



OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT MERCHANT WATCH



INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLERS & TRESPASSERS

There are three types of persons who may visit business sites. The first type is called “**Residents**”. They are persons who belong on the property such as owners, managers, employees, tenants, etc. The second type is “**Invited Guests**” such customers, repair persons, suppliers, or public service providers. Invited guests visit businesses to conduct business and remain invited guests so long as they manage themselves in accordance with the rules the “Residents” establish. If a visitor is not a “Resident” or an “Invited Guest”, then that visitor is of the third type a **Trespasser**.

In general, Section 602 of the California State Penal Code identifies trespassers as anyone who enters lands or real property with the intention of interfering with or injuring any lawful business of the person in lawful possession of that land or property.

The following information and recommendations are offered to assist business owners and operators in protecting their businesses against panhandlers and trespassers.

AGGRESSIVE PANDHANDLING

Depending on the situation, it is recommended that any or all the following signs be posted where they can readily be seen by persons entering your business property:

- ❖ **NO SOLICITING OR PANHANDLING**
- ❖ **NO LOITERING, SOLICITING OR PANHANDLING PERMITTED ON THIS PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OWNER (MANAGEMENT)**
- ❖ **WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE TO ANYONE**

IF YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE BEING ACCOSTED BY AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLERS:

- ❖ Inform the individual causing the problem that he or she is interfering with your business and ask him or her to leave or you will call the police.
- ❖ If the person persists or becomes belligerent, call the police immediately. The number to call is (510)777-3333 the non-emergency line.
- ❖ If the person becomes aggressive or threatening, call 9-1-1 the police emergency line.