



Date of Council Meeting: January 27, 2014

**TOWN OF LEESBURG  
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**Subject:** Panhandling from Vehicles

**Staff Contact:** John Wells, Town Manager

**Background:** At a recent Work Session, Council Member Dunn wanted to have a discussion regarding concerns he had heard from parts of Loudoun County regarding “reverse panhandling.” This is where individuals in cars drive up to residents soliciting money.

The Leesburg Police Department has not reported any such incidents, however, there was a recent case reported where someone was walking up and soliciting donations in a department store parking lot as individuals were walking to their cars.

The Police Department researched the panhandling law that Council recently adopted (see Ordinance 2013-O-014 attached). The ordinance indicates that it deals strictly with panhandling on public roadways and medians, thus panhandling on private property/parking lots would not be a violation of this ordinance. In these cases, the property owners/managers would have to ask the person to leave and if refused then a trespass charge could be placed.

The Town of  
**Leesburg,  
Virginia**

PRESENTED: July 23, 2013

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-O-014

ADOPTED: July 23, 2013

AN ORDINANCE: TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 32 (TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES), ARTICLE V (STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING), AND ADD DIVISION 5 (SOLICITATION ON HIGHWAYS), SECTION 32-253 (SOLICITATION ON HIGHWAYS PROHIBITED)

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, § 46.2-931 authorizes localities to prohibit the solicitation by individuals and/or groups from operators of vehicles on town highways and streets; and

WHEREAS, this practice of solicitation from vehicles in town right of way is a detriment to the health, safety and welfare of town residents; and

THEREFORE, ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia as follows:

**SECTION I.** That Chapter 32, Article V, be and the same is hereby amended to read as

follows:

Division 5 (Solicitation on Highways)

Section 32-253. Solicitation on highways prohibited.

(a) Definition

As used in this section:

“Median” shall mean a strip of land of varying width separating the lanes of opposing traffic of a divided highway or public roadway.

(b) No person shall solicit contributions, of any nature, from the occupants of motor vehicles on highways located within the town or on public roadways and medians. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a traffic infraction.

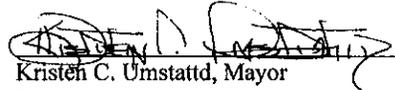
**SECTION II.** All prior ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

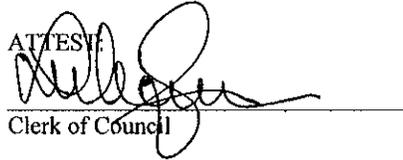
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**SECTION III.** Severability. If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provision of this ordinance invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any remaining provisions of the Leesburg Town Code.

**SECTION IV.** This ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

PASSED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2013.

  
Kristen C. Umstadt, Mayor  
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:  
  
Clerk of Council