




Nicholas Navin
Parking Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager 

FROM: Nicholas Navin, Parking Director

SUBJECT: Update to Council Motion of 2/13/18 by Councilor Cirillo
Req. City Mgr. Provide A Report Updating The Council Regarding Installation Of "Meters For Homeless" Program; Report To Include Costs For Installation, Number Of Meters Installed, And Organizations To Whom Collected Funds Will Be Distributed.

Originally inspired by similar programs employed in the Los Angeles County area, the Use your Change for Change program envisioned a component where parking meters could be refurbished to act a donation station for local charities that deal with issues of homelessness. Once several options were considered it became clear that there were some concerns with using parking or municipal funds to refurbish, install, maintain, and collect the meters along with how the recipient of the donations is chosen, and using the city as a pass through for those funds. To date, no meters have been installed by the City, nor have we directly collected or distributed any donations.

The Use your Change for Change program has moved forward, however, as an education and awareness campaign to include the posting of signage around the City, which can be found in the following attachments.

The location of the signage is as follows:

- At the end of the Cox Bridge heading outbound towards Centralville
- On both ends of the Lord's Overpass, by Middlesex and Appleton Streets
- At the end of Exit 4 leaving the Lowell Connector
- At the intersection of Market and Central by TD Bank
- At the intersection of Central and Merrimack by Dunkin Donuts
- On Merrimack by Lucy Larcom Park

In addition to this signage, the City Manager's Office has developed a webpage within the City's website that addresses panhandling and the Change for Change program, along with a list of the programs and partnerships currently underway to address the root issues of panhandling and homelessness. As the webpage develops it will act as an aggregator of local charities and services to connect the community with a list of programs and resources that would be a more productive and effective use of their time and donations instead of panhandling. The website can be viewed at <http://www.lowellma.gov/changeforchange>



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As it pertains to moving forward with the meters, it is my recommendation based on my understanding of the challenges to have the Ad-hoc Panhandling Committee or Hunger-Homelessness Commission identify a recipient of the funds, and they draft language to solicit a corporate sponsor to receive a donation of parking meters from the City for their use and administration of a meters for homeless program.