

## **Community Standards Bylaw Policy Review**

The City is developing a Community Standards Bylaw (CSB). The CSB will serve to regulate and enable activities that pertain to the safety, health, and welfare of residents on private and public property.

To inform a policy discussion on each of the topics, information has been assembled in the template below on what the current local context is, what other comparator municipalities have done, Administration's recommendations concerning minimum standards, as well as potential financial and operational implications.

### **TOPIC NAME: Panhandling and Busking (NEW)**

#### **1. CURRENT SPRUCE GROVE BYLAW**

Spruce Grove does not currently have a bylaw on panhandling or busking.

#### **2. SPRUCE GROVE CONTEXT**

Currently, neither panhandling, nor busking are big concerns for the City. The main risk in not bringing panhandling into a bylaw is that we may eventually see an increase or introduction of panhandling that will need to be addressed. While collection of any fine may seem a low probability, having it in place enables Enforcement Services to clearly ask someone to cease and desist if there is aggressive panhandling.

#### **3. OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

##### **Calgary**

- The Panhandling Bylaw provides information on times (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.) and areas in which panhandling is not permitted:
  - No person shall engage in panhandling within 10 metres of the following:
    - (a) the entrance to a bank, credit union, trust company or other financial institution where cash can be withdrawn,
    - (b) an automated teller machine or other device from which cash can be electronically accessed,
    - (c) a transit stop, or
    - (d) any pedestrian walkway.
  - No person shall engage in panhandling between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 am ([Calgary Panhandling Bylaw](#), ss. 3-4)
- Calgary has busking guidelines and an ID process that permits busking under specific conditions. [Calgary Busking Guidelines](#)

## **Edmonton**

- A person shall not aggressively panhandle in a public place.
- A person shall be considered to be panhandling in an “aggressive manner” if they:
  - obstruct or impede the passage of another person;
  - make continued requests or solicitations after receiving a negative response from another person;
  - insult, threaten, coerce or intimidate another person;
  - make physical contact with another person; or (e) are intoxicated by alcohol or under the influence of illegal drugs; while panhandling ([Edmonton Public Places Bylaw](#), s, 4.1(2)(3))

## **Beaumont**

- A person shall not engage in panhandling ([Beaumont CSB](#), s. 19)

## **Strathcona County**

- No bylaw.

## **St. Albert**

- No bylaw.

## **Banff**

- Panhandling is prohibited on all portions of the Street identified in Schedule D (relates to sidewalks) ([Banff Streets and Public Use Bylaw](#), s. 69)
- No busking without a permit ([Banff Streets and Public Use Bylaw](#), ss.2d, 4j)

## **Chestermere**

- A person shall not engage in panhandling. No busking without a permit. The bylaw also lists how a person can apply for a permit to busk and outlines the discretion of the CAO to deny, issue, revoke, or grant temporary permits with conditions ([Chestermere Community Standards Bylaw](#), s, 6)

## **Canmore**

- Buskers must be in possession of a business registry licence and must comply with all conditions set out in the Town’s busking permit. [Canmore Business Registry Bylaw](#), s. 5.13.2
- Canmore has a temporary busking permit application process. Conditions include permitted times and locations for busking, no signs, banners or displays, etc. [Canmore Temporary Busking Permit](#)
- No bylaw with respect to panhandling.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **Minimum Standards**

- Busking requires a permit/approved application
- Edmonton's definition of aggressive panhandling and Calgary for time and locations.

**Committee Question:** Is there a desire to address "aggressive" panhandling as some municipalities have done? Is there desire to add locations and times where it is not permitted?

##### **Other Recommendations**

Administration will be putting forward an application process and subsequent busking guidelines along the lines of the City of Calgary's model. This program will reside within Recreation and Culture and is being worked on as part of its enhancement to culture programming. For these reasons, Administration is not recommending that busking be included in the proposed CSB.

In terms of panhandling, Administration recommends including it within the CSB and to use a combination of the language that both Edmonton (aggressive panhandling) and Calgary (times and locations) have within their bylaws.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any resource and operational impacts will be identified when the busking program comes to Council for review.