

## How to protect your business/private property and discourage trespassing from individuals experiencing homelessness

### Checklist

- Avoid confrontation and maintain a safe distance.
- Do not offer food or money, as it may encourage more panhandling. If you are inclined to help, it is better to contribute to local charities, missions, food banks or social service organizations.
- Do not permit anyone to camp or loiter on your property.
- Do not allow anyone to store shopping carts, bedding or other personal belongings on your property.
- Where allowable, restrict access to sidewalk overhangs, alcoves, or other areas protected from inclement weather that may be attractive for camping or loitering.
- Lock or remove handles from water spigots.
- Keep all trash in dumpsters within dumpster enclosures. Keep the dumpsters and enclosures locked when not being filled or emptied.
- Secure outside storage sheds or containers.
- Lock or turn off exterior power outlets.
- Lock gates after hours.
- Install motion-activated exterior lighting after hours. The Planning Division can advise and assist on potentially permanent lighting adjustments.

- Properly trim landscaping to eliminate hiding places and provide site visibility. As appropriate by species, prune and maintain trees and shrubs to provide an aesthetically attractive and well-kept appearance.
- Keep property free of trash, litter, junk, etc.
- Use graffiti-resistant paint or anti-graffiti coatings on the sides of the building and any other design features that could be vandalized. Report graffiti and other vandalism and clean up promptly after the officers have taken pictures.
- Enhance landscaping on the property to keep vandals away from areas that might be vandalized. The Planning Division can advise and assist on potentially permanent site re-design efforts.
- Design amenities to discourage misuse. For example, shape benches and other seating to be comfortable for sitting but not for sleeping. The Planning Division can assist with ideas.
- Install security cameras to cover public areas.
- Establish, post, and enforce rules of conduct for public use of private property. Include nighttime curfews and prohibitions of loitering, illegal lodging, drinking alcoholic beverages and drug activities. Make it clear that persons engaged in prohibited conduct will be asked to leave the property and that failure to cease the behavior or leave the property will result in a call to law enforcement.
- Private property/business owners with concerns about persons experiencing homelessness on their property should contact the Westminster Police Department, non-emergency Dispatch at phone 303-658-4360.
- If an individual other than the business/property owner has a concern about persons experiencing homelessness or a camp on private property, they should contact Code Enforcement at 303-658-4432 or [codeenfo@cityofwestminster.us](mailto:codeenfo@cityofwestminster.us).