

Story: City of Bettendorf Cracks Down on Panhandlers

Air Date: May 5th, 2015

[TAKE: ONCAM]{***ONCAM***}

THE CITY OF BETTENDORF IS LOOKING AT CRACKING DOWN ON PANDHANDLERS - AS POLICE SAY IT'S GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.

[TAKE: VO]{***VO***}

BETTENDORF IS THE ONLY CITY IN THE QUAD CITIES TO ALLOW PANHANDLING... WITH RESTRICTIONS.

A NEW ORDINANCE -- MODELED AFTER A SIMILAR ONE IN CEDAR RAPIDS-- WOULD MOVE PANDHANDLERS 100 FEET AWAY FROM THE INTERSTATE AND HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS... AS PANHANDLING HAS BECOME A SAFETY ISSUE FOR THE CITY.

[TAKE: SOUNDBITE]{***SOUNDBITE***}

<"we're seeing more and more activity with the panhandlers going out in the street collecting money, people stopping to give them money which interrupts the flow of traffic">

<"someone at the side of a busy intersection with a sign and moving in and out of traffic, that's a distraction to drivers and what we're trying to do is prevent accidents, injuries">

[TAKE: VO CONTINUE]{*** VO CONTINUE***}

RIGHT NOW BETTENDORF REQUIRES PANHANDLERS TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY AND THAT NUMBER HAS QUADRUPLD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

THE CITY SAYS RESEARCH SHOWS MANY OF THOSE PANHANDLERS ARE NOT HOMELESS.