



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: 5/04/2016
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Police Chief Kevin Treadway, Lt. Paul Lasiewicki
CC: Josh Copley, Shane Dille, Barbara Goodrich and Leadership Team
SUBJECT: Better Bucks Program



This report is in response to a request for further information on the Better Bucks Program.

DISCUSSION

Better Bucks is a voucher program designed to provide an alternative to cash for those citizens who wish to contribute directly to local panhandlers. The objective is to replace cash with Better Bucks as the dominant currency among panhandlers so that people who need the help can get the help that they need, while at the same time encouraging those professional panhandlers who simply want the cash to go to other communities where they are more likely to get cash. Each one-dollar Better Bucks voucher can be used as cash at each of the participating local businesses with the exception that Better Bucks cannot be used to purchase alcohol, tobacco, or any other substance the recipient can use to harm himself or herself.

Each 6\$ book of Better Bucks contains not only five one-dollar vouchers that can be used for food and living essentials; each book of Better Bucks also contains a list of Flagstaff's social service providers so the recipients of the Better Bucks can avail themselves to local services especially equipped to address underlying issues that cause people to panhandle. In addition, each book of Better Bucks contains a free one-day Mountain Line bus pass so recipients can more easily access goods and services. Lastly, each book of Better Bucks provides a Salvation Army coupon for free clothing and a voucher for free job placement services at Goodwill Industries.

According to the Better Bucks website <http://www.shadowsfoundation.org/betterbucks/> Better Bucks can be purchased at: Basha's, The UPS Store, Catholic Charities, Flagstaff Farmer's Market, Eastside Family Medicine, Flagstaff Soap Company, Flagstaff Visitor's Center, Goodwill Industries, and Majerle's Sports Grill. Better Bucks vouchers can be redeemed at: Basha's, Freddy's Steakhurgers, Aspen Deli, Interstate Mobil Mart, Get & Go Chevron, Flagstaff Farmer's Market, and Savers. So, Better Bucks supports local businesses by providing a safe alternative to cash for those generous, compassionate community members who donate to panhandlers.

This report is for information only.