CAN I PANHANDLE?

Your right to panhandle is protected by the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. You can ask people for money as long as you are not aggressive. Aggressive panhandling includes (Ord. 2265 § 9.54.030):

- Coming within 3 feet of a person who has not agreed to give you money
- Blocking a pedestrian or vehicle with your body
- Following a person who has not agreed to give you money
- Touching a person or a vehicle without consent
- Using violent or threatening gestures before or after someone gives you money
- Using profane language before or after someone gives you money
- Asking for money with another person or group of people
- Asking for money while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



MY PROPERTY WAS TAKEN IN A SWEEP. NOW WHAT?

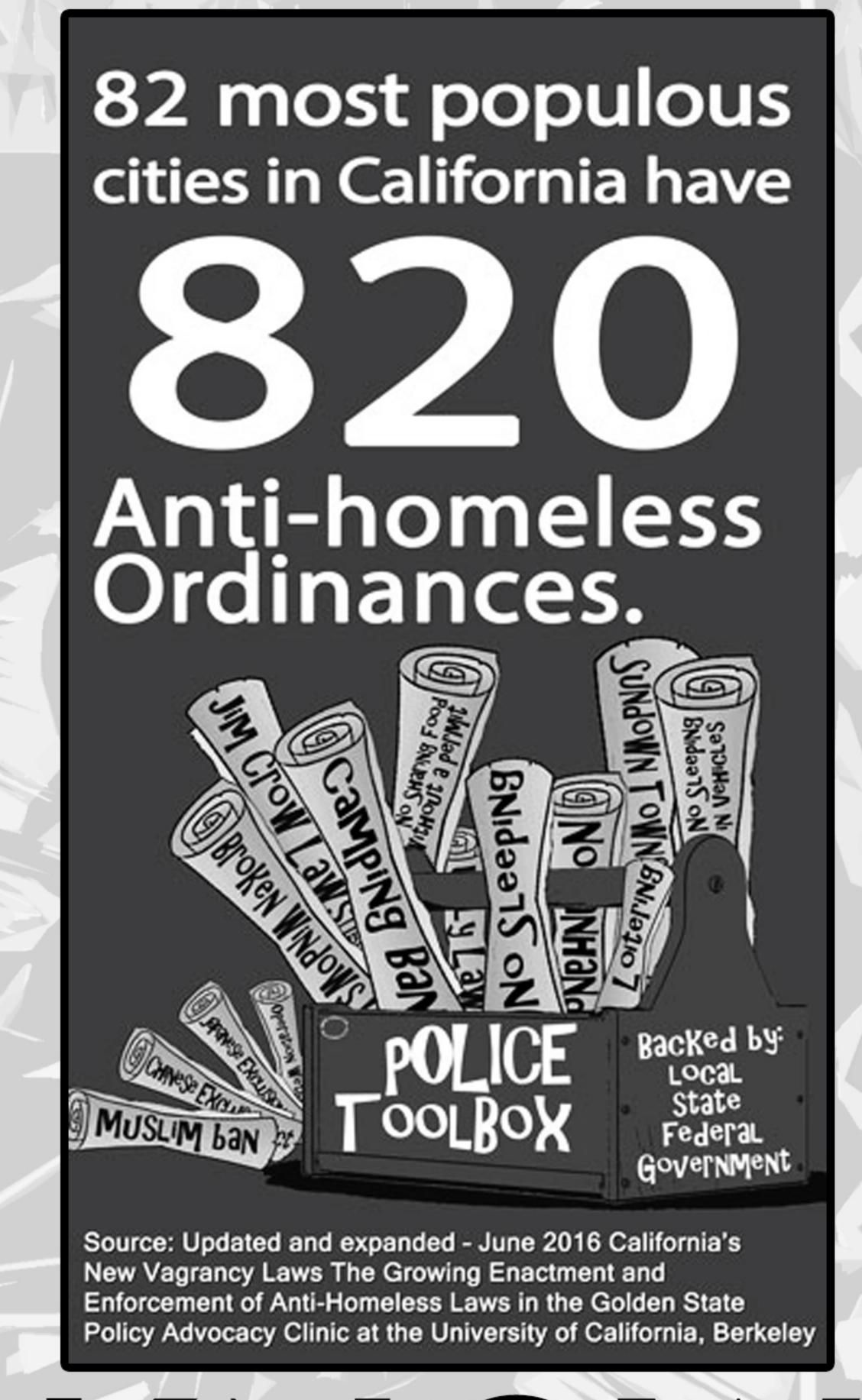
- If your personal property has been taken in a sweep, call Property Department Chico PD (530) 897-4930 to figure out where your property is being stored.
- If the police take your property, then they are required to store your personal property for 90 days.
- If you are present at a sweep ask for a property receipt. If possible mark your property with your name.
- The police can dispose of any personal property that is deemed unsafe or hazardous. These unsafe or hazardous items could include soiled clothing, knives, and sharps.

CAN I CAMP IN PUBLIC PARKS OR ON THE SIDEWALK?

Chico has made it illegal to camp in their public parks. The police must give you a minimum of 24 hours notice before telling you to move and they may cite you for camping in public parks (Ord. 2268 § 1.12.010). According to the Chico Police Department policy, the police must also consult with the department's Homeless Community Liaison, also known as the Target Team, so that they are present when the police perform the sweep (Chico Police Policy 464.2). This policy is set internally by the police department and could be changed. However, it is unlawful for the police to cite you when camping if there is no shelter space available.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic camping in public parks is allowed as long as the encampment is less than 10 people and at least 50 feet from a waterway. The Chico Police Department will be enforcing the 50 foot restriction and may force you to move.

Chico has made it illegal to sleep and store your property on public sidewalks. The police can tell you to move and may also cite you.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CHICO CALIFORNIA

WHEN CAN POLICE SEARCH ME OR MY PROPERTY?

You have the right to advise police that you do not consent to a search or your person, personal property, or outdoor home. If you do not offer consent, the police may only search your person, property, and outdoor home in some limited circumstances.

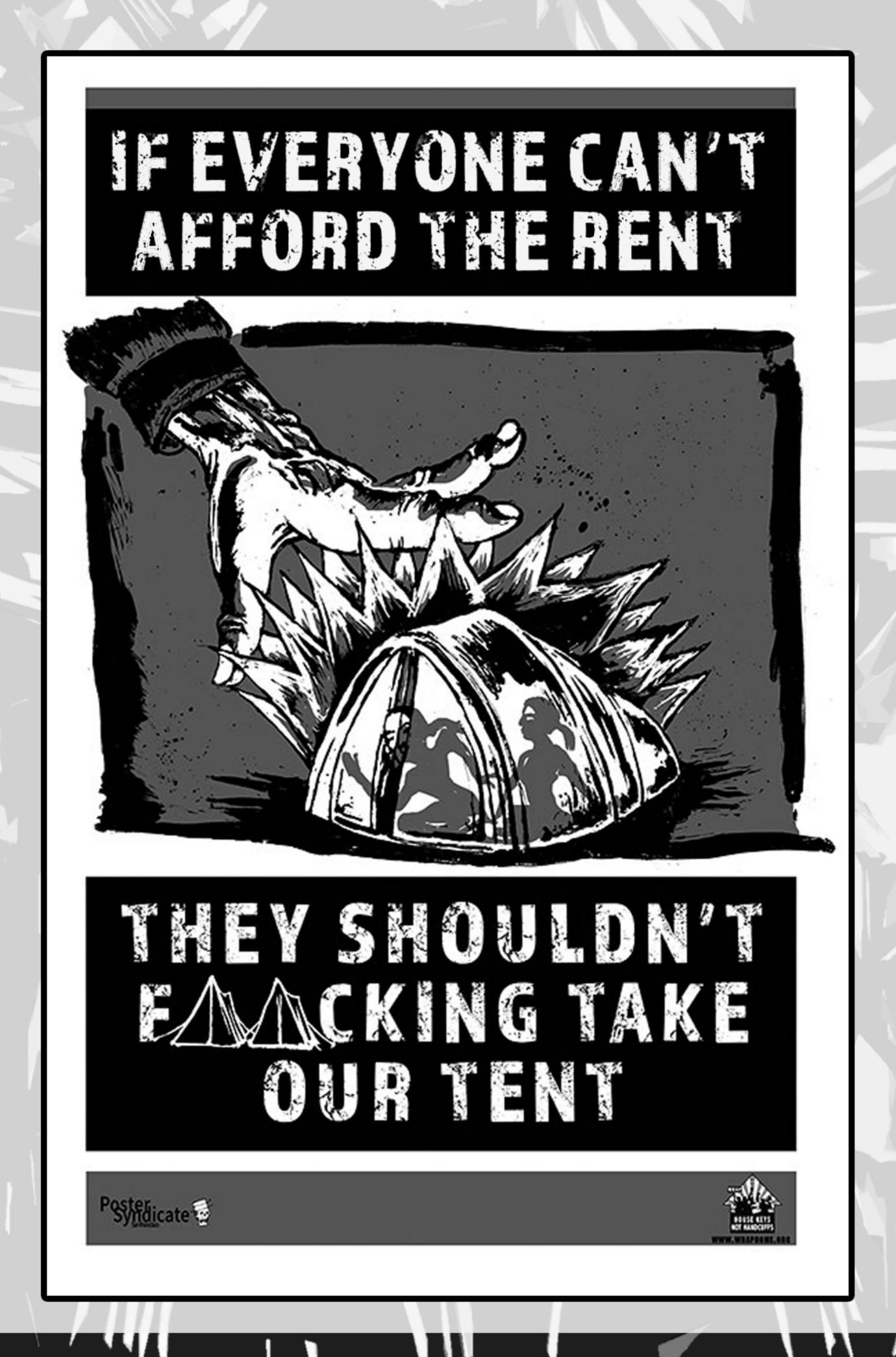
The police can do a pat down search of you if they believe you have a weapon. Even if you are patted down, you can still refuse consent to any other search of your person or your property, including your car.

The police can search your personal property if the item is in plain view, if there is probable cause that the item is linked to illegal activity, and the item can be legally accessed.

The police can search your outdoor home if:

- They have a warrant
- They have your consent
- The search is performed as part of a lawful arrest
- If they believe your outdoor home is unsafe, unsanitary or dangerous
- If there is imminent danger of injury or death, damage to property, escape of a suspect, or destruction of evidence
- If they believe your outdoor home is abandoned
- If they are enforcing other city ordinances such as the city and park camping ban

YOU HAVE RIGHTS UNDER
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION,
EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A
CITIZEN OF THE UNITED
STATES. YOU ALSO HAVE
RIGHTS UNDER THE
CALIFORNIA
CONSTITUTION AND
FEDERAL AND STATE
STATUTORY LAW.





DO I HAVE TO TALK TO THE POLICE?

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You do not have to answer police questions, other than to identify yourself in some limited circumstances.
- The police may ask you to identify yourself if you are a suspect to a crime or witness to a crime. They may ask you for an I.D. card, telephone number, and an address where you could be located.

WHEN CAN THE POLICE STOP ME?

The police may detain you if they have a reasonable suspicion that you were involved in a crime.

If you believe the police are detaining you, you may ask, "am I being detained?" If the answer is no, then you are free to leave.