CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO:	Mayor & City Council
FROM:	City Councilman Mike Gallagher
COPIES TO:	Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to the City Council
SUBJECT:	Review and Assess to Strengthen the City's Panhandling Ordinance.
DATE:	May 9, 2016

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Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

I respectfully ask for your concurrence in supporting a review of the current ordinances and procedures in which the city deals with illegal panhandling.

Brief Background

This problem of illegal professional panhandling continues to be an issue for public safety and economic development in the city. To address the issue of panhandling in San Antonio, I respectfully request your support in executing a comprehensive review of the current policies and related ordinances. The focus of this initiative is to address and deter professional, habitual panhandlers who use this practice as a form of income, obstruct traffic and in some cases become aggressive, placing the general public at risk.

The review includes the following elements:

- Review best practices to study how other communities are addressing the issue of panhandling
- Create a permit process for solicitation for those panhandling for monetary gain
- Review, enhance or amend the current City Ordinance to be more effective and enforceable
- Review the process to manage repeat offenders that go through the municipal court system
- Determine policies and procedures regarding seized property as a result of illegal activities
- Work with Haven for Hope, United Way, Veterans Administration and other entities to review current policies and procedures to ensure that assistance can be provided to individuals that are truly in need and promote responsible giving in San Antonio
- Institute programs to promote responsible giving practices and encourage voluntary compliance that does not enable illegal panhandling

This proposal is to continue to find ways to discourage illegal activity while providing a safe environment for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and licensed peddlers.

The homeless population is not the focus of this request. Studies have shown that the majority of panhandlers are not homeless, nor should the two populations be confused with one another. However, the city must provide an atmosphere where the homeless can be more readily identified and place the city in a better position to help with compassion and dignity.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Mike Gallagher, District 10

	Supporting Councilmember's Signatures (4 only)	District No.
1.		2
2.		7
3.		9
4.		6

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