

Sec. 150-029. - Political and election sign regulations.

(A) *Permitted signs.*

- (1) Each residential property, business property or establishment, and church site shall be permitted to display one sign for each candidate or ballot issue.
- (2) Signs may also be affixed to, or carried in motor vehicles, so long as the attachment and placement of such signs does not constitute a hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare.
- (3) The carrying of signs and placards on all properties within the City, including City swales, medians, sidewalks, streets, alleys, bike paths or other public rights-of-way, shall also be permitted so long as such activities are conducted in a manner that does not create a hazard to the public health, safety or welfare and is not otherwise prohibited by state statute or county or municipal ordinance.
- (4) In the case of vacant land or an unoccupied commercial location, a written statement of permission from the owner of such property for the display of any political or election signs is required to be submitted to the City prior to the utilization of such location. In addition, the statement shall also authorize the City to remove said signs if they are not displayed properly or removed in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- (5) Signs for political candidates in City Council elections may be placed at any time following the candidate's qualification for office.

(B) *Prohibited signs.*

- (1) No political or election signs may be placed or located on the swales, medians, sidewalks, streets, alleys, bike paths or other public rights-of-way of the City. All signs placed in any of the aforesaid locations may be forthwith removed by authorized City representatives without any advance warning or notice to any person.
- (2) No political or election signs may be pasted, glued, painted, affixed, tacked, nailed or otherwise attached to any City building or structure, utility pole, tree, traffic control device, bridge, guardrail, public traffic or location sign, or other property of the City.
- (3) No political or election signs shall be illuminated or prepared with light reflecting paints.

(C) *Sizes of signs and locations.*

- (1) Signs shall be placed or located in such a manner as to avoid the creation of any hazards for vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- (2) Outside signs located in permitted areas shall not exceed eight square feet in size and shall be placed within the property side of the sidewalk, if one exists. In areas without sidewalks, signs must be placed at least 16 feet from the edge of the street pavement. In all instances, outside signs shall be placed in locations that will eliminate the possibility of infringement on any City right-of-way.
- (3) However, outside signs located in permitted areas such as vacant land, unoccupied commercial properties, parking lots, or other privately owned open space shall not exceed 16 square feet in size, shall be placed within the property side of the sidewalk, if one exists, and shall be placed and erected in a safe and appropriate manner. In areas without sidewalks, signs must be placed at least 16 feet from the edge of the street pavement. In all instances, outside signs shall be placed in locations that will eliminate the possibility of infringement on any City right-of-way.
- (4) Inside signs located in permitted areas shall not exceed six square feet in size and shall be located and secured in a manner that avoids the creation of any hazards to the premises or adjacent properties.
- (5) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the existing City Code provisions and requirements for the establishment of office signage and the usage of special event signage shall continue to be regulated in accordance with the applicable provisions of Code § 150-030.

(D) *Violations and enforcement.*

- (1) Each political candidate or sponsoring organization is responsible for each sign posted or displayed on behalf of said candidate or ballot issue regardless of who may have authorized or actually performed the act of posting and display.
- (2) Each and every sign posted or displayed on behalf of any candidate or ballot issue shall be removed within ten calendar days following the determination of the election for which the candidate's or ballot issues' signs was posted and displayed.
- (3) As a prerequisite to the posting or display of political or election signs, each candidate or sponsoring organization shall be required to post a \$200.00 cash bond with the City Code Enforcement Department as minimum security for the timely removal of all signs.
- (4) If any political or election signs posted or displayed in compliance with this section remain following the expiration of the aforesaid removal period, or any political or election signs are posted or displayed in non-compliance with this section, the \$200.00 cash bond posted with the City shall be forfeited to the City to help defray the cost of the removal of the violative signs.
- (5) In addition, if any signs remain after the aforesaid removal period, the City may enforce the provisions of this section against the candidate or the sponsoring organization of any ballot issue through the implementation of the City Code Enforcement or Supplemental Code Enforcement Citation System procedures.
- (6) By this reference, the City is authorized to include the violation of the provisions of this section as an offense to be enforced by the supplemental Code Enforcement Citation System. The minimum fine to be imposed for the removal of any signs by the City shall be \$50.00 for each sign removed.
- (7) If all political or election signs of any candidate or sponsoring organization are timely and properly removed following the determination of the election for which the signs were posted and displayed, the City shall return the \$200.00 cash bond posted with the City to the appropriate candidate or sponsoring organization.

(Ord. 869-2000, passed 1-8-01; amend. Ord. 956-07, passed 6-11-07)