

WHO TO CALL

To report an aggressive handler, call the Whittier Police Department (562) 567-9240. Provide the description and approximate location of the individual.

Worried about someone who is homeless? Our Homeless Engagement Team is here to help. A dedicated Social Services Case Manager and Housing Navigator are available to connect individuals with shelter, housing resources, and supportive services. Services include move-in assistance, a motel voucher program, landlord support, case management, and outreach. The Homeless Engagement Team can be contacted at (562) 409-1850 or by email at: homelessengagementteam@santafesprings.gov.

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 that can be used by those in need to access emergency food and shelter.

If you observe panhandlers loitering in a parking lot or shopping center, contact the store manager or the Santa Fe Springs Police Services Center.

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

RESOURCES

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

(323) 644-2200
www.epath.org
pathlosangeles@epath.org
Outreach team assistance to homeless individuals and families.

Interfaith Food Center

(562) 903-1478
info@interfaithfoodcenter.org
11819 Burke Street, Santa Fe Springs
Providing supplemental food services to the cities of Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada, and areas of Whittier

The Whole Child

(562) 692-0383
Mental health & housing services to children and their families
frt@thewholechild.org - Housing
intakecoordinators@thewholechild.org
-Mental health services

Women and Children's Crisis Shelter

(562) 945-3939
www.wccshope.org
Emergency and transitional shelter for victims of domestic violence

Salvation Army

(562) 696-7175
www.usw.salvationarmy.org
Food, showers, blankets, transitional housing for mothers with kids, and other homeless services

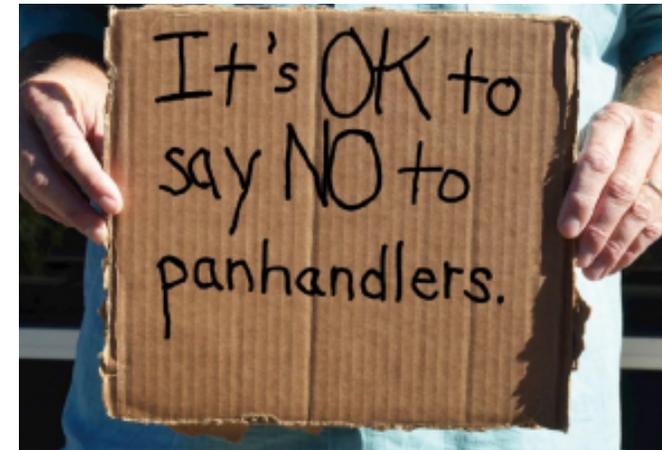
2-1-1 LA COUNTY

(Free confidential referral service for emergency food and shelter)

L.A. Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse

(562)906-2676
www.lacada.com
Drug/alcohol rehab services for teens and adults

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



**PANHANDLING
AND
HOMELESSNESS**



What is Panhandling?

Panhandling is solicitation for food, money or other donations. Panhandling is accomplished in many ways, including verbal requests, signs requesting money or food, or holding out a container to passerby.

Panhandlers have become a visible presence in high traffic commercial locations citywide. Although many panhandlers are readily on their way if turned down, some individuals create issues for customers or businesses with loitering, aggressive panhandling, and even physical assault. In response to these issues, we want you to know that **it's OK to say NO to panhandlers.**

In response to these issues, we want you to know that **it's OK to say NO to Panhandlers.** Please be aware of aggressive panhandlers and consider giving instead to organizations that provide services to those truly in need. It's okay to just say "No" if 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 Whittier Police Department immediately. Aggressive panhandler behaviors can include:

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

WHITTIER POLICE
(562) 567-9240

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 panhandlers.
2. If you are a business owner or an employee of a local business and you witness or experience aggressive panhandling, call the Whittier Police Department at **(562) 567-9240.**
3. If loitering or soliciting is occurring outside of your business and the person refuses to leave, call your property management or security. If the individual becomes aggressive, call the Whittier Police Department at **(562) 567-9240.**

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 more than men.
4. Panhandlers target high traffic locations such as commercial districts, banks, off-ramps, center medians, and parking lots.
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) 567-9240.**

There's a Better Way to Give

Donate responsibly by giving to local organizations that help get the homeless off the streets and into permanent, stable housing. These agencies accept monetary donations, have volunteer opportunities, and receive furniture donations for formerly homeless individuals successfully placed into permanent housing.

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

To make a donation or get more info:

www.thewholechild.org

www.wccshope.org

www.epath.org

www.usw.salvationarmy.org

www.interfaithcenter.org