

## WHO TO CALL

*To report an aggressive panhandler, call the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station at (562) 949-2421. Provide the description and approximate location of the individual.*

*Worried about someone who is homeless? Call PATH at (562) 373-5264.*

*PATH and Whittier's First Day are working together to help homeless individuals in Pico Rivera. Please call the number above to report those in need and they will send out an outreach team to provide assistance.*

*If you are a person in need of food or shelter, call 2-1-1. 211 LA County is a free and confidential referral service which can be used by those in need to access emergency food and shelter.*

*If you observe panhandlers loitering within a parking lot or shopping center, contact the local security or store/property manager in person.*

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY,  
CALL 9-1-1.**

## LISTING OF SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS & REFERRALS

### **People Assisting the Homeless (P.A.T.H.)**

(562) 373-5264

[www.epath.org](http://www.epath.org)

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### **Catholic Charities of Los Angeles**

(562) 591-1641

[www.catholiccharitiesla.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesla.org)

Provides food, motel vouchers, assistance with applications for food stamps, tokens for transportation and referral services.

### **2-1-1 LA County**

211 LA County is a free and confidential referral service for emergency food and shelter.

### **L.A. Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

(562) 906-2676

[www.lacada.com](http://www.lacada.com)

LACADA provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for teens and adults.

### **U.S.Vets - Long Beach**

(562) 200-7300

[www.usvetsinc.org/LongBeach](http://www.usvetsinc.org/LongBeach)

Provides comprehensive services including drug/alcohol rehabilitation to homeless or at-risk veterans.

### **New Directions for Veterans**

(310) 914-4045

[www.newdirectionsinc.org](http://www.newdirectionsinc.org)

Provides comprehensive services to veterans in LA County.



## A Safe and Clean Pico Rivera



## An Educational Public Awareness Brochure about Panhandling

## What is Panhandling?

Panhandling is a term which refers to the solicitation for food, money or other donations. Panhandling is accomplished in a variety of ways, including verbal requests, with signs requesting money or food, or by holding out a container to passersby.

In response to an increased visible presence of panhandlers within high traffic commercial locations city-wide, the City and the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station have launched a campaign called **"A Safe and Clean Pico Rivera"** which focuses on enforcing existing laws as well as partnering with our residents and business community to discourage anti-social behaviors within our commercial centers. Recognizing limited City resources, this campaign educates the public about aggressive panhandlers and encourages people to give to organizations which provide services to those truly in need. This campaign also encourages you to just say "No" if and when you are approached by anyone asking for money or donations, particularly when the panhandler is being aggressive.

### Report Aggressive Panhandlers

If a panhandler becomes aggressive, call the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station immediately. Aggressive panhandler behaviors can include:

- Continuing to solicit for food or donations after the person being solicited said "NO".
- Use of verbal or physical threats.
- Intimidating the person being solicited by following them closely or soliciting near an ATM or bank.
- Intentionally blocking the path of the person being solicited.



**SHERIFF'S STATION**  
**(562) 949-2421**

### What can businesses do?

1. Inform your patrons of alternatives to giving to panhandlers. Contact a local charity and install a donation box within your business. Ask your patrons to donate to the local charity instead of the panhandlers.
2. If you are a business owner or an employee of a local business and you witness or experience aggressive panhandling, call the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station at (562) 949-2421.
3. If loitering or soliciting is occurring outside of your business and the person(s) refuse to leave, call your property management or security. If the individual(s) becomes aggressive, call the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station at (562) 949-2421.

### Five Panhandler Facts

1. Not all panhandlers are homeless and not all homeless people panhandle.
2. Studies show many panhandlers suffer from drug or alcohol addiction and giving them spare change only enables their addictions.
3. Panhandlers target women over men.
4. Panhandlers target high traffic locations such as commercial districts, banks, off-ramps, center medians, parking lots, etc.
5. Panhandlers can make \$200-300 per day.

### How to Say "NO" to a Panhandler

1. Walk with confidence. Your attitude is a powerful tool in dealing with panhandlers.
2. Make eye contact and acknowledge the person with a nod.
3. Politely say "NO" and do not engage in dialogue.
4. If they persist, say "NO" loudly several times. Panhandlers generally do not like to draw attention.
5. Walk away. If you are followed, retreat to the nearest business and call **(562) 949-2421**.

### There's a Better Way to Give

Donate responsibly by giving to local organizations which help get the homeless off the streets and into permanent, stable housing. Such organizations may also have volunteer opportunities or accept furniture donations to furnish the apartments of formerly homeless individuals who were successfully placed into permanent housing.

**THERE'S A  
BETTER WAY TO GIVE**

To make a donation to a local organization or to obtain more information about the campaign, visit:

**[www.pico-rivera.org](http://www.pico-rivera.org)**

**Keyword: Panhandling**