



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Transportation Committee

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**TO: TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS      DATE: JUNE 14, 2018**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT      WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: NO SOLICITING AND/OR CUSTOM SIGNS - INSTALLATION AT SELECT  
FREEWAY EXIT RAMPS - DIRECT SUBMITTAL**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve the installation of No Soliciting and/or custom educational signs at select freeway exit ramps to address soliciting and panhandling and related safety concerns.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Transportation Committee approve installation of No Soliciting signs to prohibit soliciting and panhandling and/or custom educational signs to discourage motorists from giving to panhandlers at the following freeway exit ramps:

1. SR-60 Freeway at the:
  - a. Orange Street westbound exit ramp; and
  - b. Main Street eastbound and westbound exit ramps; and
2. I-215 Freeway at the:
  - a. University Avenue eastbound and westbound exit ramps;
  - b. Martin Luther King Boulevard eastbound and westbound exit ramps;
  - c. Fair Isle Drive eastbound exit ramp;
  - d. Eastridge Avenue southbound exit ramp; and
  - e. Alessandro Boulevard southbound exit ramp; and
3. SR-91 Freeway at the:
  - a. University Avenue eastbound exit ramp;
  - b. Fourteenth Street eastbound exit ramp;
  - c. Central Avenue westbound exit ramp;
  - d. Arlington Avenue eastbound exit ramp;
  - e. Madison Avenue eastbound and westbound exit ramps;
  - f. Van Buren Boulevard eastbound and westbound exit ramps;
  - g. La Sierra Avenue eastbound and westbound exit ramps; and
  - h. Pierce Street eastbound exit ramp.

## **BACKGROUND:**

No Soliciting signs may be utilized by public agencies to prohibit soliciting and panhandling per the California Streets and Highways Code Section 225.5 (Attachment 1) and California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 22520.5 and 22520.6 (Attachment 2). California Streets and Highways Code Section 225.5 prohibits the display, sale, offering for sale, or vending or solicitation of money within any vista point or safety roadside rest for any purpose. CVC Section 22520.5 prohibits solicitation, the display, sale, offering for sale, or vending of any merchandise or service while being wholly or partly within the right-of-way of any freeway, on or off ramp, or roadway shoulder, any roadway or adjacent shoulder within 500 feet of a freeway on or off ramp, and any sidewalk within 500 feet of a freeway on or off ramp when vending or attempting to vend to vehicular traffic. CVC Section 22520.6 prohibits any person from engaging in any activity within a highway roadside rest area or vista point prohibited by rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Section 225 of the Streets and Highways Code.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Efforts by local agencies to address panhandling have involved a variety of measures including:

### **The City of Upland:**

The City of Upland collaborated with a local private group to develop an education campaign aimed at discouraging motorists from giving money to panhandlers through the installation of “Say No to Panhandling” signs at select locations. The group focuses on reducing panhandling and encouraging giving to local legitimate homeless organizations. The City previously worked with Caltrans to obtain encroachment permits enabling installation of these signs at select freeway off-ramps. Per a recent request from Caltrans, the City is in the process of changing the existing “Say No to Panhandling” signs at freeway off-ramps to the standard No Soliciting S24(CA) signs now supported by Caltrans. Attachment 3 is an article published on November 24, 2017, by the Daily Bulletin, about the efforts.

### **The City of Redlands:**

The City of Redlands adopted Ordinance Chapter 9.10: Prohibition Against Aggressive Solicitation ordinance (Attachment 4). The ordinance restricts intentional physical contact with another person or an occupied vehicles without that person’s consent in the course of soliciting, asking, or begging and the intentional blocking or interfering with the safe or free passage of a pedestrian or vehicle by any means, including unreasonably causing a pedestrian or vehicle operator to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. Violations are punishable as a misdemeanor or infraction, chargeable at the City Attorney’s discretion.

Additionally, City of Redlands Ordinance Chapter 9.14 Median Island Safety (Attachment 4) states that it is unlawful for any person to linger, solicit, or loiter on a median island within the City of Redlands.

### **The City of Menifee:**

The City of Menifee adopted Ordinance Chapter 11.08: Prohibition Against Certain Forms of Solicitation (Attachment 5) which prohibits certain forms of solicitation including aggressive solicitations and solicitations occurring at specific locations. Under this ordinance solicitation is banned in driveways, on median strips and freeway ramps, and from persons in vehicles. Per

City staff three existing S24(CA) No Soliciting signs are in place at freeway exit ramps within the City of Menifee. Violators of this City ordinance are guilty of a misdemeanor offense and may also receive administrative citations for failing to comply with the established regulations.

### **The City of Riverside:**

The City of Riverside previously adopted and enacted regulations outlined in Riverside Municipal Code Title 9 - Peace, Safety and Morals, section 9.04.010E(9) (Attachment 6) to eliminate health, safety, and welfare concerns created by individuals soliciting or panhandling at specific locations. These regulations include the prohibition of solicitation, asking, or begging upon any median on any street or highway or upon any entrance or exit to any freeway as defined by the California Vehicle Code. There are currently nine No Soliciting signs in place at freeway exit ramps within the City, two of which will be relocated due to existing obstructions impacting visibility of the signs.

The City of Riverside would work with Caltrans in obtaining the necessary approvals and encroachment permits to allow for City staff to install No Solicitation and/or custom educational signs at all twenty-one freeway exit ramps noted above and to relocate existing signs at freeway exits as necessary. Installation of the No Solicitation signs would deter solicitation and panhandling activities, facilitate enforcement to address violations at freeway exit ramps citywide, reduce driver distractions caused by solicitors and panhandlers, decrease instances of motorists impacting traffic flow and safety by stopping to buy from vendors or give to panhandlers, create a less intimidating more enjoyable environment for residents and visitors, and enhance safety for both pedestrians and motorists.

The optional use of custom educational signs (similar to the "Say No to Panhandling" signs utilized by the City of Upland) would be aimed at discouraging motorists from giving to panhandlers reducing traffic and safety issues created by motorists stopping and/or obstructing traffic to give to panhandlers. Riverside Police Department Officers and California Highway Patrol Officers would work together to enforce the posted No Soliciting regulations at freeway exit ramps citywide to help reduce soliciting and panhandling activities and the safety concerns which result from these activities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of sign fabrication, relocation, and installation is estimated at \$2,300.00. Funding is available in the existing Public Works Department budget, Signing Supplies account number 4110100-424143, to cover this cost.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

### **Attachments:**

1. California Streets and Highways Code Section 225.5
2. California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 22520.5 & 22520.6

3. Daily Bulletin “How Upland residents plan to curb panhandling, address homelessness”  
November 24, 2017 Article
4. City of Redlands Ordinance Chapter 9.10: Prohibition Against Aggressive Solicitation and  
Chapter 9.14 Median Island Safety
5. City of Menifee Ordinance Chapter 11.08: Prohibition Against Certain Forms of Solicitation
6. City of Riverside, RMC Section 9.04.010: Prohibition against certain forms of aggressive  
solicitation
7. Presentation