

Kennedale Police Department Press Release: November 21, 2016

A local television station, NBC 5, reported this story out of Dallas. While Kennedale has not experienced a crime of this type, most residents do travel the Metroplex on a daily basis for work, shopping, and entertainment.

The City of Kennedale does have an ordinance prohibiting panhandling within 50 feet of gas pumps, ATMs, and other locations where money is readily exchanged for goods and services. If you see a panhandler and are concerned with their behavior or are met with aggressive tactics, call 9-1-1 to ask for assistance. Do not confront them. Walk away and let the police handle it.

This is a timely warning with the holidays nearing to watch your safety and personal security when out in public. Stay safe and Happy Holidays from your Kennedale Police Department!

SOURCE: www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Dallas-Police-Issue-Warning-About-Panhandlers-401769405.html

Dallas Police Issue Warning about Panhandlers

By Ashleigh Barry | Published at 4:53 PM CST on Nov 17, 2016 | Updated at 4:55 PM CST on Nov 17, 2016

Dallas police are issuing a warning about panhandlers as Thanksgiving week approaches. Helping those who appear in need, they say, can come with a price.

Police said several people have been attacked recently, and in one incident a woman's tires were slashed by a panhandler at Bonnie View Road and Interstate 20 earlier this month.

Another woman was punched in the face over the summer, police said.

Just last week, Dallas police patrolled near Interstate 30 and Buckner Boulevard, cracking down on panhandling. Several people were issued citations.

The Dallas Police Officers Association says the best way to reduce the number of panhandlers and calls for help is to avoid them all together and most likely the money you give isn't helping them.

"These panhandlers are criminals. If you go back and pull up their rap sheets, most of them are prior criminals," said association president Frederick Frazier.

"They like no rules, drink when they want to drink, do drugs, beg for money and if you don't give it to them, they become aggressive," he said.

Dallas police are asking city leaders to increase officers to handle these types of calls. The city of Dallas did not respond to NBC 5's inquiry for more information.