

Article VII. Political Campaign Signs in Residential Zones.

Sec. 30-52. Political campaign signs--Residential zones.

(a) Definitions.

Political campaign signs shall mean any sign urging the election or defeat of any candidate seeking any political office, or urging the passage or defeat of any ballot measure.

Sign shall mean any bill, poster, placard, painting, sign or similar object in any form which contains printed or written words, symbols, or pictures, or any combination thereof. Such signs are temporary signs.

(b) Regulation. Political campaign signs in residentially zoned property in the city, with the exception of property listed in paragraph (c) below, shall not exceed sixteen square feet in area; the maximum on any single parcel shall not exceed an aggregate of eighty square feet per candidate or measure.

All such signs shall be removed within three days after the election. The candidate or campaign committee or property owner shall remove or cause the signs to be removed from the residential property.

No temporary sign erected on private property shall be erected or placed at the intersection of any street or within the segment created by drawing an imaginary line between points fifty feet back from where the curb lines of the intersection quadrant intersect. (See Exhibit A.)

(c) This article does not apply to political signs placed on property adjacent to the following major arterial streets: Rosecrans Avenue, Alondra Boulevard, Downey Avenue, Paramount Boulevard, Garfield Avenue, Gardendale Street, 70th Street, Compton Boulevard and Orange Avenue.

(d) Legislative findings. The city council finds as follows:

(1) Aside from this section, political temporary signs are not regulated by this article, and are therefore not subject to design or placement standards. The lack of regulation of temporary signs has in the past led to visual clutter within the community and aesthetic blight. At times, temporary signs pose traffic safety hazards.

(2) Property and facilities located within the residential zones are not by designation a forum for communication by the general public, and the council wishes to preserve residential areas for their intended purposes, by permitting only temporary signs.

(Ord. Nos. 606, 641)

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Section 30-54. Legislative Findings.

The City Council of the City of Paramount does hereby find, determine and declare that:

- (a) This section is enacted to encourage the most appropriate use of public land and structures; to conserve and stabilize the value of property; to lessen congestion on streets; to protect, enhance and improve the esthetic values of the City of Paramount and to promote health, safety and the general welfare of its citizens;
- (b) The posting, display or affixing of signs on buildings, structures and vegetation located on public property, including power poles, traffic signs, and lamp posts, or trees, shrubbery and other vegetation, constitutes clutter, and a visual and esthetic blight. Such blight reduces the quality of the environment, including property values, of the community;
- (c) The posting, display or affixing of signs on buildings, structures and vegetation or growth located on, over or across public property, including power poles, traffic signs, lamp posts, trees, shrubbery and other vegetation presents a potential traffic safety hazard to users of public streets, rights-of way, and sidewalks;
- (d) For the reasons stated in Sections 30-54b and 30-54c, posting displaying or affixing signs on public right of way is hereby declared a public nuisance; and
- (e) City owned bulletin boards, marquees, display cases, stanchions and banner poles present a limited number of spaces in which to make official announcements of City sponsored events or activities; to permit the use of such bulletin boards, marquees, display cases, stanchions and banner poles for purposes other than such official announcements would greatly reduce the opportunities for the City government to communicate with its citizenry regarding governmental functions or activities. (Ord. No. 811)

Section 30-55. Temporary Signs.

Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter and Chapter 44, the Zoning Ordinance, the placement or existence of temporary signs on property within the City of Paramount is prohibited. (Ord. No. 811)

Section 30-56. Posting of Signs, Public Property.

- (a) No person may paint, mark or write on, or post or otherwise affix any sign to or upon any tree, shrub, tree stake or guard, or upon any public building or structure, or upon any building or structure located upon public property or in, over or across the public right-of-way.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
  - (1) Sign shall mean any device for visual communication, including any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display, illustration or insignia, which is used for any purpose, except for the following:
    - a. Announcements or advertisements by the City for City sponsored meetings, classes, activities, services or events;
    - b. Announcements or advertisements of City or another public entity's governmental acts or proposed acts, including agendas of public meetings; and
    - c. Directories of City government or other governmental organizations and entities.

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- (2) Building or structure shall be defined as is set forth in Chapter 10, of the Paramount Municipal Code.
- (c) This section shall not apply to:
  - (1) Official city signs, traffic signs, and City-owned directional signs to points of particular public interest, or
  - (2) Signs or notices posted or displayed by a public utility if required by the California Public Utilities Commission; and
  - (3) Other signs or notices ordered posted by a court of competent jurisdiction, or required to be displayed or posted by statute. (Ord. No. 811)

#### Section 30-57. Removal.

- (a) Signs posted or otherwise affixed in violation of this Chapter are a public nuisance and may be removed by the City Manager or his authorized designee.
- (b) Prior to such removal, the owner of the sign, when same can be ascertained, shall be notified in writing to remove such sign within five days of mailing of notice. Prior to the expiration of said five-day time period, the owner of the sign may appeal, in writing, objecting to its removal. If the name and mailing address or telephone number of the owner of the sign is not written on the sign or sign-stake, removal may then be enforced.
- (c) Said appeal shall be directed to the City Manager stating the grounds for objection to the removal of the temporary sign. The City Manager, or his authorized designee, shall hear the appeal within five days after receipt of the appeal. The decision of the City Manager or his designee shall be final.
- (d) Signs removed by the City shall be taken to the City Maintenance Yard. The City shall immediately attempt to notify the owner of the sign, if such can reasonably be ascertained. In cases where a sign contains only the name of a person, organization, firm, political candidate, or other identifiable entity, the City may also make a reasonable attempt to notify such person, organization, firm, political candidate or other identifiable entity of the fact of removal, the location of the sign, and the procedure for retrieving the sign. The City shall not be liable for damage to signs which occurred due to their placement on public right of way or their removal, transportation or storage. (Ord. No. 811)

#### Section 30-58. Retrieval of Signs.

Any sign owner desiring to retrieve a sign removed by the City may do so upon the payment of an administrative fine of Two Dollars (\$2.00) for each sign smaller than nine square feet total, and an administrative fine of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each sign larger than nine square feet. In lieu of paying such administrative fine, such persons may retrieve a sign upon signing a Promise to Appear upon citation issued for violation of this section. If the sign owner wishes to contest the fact that a sign was placed in violation of this section, prior to paying the fine or signing the citation, he shall have the right to an administrative hearing before the City Manager. If the City Manager finds that the sign was lawfully posted, he shall return the sign without any administrative penalty or the issuance of a citation. (Ord. No. 811)

Section 30-59. Destruction of Signs.

Any temporary sign removed by the City may be considered abandoned if it is not retrieved within seven calendar days after the date of such removal, or the removal of the sign is not appealed within five days following written notice, and may be disposed of by the City without liability therefore to any person. (Ord. No. 811)

(Ord. Nos. 606, 641, 811)