

**Additional Applicable Laws  
Enforced by Grover Beach Police**  
Business & Professions Code - Infraction

- B&P (22435.2(b)) Possession of a shopping cart
- B&P (25602) Selling to Intoxicated Persons

Grover Beach Municipal Code - Infractions

- GBMC (3521/3550) Leash required on dogs
- GBMC (3999.12) Smoking prohibited in certain areas
- GBMC (3200.1) Possession of open containers or Consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places
- GBMC (3999.22) Prohibition of Aggressive soliciting (Panhandling)
- Penal Code (374.3(a)) Urinating or defecating in public
- GBMC (3114) Skating downtown (includes skateboarding)
- GBMC (2513) Parks closed between 11PM and 5AM
- GBMC (3997.1) Sleeping on Public Streets or Public Property after Sunset

California Penal Code - Misdemeanor

- Penal Code (647 (f)) Drunk in public
- Penal Code (647 (j)) Lodging in a building without permission from \ owner
- Penal Code (602(l)) Trespassing – Enter/occupy land/ building without consent

**Please contact Grover Beach PD when observing or encountering a violation.**

[www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org)  
[www.facebook.com/GroverBeachPoliceDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GroverBeachPoliceDepartment)  
<https://twitter.com/Grover—BeachPD>

**711 Rockaway Avenue,  
Grover Beach, CA 93433  
(805) 473-4511**

**What Can Business Owners Do  
About Panhandling And Other  
Problem Behaviors?**

If you are a business person, you should

- Call the police if you experience or witness aggressive panhandling or any of the behaviors listed as infractions in this brochure. Only by actively keeping the police department aware of the issues can the situation improve.
- Make certain that your property is clearly marked “No Trespassing” Penal Code 602 (Entering/occupy land/building without consent) allows police to enforce violations on private property.
- Inform your patrons of alternative options instead of giving directly to panhandlers, including making contributions to local social service programs and/or non-profit organizations.



**It's ok to say “No” to panhandlers.  
Call (805) 473-4511 for more information.**

**City of Grover Beach**

**Reference  
Guide  
To Laws  
Regarding  
Aggressive  
Panhandling**



## What is Panhandling?

Panhandling is commonly defined as:  
“the act of stopping people on the street and asking for food or money or begging.”

Panhandling is accomplished in a variety of ways, including verbal requests as people walk past; standing on the sidewalks or on street corners with signs requesting money or food; or by holding out a container to a passerby.

## Is Panhandling Legal?

The Supreme Court has ruled that panhandling in and of itself is a form of free speech protected under the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, and thus not illegal.

However, when a person is **aggressive** in requesting money or food, that person violates the Grover Beach City Ordinance prohibiting aggressive solicitation. The Grover Beach Municipal Code defines aggressive panhandling as:

- Approaching or speaking to a person causing fear of bodily harm to oneself or to another, damage to or loss of property, or being intimidated into giving money or other thing of value;
- Blocking or impeding the passage of the person being solicited;
- Following the person closely after the person solicited declines to make a donation;
- Threatening the person solicited with physical harm by word or gesture;
- Using profane, offensive, or abusive language, which is inherently likely to provoke an immediate violent reaction or fear before, during or after solicitation; and/or;
- Touching the solicited person or their vehicle without the solicited person’s consent.

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**Grover Beach Police (805) 473-4511**

## What can I do when encountering Aggressive Panhandling?

If you are solicited by a panhandler, you have the right to proceed past that person and not be exposed to force, fear or having your progress blocked or impeded by the panhandler.

If you are a victim of aggressive panhandling, you should contact the **Grover Beach Police Department at (805) 473-4511** and report the incident.

**NOTE:** If the officer did not actually witness the crime, you need to take the following actions in order for the officer to issue a citation to the offender:

- You must be willing to identify the suspect. This may require you and the officer to go to the suspect’s location for viewing and identification.
- If a positive identification is made, you will be required to sign a private person’s arrest form.
- You may be required to appear in court, along with the officer, to testify.

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## Where is Solicitation Prohibited?

The City’s Municipal Code (Section 3999.23) regulates **specific locations** where solicitation (panhandling) is not allowed. These regulations promote the safe and orderly flow of traffic and prevent the harassment and intimidation of citizens and visitors. No person may solicit or beg for any monies, goods or services, including offering any services in exchange for monies, goods or services in the following areas.

- Within fifteen (15) feet of any ATM or similar cash machine;
- Within ten (10) feet of the entrance to a commercial establishment or driveway thereto, or a driveway serving a shopping center; or
- Within fifteen (15) feet of any intersection of city streets, state highways and highway on-ramps or off-ramps; or
- On any median in any city street; or
- Within fifteen (15) feet of a public restroom or bus stop; or
- Within a public parking lot after dark or approach a vehicle located in a public parking lot.

NOTE: This section does not apply to solicitations related to the business which is being conducted on the same premise by the owner or lawful tenants or if solicitation is being conducted within the verifiable permission of the property’s owner or agent.

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