



The Shulman Center January 2021 Monthly e-Newsletter

*Celebrating The 19th Year of Our e-Newsletter!
Thanks to our 3,000 subscribers for your continued interest & support!*

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.
-George Bernard Shaw

New TV series on "theft addiction" which had been put on hold may be picked up in 2021!
Stay tuned!

Please Note Our Updated Website at:
www.theshulmancenter.com

Wishing you a Happy New Year.
Thanks for your interest and support.

During This Time of Social Distancing, Your Life Does Not Have To Be on Hold!
Specialized Therapy by Telephone or Video-Chat
Your Life Is Calling...
CALL US AT: 248-358-8508!

150-Question Online Shoplifting Assessment Tool

ANNOUNCING THE RECENT LAUNCH OF A NEW
150-QUESTION ONLINE SHOPLIFTING ASSESSMENT TOOL
DEVELOPED BY THE SHULMAN CENTER

WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ADE SOLUTIONS IN METRO-DETROIT

This is a rare and in-depth assessment tool and can be easily accessed online.

It takes about 20-30 minutes to complete and can be used by courts, therapists, and those who have shoplifted. Once the questionnaire is completed and submitted, you will receive an immediate one-page summary that tells you how severe a shoplifting problem you have, what type of shoplifter you are, and what is your risk of reoffending in the future (low, medium, high, very high).

See: <https://ade.solutions/shoplift.html>

Read Recent Comprehensive Article from
MoneyGeek

on Compulsive Shopping/Spending... I'm quoted
[Click Here!](#)

See Recent Guardian UK Article on Why
Wealthy People Shoplift:

Mr. Shulman quoted as expert!
[Click Here!](#)

Listen to Mr. Shulman on a recent 100-minute
Podcast Interview

"White Collar Crime and Recovery" with 15 other
"convicts"

See Recent Free Press/USA Today Article on
Shopping/Shoplifting Addiction:

Mr. Shulman quoted as expert!
[Click Here!](#)

[Click Here!](#)

Listen to Mr. Shulman's 40-min Interview

Less Waves, More Ocean: Staying Calm in Covid Times

[Click Here!](#)

**Listen to Mr. Shulman's Recent 45-minute
Audio Interview on Shoplifting Addiction:**

When Stealing Is A Drug!

[Click Here!](#)

**See Recent 5-Minute Video on Shopping
Addiction on Cheddar:**

Mr. Shulman quoted as expert!

[Click Here!](#)

**See Dr. Oz's 15-minute July 9, 2019
Shoplifting Addiction Episode**

Mr. Shulman Feature on The Show!

[Click Here!](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Guilt Gifting Is A Thing in 2020 But It Can Get Out of Hand Quickly!](#)

[Anti-Capitalist Teens Share Shoplifting Tips on Tik-Tok](#)

[Online Shopping Addiction in The Time of Covid Quarantine](#)

[White Collar Support Group Video Podcast Episode#1](#)

[Shopping Addiction and Holidays](#)

[Guardian UK Article: Rich Robbers](#)

[NYPost Shopping Addiction Article](#)

[Dr. Oz July 9, 2019 Episode on Shoplifting Addiction](#)

[Mr. Shulman Quoted in July 14, 2019 Article on Netflix Series "Trinkets" on Teen Shoplifting](#)

[Mr. Shulman Quoted in Vancouver Sun July 24, 2019 Article on Shopping Addiction](#)

[Stop Thief! Restaurant Diners Help Themselves to More Than Food!](#)

[New 10-minute Video Preview of Forthcoming Online Employee Theft Prevention Course](#)

[August 15, 2018 Cover Story on Shoplifting in Detroit Metro Times](#)

[Cosmo Journalist Confesses She's A Shopaholic!](#)

[You Could Be an Online Shopping Addict!](#)

[Men Are Shopaholics, Too! Author Buzz Bissinger Tells All on NBC's Megyn Kelly Show](#)

[Plain Thieves or Addicted to The Rush? Mr. Shulman Featured in Recent 3-min Nute news clip](#)

[Check Out Our Updated Hoarding Disorder Video Archive Webpage!](#)

[Samson Shulman Podcast Interview with Jonathan Schwartz: Embezzler to The Stars](#)

[Mr. Shulman Quoted About Worldwide Shoplifting Trends In Recent International Online 'zine](#)

[Mr. Shulman's Appearance on T.D. Jakes May 12, 2017 Show on Financial Infidelity](#)

[Mr. Shulman's 90-Minute Hoarding Presentation](#)

[Mr. Shulman Quoted in Recent Online Article on Shopping While Driving](#)

[View Unsteal.org Founder Introduce the "Unsteal Box" in TV News Debut](#)

[Shopping Addiction Featured on NBC's Megyn Kelly Show Tuesday February 27](#)

UPCOMING SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS of INTEREST

Thursday January 28, 2021—Mr. Shulman gives a 90-minute Power Point presentation via Zoom entitled “Bought Out and Spent! Recovery from Compulsive Shopping and Spending” for the Genesee District Library (Michigan) from 6-7:30pm. Free. Register through the library.

Tuesday February 23, 2021—Mr. Shulman gives a 90-minute Power Point presentation via Zoom entitled “Cluttered Lives, Empty Souls: Understanding and Treating Hoarding Disorder” for the Livonia Public Library (Michigan) from 7-8:30pm. Free. Register through the library.

Thursday May 6, 2021—Mr. Shulman gives a 90-minute Power Point presentation via Zoom entitled “Cluttered Lives, Empty Souls: Understanding and Treating Hoarding Disorder” for the Genesee District Library (Michigan) from 6-7:30pm. Free. Register through the library.

Thursday July 8, 2021—Mr. Shulman gives a live, in-person 90-minute Power Point presentation entitled “Understanding and Applying The 5 Love Languages For Better Relationships” for the Genesee District Library (Michigan) from 5-6:30pm. Free. Register through the library.

Thursday July 29, 2021—Mr. Shulman gives a 90-minute Power Point presentation via Zoom entitled “Cluttered Lives, Empty Souls: Understanding and Treating Hoarding Disorder” for the Genesee District Library (Michigan) from 7-8:30pm. Free. Register through the library.

FACTS, STATS, QUOTES & MORE!

You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream. - C.S. Lewis

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better person. -- Benjamin Franklin

We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives, not looking for flaws but for potential. -- Ellen Goodman

You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's really no limit to what you can do! --Dr. Seuss

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step. -- Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't seem to change it, change your attitude --Maya Angelou

There comes a day when you realize that turning the page is the best feeling in the world, because you realize there is so much more to the book than the page you were stuck on. -- Zayn Malik

Hey friend, don't you dare forget, as you're creating a new you, that's there's a whole lot about the old you that's worth keeping. -- Toni Sorenson

ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Contact Mr. Shulman for More Information
on starting a C.A.S.A. chapter near you!**

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how severe a shoplifting problem you have,
what type of shoplifter you are,**

**and your risk level for reoffending in the future
(low, medium, high, or very high).**

See: <https://ade.solutions/shoplift.html>

Or click here: [Shoplifting Assessment](#)

View Mr. Shulman's 2-minute YouTube Video on Shoplifting Addiction:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7eNcJhwGwc>

In 2019 I was contacted by three gentleman from the Baton Rouge and Lafayette, Louisiana area--one from the criminal justice system. one from addiction-recovery treatment centers, and the other specialized in developing online learning courses. They commissioned me to develop four online education programs:a juvenile and an adult shoplifting prevention course; an adult employee theft prevention course; and an adult identity theft prevention course. These four courses have been live online since mid-2020 and a 5th course I developed on effective decision making went live this past month.

See course information at:

<https://cbtclasses.com/course-registration/>

In 2018 I was contacted by Turning Point Justice, Inc. out of Boca Raton, Florida and consulted with them to create an online program to address the epidemic of employee theft--based on my book *Biting The Hand That Feeds* and my counseling with theft offenders. Next, I consulted on and co-created an online shoplifting awareness-prevention program based on my book *Something for Nothing*. Both programs are now available for purchase. The employee theft course is available to individuals but was primarily designed to be marketed to companies and organizations of all kinds. The course has three modules: 1. An introductory course for all employees (incoming and seasoned); 2. A secondary review course for any employee who . has committed a minor infraction of dishonesty in the workplace but who is given a second chance and retains his/her employment; and 3. A special course for any employee who is terminated for employee theft but will be offered a chance to take this course for his/her own reflection and, possibly, to receive leniency. The shoplifting course is available to individuals who may be court-ordered to take it or who may wish to take it voluntarily for self-improvement and, possibly, to receive leniency as well. See course information at: <http://turningpointjustice.com/>

Instructions: To request enrollment in an education course by Turning Point Justice, please email: support@cbtfortheft.com and indicate you were referred by The Shulman Center. Please be sure to include your name and phone number for TPJ to get in touch with you.

I am honored and excited to announce that my 2003 book *Something for Nothing: Shoplifting Addiction and Recovery* has been translated into Japanese was published on July 9, 2019. I received several copies in the mail and it is listed on the Japanese version of Amazon.com! I'll have to brush up on my Japanese! We are discussing a possible trip to Japan later this year to help promote it! Dr. Hiroshi Okuda, a psychiatrist from Japan who helped me get this book published, visited me in Detroit on September 14, 2019. Tina, my wife and the creative director of The Shulman Center, and I hope to visit Dr. Okuda in northern Japan in April/May 2020.

White Collar Crime Support Group
Meets Online on Zoom Monday Evenings Since 2016
7 pm ET, 6 pm CT, 5 pm MT, 4 pm PT

Contact:

Rev. Jeff Grant, J.D., M.Div., Co-founder/Minister, Progressive Prison Ministries, Inc., Greenwich CT & Nationwide. 203-405-6249, jgrant@prisonist.org, Mailing: PO Box 1, Woodbury, CT 06798

See: www.prisonist.org

RECO12.COM
Weekly Recovery Open Talks Live Online
(And Recorded for Later Listening)

See: <https://www.reco12.com/>

Check out new Unsteal.org videoclips...

[Confessions of A Repentant Thief](#)

[Unsteal Repayment Boxes Now in Stores!](#)

<http://www.unsteal.org>

Great podcasts by my brother Samson Shulman!

Interviews with up 'n coming trailblazers

and their ups 'n downs along their way

<http://www.hustlesanctuary.com/>

and his new podcast called Connection Is Magic!

<https://connectionismagic.com/>

Carrie Rattle, CFP, of Behavioral Cents bought

Dr. April Benson's Stopping Overshopping Program

which includes a *guided self help program that is housed on an App called Mentegram.*

See: <https://www.shopaholicnomore.com/guided-self-help-for-when-the-urge-strikes/>

Sign Up for The Jack Hayes, International Free Quarterly Loss Prevention Newsletter!

<http://hayesinternational.com/products/the-hayes-report-on-loss-prevention-newsletter/>

Online Course For Shoplifters Helps Them Understand and Stop Stealing

<http://web.3rdmilclassrooms.com/courses/court/stoplifting#section-top>

Online Course for Understanding and Deterring Employee Theft

<http://www.360training.com/hr-ethics-compliance/corporate-compliance/anti-trust-bribery/creating-honest-theft-free-workplace-course>

Monthly Articles of Interest

Click on **blue** hyperlinks
to view full articles/videos:

[Thieves in The Royal Palace!](#)

Royal Staffer Caught After Stealing Medals/Mementoes Over Several Years!

[We're All Rescue Animals If You Think About It!](#)

These Before and After Photos of Rescue Dogs Reminds Me of Before and After Recovery!

[Real-Life Christmas Grinch Caught Stealing 50 Christmas Trees!](#)

Looks Like He Got a Taste of Kris Kringle Karma!

[They May Complain But Women Don't Want Men Who Have No Male Friends](#)

I Think The Same Can Be Said of Women Who Have No Female Friends

[Culture Wars: What To Do with Shoplifters Caught Stealing Food During Covid](#)

Northern Liberals Say "Have Mercy!" Southern Conservatives Say "Lock 'Em Up!"

[No Games, No Bars. The Covid Pandemic Is Forcing Men To Seek Out Deeper Friendship](#)

Another Silver Lining/Hidden Blessing of These Hard Times

[Repeat Shoplifters Beware!](#)

Target Stores Highlight Trend of Waiting to Catch Thieves Until They Can Be Charged as Felons

[More People Turning to Shoplifting Food During Pandemic Pressures](#)
Washington Post Article Sounds Alarm on Complicated and Desperate Situation

[A Great New Year's Resolution for All!](#)
How To Communicate Assertively and Ask for What You Want Respectfully

[Hey, Teacher, Leave Those Things Alone!](#)
Louisiana Teacher-School Administrator Cited for Second Shoplifting Offense

["The Season of Giving" Is Over... Here's Another New Year's Resolution To Consider](#)
Just Say "No!" How To Let Go of The Need To "Help" Others

[Ever Heard of This? Post-Betrayal Syndrome](#)
Free 15-Minute TED Talk Video Highlights PTSD-Like Trauma

[Backlash Over West Point's Leniency For 73 Cadets Accused of Cheating](#)
Black and White Issue or Shades of Gray?

[Is Hoarding Genetic?](#)
As with Most Issues... It's Complicated!

[Thieves Are Never Out of Work! Tragic on So Many Levels!](#)
Scammers Siphoned \$36 Billion from U.S. Unemployment Benefits

[25 Pieces of Zen Wisdom You Never Knew You Needed](#)
Perfect for The New Year... And You Don't Have to Be Buddhist!

[Free Facebook Group with Eckhart Tolle](#)
Exploring The Infinite Potential of Presence

[I Learned to Appreciate My Husband and Other Unexpected Gifts of 2020](#)
And I Learned How to Appreciate My Wife!

[New Year's Musings: 10 Things to Leave Behind and 10 Things to Embrace](#)
The Importance of Letting Go to Make Room for The New and The Better

[High School Principal Arrested for Shoplifting](#)
She Got An Early Christmas Gift When Judge Dismissed Her Case

This Month's Featured Articles

THE START OF A NEW YEAR, DECADE, PRESIDENCY, AND A NATION?
More Random Thoughts on These Trying Times
(Part 10/Month 10)
by
Terrence Shulman

Another month (#10) in the history books. December 2020 is gone and January 2021 arrives.

The U.S. has had 20.5 million confirmed Covid cases (up 18 million from a month ago) and we've had over 350,000 deaths this year (up about 70,000 deaths from a month ago).

The U.S. presidential election is over--at least in the hearts and minds of a majority of Americans--as the election saw a record turnout of voters which led to these "final" number: Joseph Biden (306 electoral votes and 81,283,485 actual votes or 51.4%; Donald Trump (232 electoral votes and 74,223,744 actual votes or

46.9%. In other words, Joe Biden has been elected the next president of the United States.

Trump has yet to formally concede (it's not expected he ever will). More than fifty election fraud lawsuits have all been dismissed. Biden's transition to the top post has eventually proceeded with inconsistent cooperation from the Trump administration.

And Trump pardons a veritable Who's Who list of cronies and corrupt individuals who never copped to doing anything wrong. Undoubtedly, he'll pardon his entire family and--why not?--himself before January 20th.

It's anybody's guess what will happen on Inauguration Day. It's doubtful Trump will be present on the podium as Biden and Harris are sworn in. We can only hope there's not riots.

On Tuesday January 5, 2021 two U.S. Senate run-offs in Georgia will decide the balance of power in the U.S. Senate.

On Wednesday January 6, 2021, Vice-President Mike Pence will preside over the ritual final (?) reading of the electoral votes before a selection of U.S. Senators and House Representatives. Twelve (12) Republican U.S. Senators have already announced that they will formally object to the process.

These 12 Senators might wish to turn their complaints against President Trump who--according to an hourlong tape recording released yesterday--tried to coerce Georgia Republican Secretary of State to change the Georgia presidential election votes from Biden's favor to Trump's favor.

You can't make this up! And the eyes of the world are upon us: united we stand, divided we fall.

Meanwhile, we enter a 3-month cold and dark winter with a virus that still rages and--despite the recent release of three different vaccines--only 3 million people have been vaccinated (less than 1% of the population and far less than the 20 million the Trump administration promised).

The economy is still in low-gear and Q-Anon nuts multiply.

We need an individual and collective miracle and a lot of hard work as well.

We need an intervention and intercession to help at least half the politicians and half of our country return to some semblance of sanity, reality, and true patriotism--country over party. The cult of Trump and Q-Anon must end!

Here's hoping this happens.... if it doesn't, God help us all.

Happy New Year, indeed!

IS HOARDING DISORDER GENETIC?

Yes... and No.

by

Recovery Village Editor Renee Deveney
(November 4, 2020)

The Hoarding disorder is estimated to affect 4–14% of the U.S. population. Hoarding is characterized by the accumulation of possessions, the inability to discard items regardless of their value, compromised living space due to possessions and significant impairment and distress in personal, social and professional functioning. Hoarding presents a serious health problem to those who struggle with the disorder, their families and the communities they reside in.

Due to its widespread prevalence, many have wondered if hoarding is genetic or a learned behavior. Research is ongoing on this topic, but there have been substantial discoveries to confirm that compulsive

hoarding is largely influenced by family, with both genetic and environmental factors at work.

Compulsive Hoarding and Heredity

Studies have shown that those with compulsive hoarding have at least one first-degree relative with hoarding problems, suggesting that hoarding is hereditary. In one study, over 50% of compulsive hoarders had a first-degree relative with similar hoarding problems. A large study based on twins found that genetic factors accounted for 50% of the variance in hoarding behavior, with environmental factors making up the other 50%.

While these results are interesting, they are not conclusive regarding whether compulsive hoarding is hereditary in the general population. It is important to keep in mind that the symptoms related to hoarding are not always a stand-alone problem, but are often associated with other health and psychiatric problems. For instance, rates of comorbidity with other mental health conditions are high with compulsive hoarding.

Hoarding is seen alongside the following conditions:

- Obsessive-compulsive disorder (20%)
- Depression and anxiety (24.4%)
- Social phobia (23.5%)
- Acquisition-related impulse control problems (78.3%)
- Obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (29.5%)
- Attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (30%)

The link between compulsive hoarding and hereditary factors is high, though researchers agree that more studies need to be conducted in regard to the general population in determining the underlying factors in hoarding and whether genetic or other traits are responsible for this behavior.

Link to Chromosome 14 in Families With OCD

A team from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine led a study analyzing samples from nearly 1,000 patients from 219 different families with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Hoarding, often seen in those with OCD, received special attention in this study. Researchers were able to identify a unique region on chromosome 14 in families where two or more members shared hoarding behavior. What that pattern means and how exactly it relates to hoarding behavior is yet to be seen, but it certainly is significant in understanding hoarding and research.

The study of genetics and health disorders is not new. With psychiatric disorders being the leading cause of disability worldwide, the impact on individuals and society in general is high. The goal of understanding the origins of such disorders is at the top of the list for geneticists and researchers alike. The brain, however, is not so easily understood. This limits what researchers are able to do. Genetics provides the basis for understanding the possible hereditary links to mental health disorders and developing related treatments. The link found between chromosome 14 and hoarding is exciting news for researchers, clinicians and those with the disorder. It could help in the future development of treatment specific to hoarding.

Trauma & Other Risk Factors

In addition to genetic heritability, hoarding risk factors include significant environmental causes. Leading research indicates that one such environmental factor contributing to hoarding behavior is trauma. A stressful or traumatic event in life such as abuse or bereavement can trigger hoarding behavior as a coping mechanism. Other risk factors can include:

- Age: Hoarding is most common among middle-aged adults, though hoarding behavior usually manifests between the ages of 10 to 20
- Social isolation: Loneliness can lead to the tendency to collect items to fill the empty void in a person's life
- Personality: Anxiety and indecision are common for those who exhibit hoarding behaviors

Major life changes have also been noted as factors related to hoarding, such as retirement, loss of a job, starting a job change or kids leaving home. While the causes of hoarding can vary, identifying individual risk

standing a job change or a hoarding member. While the causes of hoarding can vary, identifying individual risk factors and environmental changes can help during treatment for hoarding.

Treatment for Hoarding Disorder

Compulsive hoarding can be treated, and positive results can be achieved especially when a person cooperates with the outlined treatment plan. Hoarding treatment usually involves medication along with counseling or therapy. With medication alone, hoarding symptoms were reduced by 28–70% in two study groups. Treatment of any co-occurring disorders, such as depression and anxiety, can help to reduce the severity of these conditions and facilitate healthy coping mechanisms.

Different forms of psychotherapy and education can have positive effects on how a person struggling with hoarding views their emotions and environment as it relates to their behavior. Common forms of hoarding disorder treatment may include:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy: Helps an individual change negative emotions and thinking patterns as a way of reducing negative behavior
- Skills therapy: Helps an individual learn vital skills such as decision making and organization to better cope with the demands of daily life
- Motivational interviewing: Provides motivation to encourage changes in hoarding behavior by making clear connections between an individual's values and goals and how to change behavior that works against those goals
- Support groups: Groups that meet on a regular basis made up of other people struggling with the same disorder; this shame-free environment is conducive to structured learning and is goal-oriented

Whatever method of treatment is advised, it is important to remember that self-motivation is a key aspect of success rates. If well-intentioned family members or friends forcefully clean out a house or get rid of possessions without the person's permission, these actions almost always backfire. Trust can be lost and hoarding behavior will continue. Remember to respect the person and show a sympathetic attitude that encourages safety and well-being.

**AWE'RE GOING TO LOSE GEORGIA
IF WE DON'T LOCK UP PEOPLE
WHO SHOPLIFT BABY FORMULA**
by
Nathalie Graham
The Stranger (December 8, 2020)

That's the argument Seattle Council-member Alex Pedersen is using against a proposal to offer an affirmative defense for misdemeanors committed due to poverty and behavioral illness.

The Seattle City Council just held its first Public Safety and Human Services committee meeting on a proposal to create an additional defense for people who commit misdemeanors because of poverty. The defense would also apply to people who commit misdemeanors while experiencing behavioral health or substance use disorder symptoms.

If codified in the Seattle Municipal Code, the defense would allow judges and juries to dismiss misdemeanor charges if a person committed the crime while trying to satisfy "a basic need." The proposal was born out of the defund movement and was catalyzed by Decriminalize Seattle.

Today's conversation on the proposal was mostly introductory and drenched in legalese. The Seattle City Attorney's office and the King County Department of Public Defense (DPD) went back and forth about how broad the defense should be, and about whether the burden of proof should be placed on the defendant or the prosecutor.

While the technical legal conversation was a bit dry, the public comment was filled with fiery testimonies, and Council-member Alex Pedersen seemed determined to nip this shit in the bud. The council is in for a

lot of debate as this proposal moves through the process toward becoming legislation.

Pedersen, who isn't even officially on the committee but who filled in for Council-member Kshama Sawant as an alternate, expressed certainty that Seattle would become a national embarrassment if the council ultimately passes the proposal. If the courts give people caught shoplifting baby formula an opportunity to explain the circumstances around their crime instead of throwing them directly into jail, then the Democrats will lose the Senate races in Georgia, he basically argued.

Pedersen wants the council to slow down on modifications to the criminal legal system. Look at all the reforms we just passed for policing, Pedersen said, referencing cuts to the Seattle Police Department budget, investments in community policing, and the funding for the participatory budgeting process.

Groups for and against the proposal mobilized for public comment this morning, but the majority of the comments came from the opposition. Members of the business community called this a "piecemeal approach that leads to bad policy" and a "get-out-of-jail-free card."

Tiffani McCoy, the lead organizer with Real Change, spoke in favor of the proposal. She said the "sweeping, emotionally-charged claims" from critics were "simply fear-mongering."

Committee Chair Lisa Herbold, who sponsored the proposal, chastised Pedersen for spreading a "false narrative." Herbold explained that the proposal the committee was discussing would not decriminalize certain crimes. In fact, it wouldn't be much different from what the City Attorney's office does currently, she said.

Pete Holmes, the City Attorney, said in a letter to the council that his office already directs prosecutors not to put people in jail for crimes of survival. The council's policy, however, would codify those directives, which can change depending on who leads the City Attorney's office.

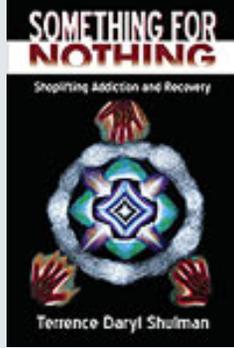
The proposal creates an "affirmative defense" for crimes committed out of basic need. Affirmative defenses require defendants to admit they committed a crime but allow them to explain the circumstances of the crime. Then, the judge and jury decide whether or not to throw out the case based on what they hear. Courts already recognize affirmative defenses such as duress or the common law defense of necessity, where people commit crimes to avoid injury, death, or greater harm. Crimes committed out of poverty or mental health don't really fit into those pre-existing categories.

"We want jurors to be able to hear the full story," Anita Khandelwal, Director of King County Department of Public Defense, said about the council's proposal. "When every member of our community has enough to eat and is sheltered from the elements we will applaud the irrelevance of this law and not need to use the defense at all."

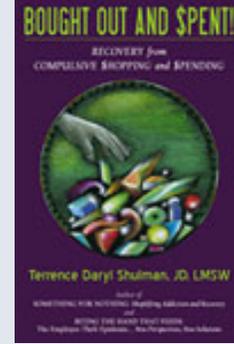
John Schochet, an attorney with the City Attorney's office, disagreed. Should a poverty defense cover all types of misdemeanors? Schochet and the City Attorney think no. Khandelwal and the DPD think yes because a jury will ultimately determine whether a defense is valid. Should the defendant or the city have to prove that the defendant committed a crime because they were poor or experiencing mental health issues in these cases? Schochet said the defendant should. Khandelwal said the city should.

Pedersen was upset that the council was asking "how" to implement this policy and not "whether" to implement the policy. Councilmember Andrew Lewis said that council members shouldn't "prejudge" a policy this early in the process.

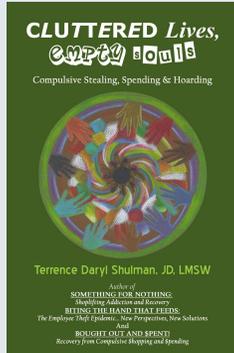
Ultimately, nothing changed from the committee meeting today. More committee meetings on the policy will happen in January.



Consider highlighting products or services, sales or promotions, personal bios, and more. Use images that complement your message, and link your images to supporting resources.



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SPOTLIGHTS

OTHER ASSOCIATES ARE DOING GREAT WORK, TOO!

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

**Call Now
for a
FREE
CONSULTATION!**

248-358-8508

All Calls Are Confidential

OFFER GOOD FOR A LIMITED TIME!

The Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft, Spending and Hoarding

terrenceshulman@theshulmancenter.com

www.theshulmancenter.com

Shoplifting

Overspending

Hoarding

Employee Theft

Contact Us