



PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA REPORT

VI.4

MEETING DATE: JULY 11, 2011

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: ENFORCEMENT OF PORTABLE AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS

DATE: JUNE 30, 2011

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: WILLA BOUWENS-KILLEEN, AICP
 CHIEF OF CODE ENFORCEMENT
 (714) 754-5153 (wbkilleen@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us)

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding Code regulations for political and portable signs and the City's enforcement actions.

Zoning Code

The City's Zoning Code permits two types of temporary signs to be installed in public right-of-ways and, in the case of political campaign signs, on private property, are subject to the following requirements:

<i>Political versus Portable Signs</i>		
	Political	Portable
<i>Size and height</i>	5 sq.ft. in area; 3' high	Same
<i>Public property</i>	Landscaped parkways 6 a.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday only, but not next to public facilities	Landscaped parkways 6 a.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday only, but not next to public facilities
<i>Private property</i>	Permitted	Prohibited
<i>Maximum number</i>	10 per owner/agent on landscaped parkways; no maximum on private properties	10 per owner/agent on landscaped parkways
<i>Statement/permit required</i>	Yes	No
<i>Identification on signs</i>	Required	Required
<i>When permitted</i>	During election season; to be removed within 10 days after the election	Throughout the year
<i>Cost for sign retrieval</i>	\$15 per sign	\$15 per sign

Enforcement Activity

Signs that do not comply with these requirements are removed by staff proactively, where possible.

Code Enforcement staff has enforced the political campaign sign regulations in the following manner:

- For preceding election seasons and to date, Code Enforcement does not track to ensure that no more than 10 political signs are installed in the parkway by any one candidate or entity.
- Code Enforcement does retrieve signs located in the public parkway to the fullest extent possible.
- Code does have a procedure to abate the cost of recovery; however, Code Enforcement did not avail themselves of this procedure in 2010 and it appears we have never done so in the past. A charge of \$15 per sign is applied in order for these signs to be returned to the owner. Although all candidates that had signed the required statement were notified of signs retrieved by staff, very few candidates picked up their signs since, in many cases, the cost exceeded the original purchase price of the signs.
- Other than the \$15 charge per sign, Code Enforcement has historically not issued citations to candidates for political campaign signs in the public right-of-way outside of approved time periods.

Code allows political campaign signs to be posted on private property until ten days following the election. Therefore, Code Enforcement does not remove political campaign signs on private property until that time.


WILLA BOUWENS-KILLEEN, AICP
Chief of Code Enforcement


CLAIRE FLYNN, AICP
Acting Asst. Development Services Director

Distribution: Interim Development Services Director
Deputy City Attorney
City Engineer
Fire Protection Analyst
Staff (4)
File (2)