



REPORT TO PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of The Public Safety Advisory Commission

From: Nicole Dailey, Senior Management Analyst

Date: July 19, 2017

Subject: Discuss and Review Existing Municipal Codes Related to Aggressive Solicitation

Recommendation

Discuss and recommend proposed amendments to Lake Elsinore Municipal Code Chapter 8.13 Regulation of Solicitation and Chapter 10.72 Vehicle Solicitation as related to the prohibition of aggressive solicitation.

Background

Homelessness has become a major concern in our City, the region, and the state. Experts are estimating an increase of homelessness in our region over the next decade. The 2016 Riverside County Point-In-Time Homeless Count Survey in January 2017 showed there were 62 homeless individuals residing in the City of Lake Elsinore and a total 1,638 homeless individuals in the County of Riverside overall. However, the City estimates this number to be higher.

The City, like many jurisdictions throughout the state, has had to find ways to address an increase in homeless activity that has subsequently led to an increase in citizen complaints and calls for service for code enforcement and law enforcement. These calls for service include complaints regarding public feedings, panhandling/solicitation, thefts, assaults, trespassing and debris located at homeless encampments.

Since early 2014, the City and the Lake Elsinore Police Department has taken a proactive approach in dealing with homeless activity and the effect it has on the overall quality of life for our residents and businesses.

Key areas of success include addressing public feedings in City Park and partnering with property owners to quickly and effectively break up and clean up homeless encampments. Because of recent efforts, the City has seen an increase in the number of homeless individuals out and about in the community.

In May 2017, the City Council authorized the creation of a Homeless Task Force of staff and community stakeholders eager to join the City in its efforts to reduce homelessness. This includes conducting a formal analysis of the existing resources and needs within the city,

Solicitation Municipal Codes

developing new programs, and identifying long-term solutions to address homelessness. This task force currently meets every other week and has made progress towards developing ways to try to reduce homelessness and help those in need.

Discussion

In recent months, the City has received more complaints regarding homeless individuals soliciting, loitering and lingering in public and private locations throughout the City. It is apparent there has been a more regular presence of transient individuals in our shopping centers, parking lots, public parks, and street medians and parkways. Many of whom, are soliciting people for food, money or other items. Additionally, these solicitations are occasionally aggressive in nature and can become a nuisance to residents, visitors and business owners in the City.

These types of activities directly impact the overall quality of life and economic viability of the City. Ultimately, affecting our ability to protect public health, safety and the general welfare of people of the City of Lake Elsinore.

The City currently has two existing municipal codes related to these types of concerns: Chapter 8.13 Regulation of Solicitation and Chapter 10.72 Vehicle Solicitation of the LEMC. These municipal codes were originally created and implemented in 2008 and 1994, respectively (Exhibit A and B).

Regionally, many other cities have had to establish similar municipal codes within the last year to address these concerns including the cities of Menifee and Temecula.

Staff would like to ask the Commission to review the existing municipal codes and those of other municipalities to make suggestions for changes and improvements to ensure our existing municipal codes are up-to-date and effective. This could include, for example, combining the cities two municipal codes into one, expanding regulations about loitering, and/or addressing the enforcement of these municipal codes.

Attached are copies of the existing municipal codes as well as several other related examples from other cities including Menifee, Temecula, Anaheim, and Riverside.

Upon recommendations by the Commission, staff would anticipate bringing a proposed ordinance back to the Commission to amend the existing municipal codes.

Fiscal Impact

None

Exhibits

- A – LEMC Chapter 8.13 Regulation of Solicitation
- B – LEMC Chapter 10.72 Vehicle Solicitation
- C – Solicitation Municipal Codes for Other Cities