How to Deal with an Aggressive Panhandler

- Keep moving. Put distance between yourself and the person asking for money.
- Say as little as possible, do not engage with the person asking for money.
- Don’t give in if you don’t want to give money.
- Consider giving to legitimate charities to help those in need.
- Report panhandling to business owners/management.
- Report aggressive panhandlers to the police.

Lakewood Municipal Code 09.12.010 defines Aggressive Begging as:

(a) begging with intent to intimidate another person into giving money or goods;
(b) begging with use of false, misleading information, where the person knew or reasonably should have known of the falsity or misleading nature of the information;
(c) begging with or involving activities that are unsafe or dangerous to any person or property;
(d) begging in a manner that exploits children; or
(e) willfully providing or delivering, or attempting to provide or deliver unrequested or unsolicited services or products with a demand or exertion of pressure for payment in return.”

City of Lakewood CSRT
Community Safety Resource Team