

## WHO TO CALL

To report an aggressive panhandler, call the Whittier Police Department at (562) 567-9200. Provide the description and approximate location of the individual.

Worried about someone who is homeless? Call PATH at (562) 373-5264. PATH and Whittier's First Day are working together to help homeless individuals in Whittier. Report those in need and their outreach team will provide assistance.

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 Whittier Police Department.

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

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

(562) 373-5264  
www.epath.org  
gatewayconnections@epath.org  
Outreach team assistance to homeless individuals and families

### Whittier's First Day

(562) 693-4097  
info@whittierfirstday.org  
12426 Whittier Boulevard, Whittier  
Recovery from homelessness; short-term emergency transitional housing; onsite supportive services

### The Whole Child

Intake Coordinator  
(562) 692-0383  
amejia@thewholechild.info  
Mental health and housing services to children and their families

### Women's 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  
infoSocal@usw.salvationarmy.org  
Food, showers, bus tokens, blankets, transitional housing for families, 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 passersby.

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**. 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) 567-9200**

## 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 the 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) 567-9200.
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) 567-9200.

## 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) 567-9200**.

## 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.whittierfirstday.org](http://www.whittierfirstday.org)**  
**[www.thewholechild.info](http://www.thewholechild.info)**  
**[www.wccshope.org](http://www.wccshope.org)**  
**[www.epath.org](http://www.epath.org)**  
**[www.usw.salvationarmy.org](http://www.usw.salvationarmy.org)**