



# City of Austin

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Council Member Kim Requesting Staff Replace Proposed Panhandling Ban With a Fair,  
Comprehensive Approach

*Statement from Council Member Jennifer Kim*

I will be directing the city manager to draft a revised proposal. The new proposal should protect children walking to school while taking steps to help transition homeless individuals into jobs and housing.

After meeting with community leaders it's clear the proposed solicitation ban was perceived as going too far, limiting free speech and was unnecessarily punitive to a vulnerable population.

The original intent was to provide safety for children walking to school and to reduce accidents and fatalities at dangerous intersections.

Just this year, there have been 211 citations for panhandling around schools throughout the city, and there has been a drastic increase in auto-to-pedestrian fatalities.

Overly aggressive panhandling can be dangerous, and more effective enforcement of laws already on the books can address this problem.

I will also be advocating for increased utilization of Project Recovery and Reentry Roundtable, which focuses on transitioning homeless individuals into jobs and housing.

I want to continue an open dialogue in our community, and I encourage input from as many people as possible. Please feel free to contact my office for additional information or to provide input.