

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER:

16

DATE:

June 6, 1995

STAFF:

Pat Kelly

SUBJECT:

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 70, 1995, of the Council of the City of Fort Collins Amending Section 17-126 of the City Code and Adding Section 17-127 to the City Code Pertaining to Panhandling.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Ordinance No. 70, 1995, which was unanimously adopted on First Reading on May 16, is not intended to prohibit all panhandling in public places in the City. Rather, its purpose is to impose reasonable time, manner and place restrictions on panhandling in public places to prohibit that panhandling which adversely affects public safety and welfare.

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER:

34

DATE:

May 16, 1995

STAFF:

Pat Kelly

SUBJECT:

First Reading of Ordinance No. 70, 1995, of the Council of the City of Fort Collins Amending Section 17-126 of the City Code and Adding Section 17-127 to the City Code Pertaining to Panhandling.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Complaints relating to panhandling in the City have increased significantly in the last two years. Since the behavior was not illegal, Police Services does not have statistics on the number of complaints. This Ordinance has been drafted to try and prohibit the specific behaviors associated with panhandling that were reported as being frightening, intimidating or a public nuisance.

Many of the specific concerns were related to panhandling at locations such as the parking garage, patio restaurants, and bus stops where the persons solicited could not easily walk away from the panhandlers or when the person solicited was exiting a motor vehicle. Complaints have also been received about panhandlers loitering near ATM machines and approaching people while they had money in their hands. Other people complained of being approached at night in isolated places and feeling frightened and intimidated.

Several complaints have been received from the residents of the DMA apartments. Senior citizens are a frequent target of panhandlers because they are more easily intimidated. The management of the DMA apartments has even called for assistance in getting its residents on the bus because the bus stop shelter was full of young men waiting for the seniors. Therefore, panhandling of "at-risk persons" in public places is prohibited by the Ordinance. An "at-risk person" is defined in the Ordinance as a person 60 years of age or older, under 18 years of age, or a person with a disability. Such at-risk persons are less able to emotionally and physically protect themselves from unwanted panhandling.

This Ordinance is not intended to prohibit all panhandling in public places in the City. Rather, its purpose is to impose reasonable time, manner and place restrictions on panhandling in public places to prohibit that panhandling which adversely affects public safety and welfare.