TOWN OF GREENWOOD
PARISH OF CADDO, STATE OF LOUISIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 2013

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING AND MAKING PANHANDLING, BEGGING, AND SOLICITING MONEY OR FOOD UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES UNLAWFUL WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF GREENWOOD.

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman finds and declares that there has been an increase in the number of persons and instances of panhandling, begging, and soliciting of money or food within the municipal limits of the Town creating unsafe conditions which are otherwise detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. As a result of this increase of such activity, the Board of Aldermen finds that it has a compelling interest and purpose in prohibiting such activity within the municipal limits of the Town.

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen finds and declares that the provisions of this ordinance are necessary to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town and that the prohibitions here are designed to prevent and eliminate unsafe, fraudulent, and threatening conditions within the municipal limits of the Town.

BE IT THEREFORE ORDANIED, AS FOLLOWS:

Prohibition of panhandling, begging and soliciting money or food.

(A) **Definitions**.

The following words, terms, phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Accosting means approaching or speaking to someone in such a manner as would cause a reasonable person to fear imminent bodily harm or the commission of a criminal act upon his person, or upon property in his immediate possession.

Ask, beg, panhandle and solicit, without limitation, means and includes the spoken, written or printed word or such other acts as are conducted in furtherance of the purpose of obtaining charitable donations of money or food.

Forcing oneself upon the company of another means continuing to request, beg or solicit alms from a person after that person has made a negative response, blocking the passage of the individual addressed or otherwise engaging in conduct which could reasonably be construed as intended to compel or force a person to accede to demands.

(B) **Prohibitions.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit money, food or other things of value;

(1) On private property if the owner, tenant or lawful occupant has asked the person not to solicit on the property, or has posted a sign clearly indicating that solicitations are not welcome on the property;

(2) In any public transportation vehicle, or within 15 feet of any bus stop or taxi-stand;

(3) From any operator of a motor vehicle that is in traffic on a public street; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to services rendered in connection with emergency services requested by the owner or passengers of such vehicle;

(4) From any persons who are waiting in line for entry to any building, public or private, including but not limited to, any residence, business or athletic facility;

(5) Within 15 feet of the entrance to or exit from a building, public or private, including but not limited to any residence, business or athletic facility;

(6) By accosting another; or,

(7) By forcing oneself upon the company of another.

(C) **Exception.**

The provisions of this section shall not apply to an organization which has obtained a permit from the Town to conduct charitable solicitations.

(D) **Penalty.**

Whoever commits the crime of panhandling, begging, and soliciting money, food, or other things of value shall be fines not more than $500.00 or imprisoned not more than 60 days, or both.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderman, Town of Greenwood, in due, legal and regular meeting convened that;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately after its adoption

First Reading: March 18, 2013–Introduced and read by title and approved as read and set for Public Hearing on April 15, 2013 on motion by Alderman Newsom, seconded by Alderman Cook. Approved by the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	(4) Cook, Newsom, Edwardes, McCracken
NAYS:	(0)
ABSENT:	(1) Jaudon
ABSTAIN:	(0)

Second Reading: April 15, 2013- Having been approved on the first reading on March 18, 2013 and after publication of notice and a public hearing, was read by title and approved as read on

motion by Alderman Cook and seconded by Alderman Edwardes. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

YEAS: (4) Cook, Newsom, Edwardes, McCracken
NAYS: (0)
ABSENT: (1)Jaudon
ABSTAIN: (0)

THUS DONE, ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Board of Alderman of the Town of Greenwood, Louisiana at a meeting of said public body duly held and conducted on April 15, 2013 in the Municipal Complex of the Town of Greenwood

_____
Veronica Brown, Town Clerk

Date Delivered to the Mayor: April 16, 2013
Date Received by the Mayor: April 16, 2013

Approved by the Mayor of the Town of Greenwood on the 16th day of April, 2013

_____
Frank Stawasz, Mayor

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CADDO

I, the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Greenwood, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, do hereby certify the foregoing Ordinance No. 2 of 2013 to be a true copy of the Ordinance as the same appears filed in this office.

This, the 16th day of April, 2013.

_____
Veronica Brown, Town Clerk