

April 8, 2015

**Re: Review of Anti-panhandling Ordinances Recommended**

Dear Mayor:

Recently, the ACLU reached a settlement with the City of New Brunswick to repeal its anti-panhandling ordinance. An article on the settlement indicates that the ACLU will be reviewing the anti-panhandling ordinances of all New Jersey Municipalities.

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/04/01/advocates-take-aim-at-local-laws-targeting-new-jersey-s-homeless/>

Opponents of these ordinances have argued that they are unconstitutionally vague and impinge on the first amendment and equal protection rights of the homeless. The League recommends that towns discuss this notice with their municipal attorney and review their anti-panhandling ordinances.

This is a very complex issue involving the ability of municipalities to regulate streets and sidewalks and the rights of individuals protected by the US Constitution. Please discuss this notice with your municipal attorney.

If there are any questions regarding this notice please contact Ed Purcell Esq. at 609-695-3481 x. 137.

Very Truly Yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director