

From: Mary Carbine
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 12:36 PM
To: 'allalders@cityofmadison.com'
Cc: 'mayor@cityofmadison.com'
Subject: BID Board supports panhandling ordinance amendment

Dear Alders,

The Board of Madison's Central Business Improvement District (BID) supports the proposed amendments to the panhandling ordinance ([26604](#) Amending Section 24.12 of the Madison General Ordinances to prohibit panhandling within 150 feet of a licensed alcohol establishment and in the State Street Mall Concourse.) The BID includes the greater State Street and Capitol Square area. We support maintaining and protecting the physical safety and well-being of pedestrians and a safe and harassment-free climate in the central downtown. We regularly see the cycle of panhandling, chronic alcohol abuse, disruptive behaviors, and the negative impacts on the people involved and the community. For many years, the BID has been a partner in Downtown Madison Inc.'s "[ReachOut](#)" program, which educates people about panhandling. Through this program, DMI learned that money from panhandling is most often used for alcohol, cigarettes and (sometimes) drugs, rather than basic needs, and that the best way to help people on the streets is to give money to organizations that feed, shelter and help those in need. The BID supports this ordinance amendment as a way to curtail the cycle of panhandling and chronic alcohol abuse and to ensure a safe, harassment-free climate in public spaces downtown.

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