

# HOMELESSNESS, LOITERING & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

## Downtown Sioux City Resource Guide

Downtown Sioux City, the City of Sioux City, the Sioux City Police Department, and outreach agencies are working together to address quality of life issues and help those in need.

### WHAT WE'RE DOING TO HELP

Sioux City has numerous organizations devoted to addressing homelessness, loitering and substance abuse issues. By coordinating outreach and resource groups, we hope to make downtown Sioux City experiences memorable and enjoyable for all in our community.

#### COORDINATED ENTRY

- Is the first point of contact for anyone staying in a homeless shelter, on the streets, or in a vehicle to support them on their housing journey.
- Conducts an assessment to determine appropriate resources and referrals, and adds them to the waiting list for supportive housing opportunities.
- Is part of the Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness, a non-profit organization that covers Woodbury County, Iowa and Dakota County, Nebraska. Together with 37 other local organizations, they provide a continuum of services designed to support those experiencing homelessness.



COORDINATED ENTRY CONTACT:  
[housinghelp@sioux-city.org](mailto:housinghelp@sioux-city.org)  
(712) 224-5247

#### DOWNTOWN PARTNERS

- Represents the interests of business, visitors and residents in Downtown Sioux City.
- Communicates the tools and resources available with downtown stakeholders to improve the quality of on-street downtown experiences.
- Partners with city departments & community organizations to help identify problem areas and work towards a solution and public education.



DOWNTOWN PARTNERS CONTACT:  
[info@downtownsiouxcity.com](mailto:info@downtownsiouxcity.com)  
[downtownsiouxcity.com](http://downtownsiouxcity.com)

#### CITY OF SIOUX CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Works with problem solving, transients, and the homeless population on a daily basis for those in need downtown.
- Dedicated to maintaining public safety through partnership with the community. Officers are available downtown and can be reached directly.
- Provide a resource guide specific to downtown businesses and residents.



POLICE:  
712-279-6960  
[www.siouxcitypolice.com](http://www.siouxcitypolice.com)

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ISSUE/CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT		
WHO TO CONTACT IF...	COORDINATED ENTRY housinghelp@sioux-city.org (712) 224-5247	POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 712-279-6960	POLICE EMERGENCY 911
I HAVE FOUND UNATTENDED BELONGINGS		●	
SOMEONE IS SLEEPING/LOITERING AT MY BUSINESS	●	●	
I SEE A HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT	●	● EMAIL: SIOUXCITYPOLICE@SIOUXCITYPOLICE.COM	●
SOMEONE IS AGGRESSIVE OR CAUSING A DISTURBANCE			●
I SEE SOMEONE WHO IS PANHANDLING		●	
I SEE SOMEONE WHO IS IMPAIRED BY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL		● EMAIL: SIOUXCITYPOLICE@SIOUXCITYPOLICE.COM	
I OBSERVED A DRUG DEAL		● CRIME STOPPERS 712-258-8477 (TIPS)	
I OBSERVED SOMEONE WHO MAY BE IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS			● IF THERE IS A THREAT OF HARM TO THEMSELVES/OTHERS

### LEGAL VS. ILLEGAL ACTIVITY FOR PANHANDLING & LOITERING

#### PANHANDLING IS NOT ILLEGAL

- Panhandling in public spaces is protected by the first amendment
- Certain behaviors such as loitering, trespassing, blocking the sidewalk, etc. are enforceable

#### ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

- Making threats while asking for a donation
- Blocking the sidewalk
- Interfering with traffic
- Not removing themselves from private property when asked

#### WHAT IS LOITERING?

Loitering is the act of remaining in areas open to the public for a prolonged time without an apparent purpose. This can include lobbies, parking lots, and other public spaces on private property. Property owners have the right to ask people who are loitering to leave the property. Persons who fail to leave when asked can be charged with Criminal Trespass.