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One Issue Amongst Society, Why a Ban? Why not a solution for all of this?

Fixing bigger problems, require being able to see the smaller ones and trying to fix them. Even though some situations are minor and might not seem like an issue in itself, but that is not correct, smaller issues are what lead up to having major ones. Much like the world today society chooses to ignore the little and the massive problems that are being faced. One minor problem that needs to be fixed, which can lead to an even bigger solution for the problem of inequality in society is, unbanning the act of Panhandling in certain cities. A panhandler is someone who goes around simply begging for money, they are usually the homeless or those who just need a little something to get going. Also panhandlers rely on charity to get them through their struggles, but they can only give them so much. Some may say that this is not a problem and begging for money is not the right way to make a living, but some people do not realize that certain individuals do not have any other choice. In the article, “ Aggressive Panhandling Laws”, by William Hein, talks about how aggressive and unnecessary the laws against the homeless are. Helen Hershkoff is a associate legal director who was interviewed for this article, she states that “ Aggressive panhandling does not intimidate so much as create awareness about the plight of destitute”. This law was based to silence the homeless, so they would not have a say and not have a right to ask for money around certain areas that have banned panhandling as a whole. I have been keeping up with this situation for some time now, and the aspects and observations I

obtained, seem clear that panhandlers are not a big enough threat to even be banned. Most panhandling laws are illegal, due to the fact that it is unconstitutional. Panhandling is a form of charitable solicitation that has a very long history, most people are quick to judge and assume that panhandlers want nothing more than money for drugs, but that is just a stereotype society has placed on the matter. Panhandlers are more than just what one sees, they are homeless in need of money and in need of society to see them as equals even though they live a different way than most Americans do in the United States.

In California itself, has thousands of homeless individuals in the streets, or in one day shelters. Many people do not realize that banning panhandling, means taking away the rights these people have. In this country, it is said everyone is treated equal, yet those who do not have what most people do, are seen as less; in what way does that make sense? No one underserved should have to go through discrimination or mistreatment just because they come from a totally different upbringing, and have a totally different life. Not once but twice, I have seen the mistreatment of poor and homeless people happen in front of my eyes. So I had it in mind that the next time I saw a panhandler I was going to do something about it and I did. One day I was at the gym and I noticed some man was standing a little away from the doors of the gym, asking for some money so he can go across the street to KFC and have himself some dinner. He obviously looked like he had no home and barely any belongings. Sadly I did not have any change with me at the moment, but I did have a water bottle that I did not open yet. So I decided to hand it to the man and he said “god bless you, I really needed something to control with headache and thirst I was feeling”. I proceeded to say I am sorry I did not have any change and then he said, “It's okay this is more than enough, god bless you”. That small encounter could

have gave the man hope, and as a society we should be spreading optimism into the world. I also talk to my father about the matter who works with the San Bernardino county and I asked him if they get complains about panhandlers, and he told me they barely even hear about them, they only get calls when the homeless are sleeping on private property, not often do they receive calls for disruption or violence.

Violence is at every corner you turn, instead of banning Panhandlers, the community should be focusing on preventing mass shootings and the problem regarding police brutality. One main issue that I have noticed is these subjects are talked about but no change occur, yet homeless people are banned from simply asking for money. Not one and not two signs but more than four have been portarted along the streets of upland, that states the prohibitions of panhandling. Many people believe that panhandling is under the category of mugging, which is a completely different situation. In the article, “ Panhandling Ban: Whose Rights Should Be Protected?” by a man named Kari, brushes the issue of the common mistake of identifying mugging as a type of “aggressive” panhandling. The article talks about a man named Hammond who was murdered after getting mugged, many people have debated that banning panhandling would prevent mugging to happen. These two individual things literally do not have any true connection because banning panhandling, which is asking for money and then mugging which is a federal crime have. Which leaves society wondering if the city is just pinning any crime that may or may have not been done by a homeless man, in order to find an excuse to ban panhandling. Kari says in his article that, “Hammond was murdered during a mugging, which is an entirely different crime than "aggressive panhandling". Although the article is 50/50 about panhandlers, strong points do certinalty come up about why panhandling should not be banned,

for example it is stated that murder and theft carry panhandling as heavy as those two crimes. In the article it is also mentioned, why waste money on this ban, when that money can be used to actually save these homeless people, or anyone in need in the community.

When the city or government decides to ban a certain thing, it takes time and money, and with this panhandling ban the city is wasting the resources when they can be putting both of these factors into something more useful. Many things can be done by preventing something besides a ban, but in this case no extreme measures need to be taken. While observing some homeless individuals by my local store, one man who goes by the same denver, told me all he wants to see is peace in the world and he just wants an opportunity to show the people that he lost in his life, that he is worth it. By banning panhandling, you are banning the opportunities these individuals can have by the help of civilians, who can simply give any amount of money to a homeless person to give them some type of push. Many may say that they have nothing to do with homeless people, but also say they want world peace and some change around the world. Why not start with helping homeless people, after doing so the community can go a long way. These unnecessary bans will not have to be a problem because the community wants to help, they want to pass out money to their local panhandlers. Even though it is constantly said that homeless people are harmful, we need to stop with stereotyping and change our perspectives for the greater good.

After many observations and many interviews I have had with certain individuals like my family and some actual homeless people who are outside my local stores. I still stand by my ground and strongly believe that this ban is unnecessary and the cities should be worrying about other things, like fixing the roads or even decreasing gas prices, not banning humans from asking

for money to get some food in their system or some blankets to buy. I massively hope that something is done to prevent further cities in taking the same actions that upland has and sadly many other cities as well. One thing that should be done is reconsidering the standing point that my city has on panhandlers, because like I said before there is no point in this ban. These are people and they should be treated with respect no matter what, no matter where they live. With all the information I have gathered I noticed one thing and that one thing was, not much people really consider this a problem mainly because they do not care about the poor. But I care about the poor and this makes me very frustrated because more needs to be done to help the needy who do not get into shelters or get any help handed to them. At the end of the day us as a community need to come together and take action on the situations that need taken care of. After doing this whole assignment I have realized that the world truly does need saving and that not many people truly help make things better. As a whole we need to change perspectives in order to truly take action in changing the world, no more stereotyping, no more mistreatment and lastly no more pretending like everything's okay the way it is.

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