cities.</p>
<p>We find groups from out of our area creating more garbage, encouraging people to "camp" by supplying camping supplies and food. There must be programs to move people from homeless to solutions that alter their life styles for the better. Education, mental health, kid training, addiction services and for some that are on the run for crimes incarceration</p>
<p>They are a traffic hazard and the way they approach the cars is an accident waiting to happen. The situation is out of control and something needs to be done.</p>
<p>Can we focus on those that are enabling panhandlers? Make it unlawful to hand off money or items to them thru their cars? This also impedes traffic and can make it unsafe for other drivers. How will you be handling charity events like firefighters and bikers raising money in these medians for charities?</p>
<p>It's not good for communities trying to bounce back from having reputations of being bad neighborhoods</p>
<p>I am not sure it is wrong to panhandle, but they should not be allowed to do it this way, at the stoplights. I think it should only be allowed to beg of foot traffic, not on the street.</p>
<p>Something seriously needs to be done. I am sympathetic to some people's bad situations, but there are much better solutions than having them just camping out at these locations and panhandling.</p>
<p>It goes hand in hand with the "homeless" that live in our parks.</p>
<p>It hurts the neighborhoods because of all the trash they leave, endangers them because they are often under the influence and their behavior is unpredictable. Many of us have been threatened or attacked or victimized by them and the associated theft and violence and human trafficking that surrounds them.</p>
<p>The city needs to do a better job of providing for the poorest of us so that they don't need to turn to begging on the street for money. I would like the city to explore ways to provide affordable housing (below the suggested \$1000/mo) and safe places for homeless families to wash their clothes and find rest.</p>
<p>Panhandling is the second most reason I would like to leave the area (behind the transient population camps), though they are tied together. I've lived in HNE for 15 years now and other parts of the city all my 38 years (Raytown, Independence, northland).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I don't know of anywhere it is worse than in HNE.</li> <li>2. I hardly ever see any driver give money (obviously they do, but I have kept an eye out and hardly ever see it. Maybe it's the times of day I'm going through there).</li> <li>3. I hear people around here complain about it (without my bringing it up, it's common conversation).</li> </ol> <p>I think there should be stricter enforcement rules.</p>
<p>It's bad for the Paseo Gateway. It's a passive aggressive way to bother people entering the urban core, and not a good "welcome to Kansas City" at all.</p>
<p>I truly don't understand why the city is so passive about this issue. As is evidenced by the enormous volume of trash that collect where panhandlers frequent, it affects us even if we ignore them. We clean that trash up - or have to allow it to degrade our experience of our neighborhood.</p>
<p>Several stop lights are also an issue</p>
<p>Your ordinance is probably gonna just do more to anger the political left and racial minorities in the city than help curb panhandling. We need to stop relying on religious organizations or police to handle our</p>

public health issues. These people have needs. Meet them, and they will leave the streets. We need programs, not fines and jail time. I kinda wanna slap the representative from the Northland for sponsoring this. I grew up in the affluent suburbs of platte county. I get her mentality. But it doesn't make it any less disgusting. This law will do absolutely nothing and hiding behind safety is ridiculous. Just admit you don't wanna look at poor people. It really is that simple. Why don't we help them instead of punishing them?

Any other activity that rakes in cash and doesn't pay anything in taxes would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This is a business, pure and simple.

We would like to find a way to discourage churches, etc from outside of the neighborhood from driving over & handing out food & clothing. These activities draw More panhandlers to an already saturated area, & discourage the needy from seeking help from a mission. We would prefer that organizations that want to help form a relationship with an outreach or neighborhood association that already has a presence.

They leave a mess, they're scary, especially to a woman alone in a vehicle. They make the entire neighborhoods look trashy & are becoming an annoyance. They block intersections & take the time the light changes talking to people in their vehicles ahead of me & cause me to miss the light. I don't feel safe at intersections where panhandlers are hanging out anymore & I've lived in Historic NE over 30 years!

It should be illegal

Many, many of the people asking for money look too well-fed and too clean to be homeless. Some people consider this an occupation.

If we want to have a conversation about addiction and poverty we can. This is not that conversation. People in this city are genourse.  
Generous and facilitating addiction as well as unemployment

I have neighbors that no longer drive in that area because they are frightened of the individuals that are begging on this side of Kansas City. They see the panhandlers as being persons who may be addicted to drugs or mentally ill that are absolutely unmonitored by any type of assistance and they are convinced that these individuals while seemingly not dangerous are people that could overpower them. Additionally they are often experiencing balancing problems as they have difficulty standing while intoxicated or dehydrated in between the signs and could fall into traffic. Today I had someone pulled directly into my path in order to get out of the path of an individual who is standing on the corner of QuikTrip and starling because the individual look like he was going to fall into traffic that person nearly caused a person to drive into my vehicle had that occurred I would have to pay the deductible and then I would have to take a loss on the vehicle all because the city of Kansas City absolutely refuses to provide adequate police protection at the very least to the citizens on the edge of Kansas City where they are not committed to the political process in Kansas City but are not actual residents of Independence. Additionally when I go into the city to go to work on the way past the VA there is a large contingent of individuals that congregate at that hospital area. I would think it would be extremely hard to actually get any industry to come to this city that drives through this wreckage of poor traffic control and have them thank you yes this is a Workforce that I want to bring my company into and what is the solution to this in my mind the solution to this is the proper utilization of mental health facilities that can provide individuals who are experiencing long-term mental illness with programs that are match to their actual needs that do not then reduce the property values of those people around them. People work hard all of their lives in order to purchase a house while we are a generous City we are a tired City we are tired of seeing people who go through life having very few options and then not being able to take advantage of those options that are placed in front of them because there is no realistic expectations of them moving forward. It is not the fault of the business community that some of these individuals cannot work. It is very hard to hire and train someone who is intoxicated or on drugs or in a mental confusion and cannot assimilate information. I believe that it would be in the interest of the city to establish a city mental health unit that would provide residential stays as well as expert diagnosis from the finest of the medical community matched with appropriate Pharmaceuticals for at least a 30 day period of stability in order to help these individuals to get stable enough to benefit from any of the programs. Additionally those people that are on benefits should have to have a financial conservator that teaches them overtime how to manage their own

money so that they are not in the predicament of not having any money on the last week of the month. Finally a contracted Temporary Service would be extremely helpful in working with and someone that helps them to manage this. While this may all sound like a huge undertaking the bottom line is it is a bad idea for potential employers to see this kind of wreckage it's reprehensible to have adults living in encampments that burn and have crime and have people be abused and as a city we could become the model City for the citizens of Kansas City to are experiencing difficulty to get help before they go all the way down to the ground because currently people just think well I guess if it gets really bad I can end up with a sign at a stoplight. Additionally to all these things that I mention as positive things that can happen I think it is essential for each person to realize that the people standing out there that have a sign is somebody's mother somebody's sister and somebody's brother and somebody's father and rather than having a false sense of compassion that we may benefit more and so will they benefit more by recognizing that in addition to these relationships that they also have some responsibilities and that depriving them of the opportunity to become that responsible person is a secondary form of discrimination against those who are expensive experiencing mental illness