

HOW 2 ADDRESS HOMELESS CONCERNS

WHAT PROPERTY MANAGERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS CAN DO:

Below is a list of some common occurrences and recommended responses when experiencing a homeless individual:



1

Blocked Doorways:

Staff should ask the person to move or call the BID Dispatch office. MPD should be contacted for threatening behavior.

2

Encampment:

D.C. does not have an encampment law. They are handled on a case-by-case basis. Call BID Dispatch to begin the process of enforcement.

3

Extreme Weather:

If you are concerned about an individual, call the Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252, or 911 for emergencies.

7

Reflect

Check for biases.
Manage expectations.
Embrace learning.

6

Urinating or Defecating in Public:

We recommend you call 911 for MPD response and also call BID Dispatch office to assess the individual's mental health.

5

Unattended Belongings:

If items are left on your property, please call BID Dispatch office.

4

Panhandling:

Panhandling, unless aggressive (see page 2), is legal in D.C. Call MPD if you encounter aggressive panhandling.


DOWNTOWNDC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website at:
downtowndc.org/programs/homeless-services

Email us at Dispatch@Downtowndc.org with questions or to submit information regarding ongoing problems.

HOW 2 ADDRESS HOMELESS CONCERNS

OVERVIEW

Within the 138 blocks of the DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID), about 150 homeless individuals make the streets their home. A lack of affordable and low-income housing coupled with unemployment and low wages, physical health problems, mental illness, substance abuse, co-occurring disorders and domestic violence can lead to an episode of homelessness or chronic homelessness.

The BID, through its partnership with Pathways to Housing DC, actively works to move homeless individuals into permanent, supportive housing and end the cycle of chronic homelessness. The BID also helps address some issues related to homelessness, including individuals blocking access to properties, addressing unattended belongings and more. Other issues call for involvement from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the city shelter or other entities.

If a homeless individual is in need of assistance, the event is not a medical emergency and the individual poses no danger to him or herself or others, contact the BID Dispatch Office at 202-624-1550 to request immediate assistance or to report ongoing problems. If an individual is experiencing a medical emergency or is a danger to him or herself or others, call 911.

WHAT THE DOWNTOWNDC BID DOES

In partnership with Pathways to Housing DC, the BID's Safety/Hospitality and Maintenance employees (SAMs) are trained to recognize and engage individuals with mental and addiction challenges. Together, in partnership with MPD and other local providers, our team works daily to successfully address the needs of homeless individuals within the BID as well as issues that arise related to homelessness.

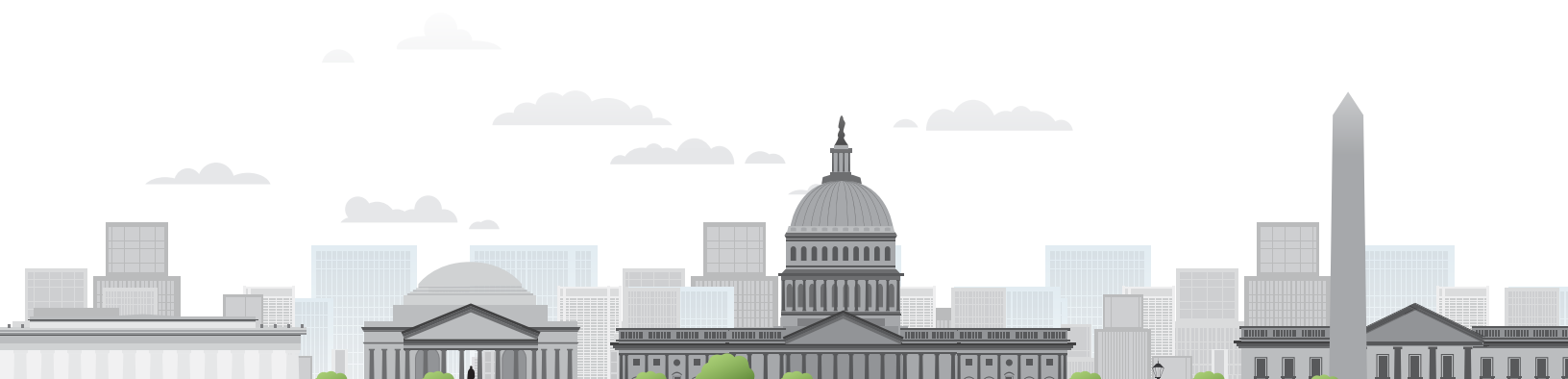
PANHANDLING

One action Downtown stakeholders may encounter related to homelessness and have questions regarding is the issue of panhandling. Panhandling, unless aggressive, is legal in D.C. Aggressive panhandling is defined as an act located within 10 feet of an ATM, on federal park land, on a bus or train, within 15 feet of a Metro station or bus stop or on private property without permission. Aggressive panhandling behaviors include continually asking for money despite receiving a "no" response, intentionally blocking an individual or vehicle from passing, touching someone while soliciting money, acting in a way that would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm or intimidating someone with physical harm or criminal activity.

Please contact MPD if you encounter aggressive panhandling.

ABOUT THE DOWNTOWNDC BID

The DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) is a private non-profit organization that provides capital improvements, resources and research to help diversify the economy and enhance the Downtown experience for all. For more information, visit DowntownDC.org or follow us @downtowndcbid.



RESOURCES

DowntownDC BID Dispatch Office 202-624-1550
or Dispatch@Downtowndc.org
Hypo/Hyperthermia/Shelter Hotline 1-800-535-7252

MPD 911; Transit Police 202-962-2121
Behavior Health (DBH) Helpline 1-888-793-4357
Downtown Day Services Center (202) 383-8810

Resource provided by DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID)
Please consider making a donation to Downtown DC Foundation. Donate at downtowndc.org/donate