



AGGRESSIVE SOLICITATION

April 18, 2023
ID 22-1281

A vibrant mural on a wall depicting a blue parrot with its wings spread, surrounded by large yellow and pink flowers. The mural is set against a background of green foliage. A diagonal band of blue, white, and red stripes runs across the right side of the image.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

GOAL: Identify solutions for a cleaner, safer, happier Downtown Denton.

- February 2023 – Council Work Session: Homeless Response Solutions & Transitional Housing **COMPLETE**
- March 2023 – Council Work Session: Downtown Ambassador Program **COMPLETE**
- April 2023 – Council Work Session: Aggressive Solicitation

Strategic Plan Key Focus Area:

Strengthen Community and Quality of Life

AGENDA

- Review of Current City Policy
- Discuss potential changes to [Ch. 16, ART. III, Sec. 16-72](#) and [Ch. 21 ART. 1 Sec 21.6](#)
- Other Considerations
- City Council Direction

REVIEW OF CURRENT CITY POLICIES

- **Chapter 16 – LICENSES, PERMITS AND BUSINESS REGULATION**

- ARTICLE III. - SOLICITORS AND ITINERANT MERCHANTS

- Sec. 16-72. - Definitions.
 - Sec. 16-74. - Prohibited conduct.
 - Sec. 16-76. - Soliciting on city property.
 - Sec. 16-96. - Solicitation in selected public rights-of-way prohibited. (anytime, with or without a permit 18 locations)

- **Chapter 21 – OFFENSES**

- Sec. 21-6. - Prohibited acts.

- Unlawful to solicit within fifty (50) feet of any automated teller machine not enclosed within a building.

- **Chapter 25 – STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES**

- Sec. 25-5. - Use of thoroughfares for soliciting. Requires permit from the chief of police to solicit charitable contributions on shoulder or median or any street or roadway , Defines process for permitting.

SEC. 16-72. - DEFINITIONS.

Soliciting means any conduct or act whereby a person:

- (1) Either orally or in writing, asks for a ride, employment, goods, services, financial aid, monetary gifts, or any article representing monetary value, for any purpose in any public place
- (2) Either orally or in writing, sells or offers for sale goods, services, or publications;
- (3) Distributes without remuneration goods or services.

Soliciting does not include requesting a ride, employment, goods, services, or financial aid from a friend or relative nor does it include panhandling.

Solicitor means a person who engages in soliciting.

SEC. 21-6. - PROHIBITED ACTS.

- A. Definitions
 - Aggressive Manner
 - Solicit or Solicitation
- B. Prohibited Acts

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Public Education
 - Campaign to educate on ordinances
- Fundraising Campaign
 - QR Code for an alternative method to donate in lieu of providing money
 - Signage on roadways
 - Stickers, Bumper Stickers
 - Public Service Announcements

This is already being done on a small scale with DMSA businesses

**HAVE HEART
GIVE SMART**
Help your neighbors in need.



It's okay to
say no to panhandlers.

100% of donations to
the Barriers Fund
assist people in crisis.

14 nonprofit organizations
in Denton County utilize
the fund to support
people in need.



SEEKING COUNCIL DIRECTION

Seeking direction from Council regarding

1. Changes to existing ordinances based on policies reviewed today.
2. Commitment of resources for *Have a Heart. Give Smart.* Campaign.