

POLITICAL SIGNS

The following information is presented as clarification of City rules on placement of Political Signs:

1) Placement on Residential Properties – Signs up to 6 square feet in size can be placed on residential properties anytime. (GMC 18.58.030 Paragraph B.1.2.3 & C.1. – Attached). Beginning January 21, 2017, signs 10 square feet in size can be placed on residential properties.

2) Public Right-of-Way – Beginning January 21, 2017, signs up to 12 square feet can be placed on the public right-of-way, subject to conditions in Resolution Number 4761 Section 8.2.(Time Period); 3.(Locations); 4.(Physical Requirements – Attached).

3) Commercial Properties – The Municipal Code has no exemption from permit requirements for political signs on commercial properties. However the City Clerk's Office has advised all candidates that, beginning January 21, 2017, signs up to 32 square feet in size can be placed on commercial/industrial properties without obtaining a permit. Placement of any signs on commercial/industrial properties prior to January 21, 2017 would require a temporary banner permit. Those permits can be obtained from the Community Development Department at a cost of \$34.00 per property.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk at (310) 217-9566.

RESOLUTION NO. 4761**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR
THE DISPLAY OF SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Gardena, California, does hereby resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. SCOPE

This Resolution states the policies of the Gardena City Council regarding use of Public Property, as defined herein, for the display of signs, as defined herein, by private parties and public entities other than the City of Gardena.

SECTION 2. PROPRIETARY CAPACITY; CHANGES TO POLICY

In adopting this policy, the City Council acts in its proprietary capacity as to Public Property within the City. This Policy Statement may be amended by resolution at a regular public meeting of the City Council.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the following meanings:

“Public property” means all lands and other property owned by the City of Gardena, all lands and other property over which the City holds the present right to possession and / or control (even if only temporarily) and all other lands which have the legal status of public right of way.

“Sign” means any device, fixture, placard or structure, including its component parts, which draws attention to an object, product, place, activity, opinion, person, institution, organization, or place of business, or which identifies or promotes the interests of any

person, and which is to be viewed from any public street, road, highway, right-of-way or parking area. The following are not within the definition of "sign" for the purposes of this Policy:

Mass transit signage: Advertisements or banners mounted on trains or duly licensed mass transit vehicles that legally pass over or through the City's Public Property;

Newsracks and newsstands located on Public Property.

"Traditional public forum areas" means the surfaces of City-owned streets and sidewalks that are part of the pedestrian circulation system of the City (along with any public area between the sidewalk and the street or adjacent private property), City-owned parks, and the curtilage of City Hall.

SECTION 4. INTENT AS TO PUBLIC FORUM

The City declares its intent that all Public Property in the City shall not function as a designated public forum, unless some specific portion of Public Property is designated herein as a public forum of one particular type; in such case, the declaration as to public forum type shall apply strictly and only to the specified area and the specified time period, if any.

SECTION 5. SIGNS MUST BE PERMITTED OR EXEMPTED

No sign may be displayed on Public Property, unless a Public Property Sign Permit therefore has first been issued, or the subject sign is expressly exempted from the Public Property Sign Permit requirement by this Policy Resolution or another applicable Policy Resolution.

All Public Property Sign Permits must be consistent with the policies stated herein. Any sign posted on Public Property within the City, contrary to the policies stated herein, is a

nuisance and a trespass, and may be summarily removed by the City.

SECTION 6. TEMPORARY POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, LABOR PROTEST AND OTHER NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS IN TRADITIONAL PUBLIC FORUM AREAS

A person may display noncommercial message signs in Traditional Public Forum Areas without first obtaining a Public Property Sign Permit, provided that the sign display on Public Property conforms to all of the following:

1. The sign must be personally held by a person, or personally attended by one or more persons. "Personally attended" means that a person is physically present within five feet of the sign at all times.
2. The sign may be displayed only during the time period of sunrise to sunset.
3. The maximum aggregate size of all signs held by a single person is twelve (12) square feet.
4. The maximum size of any one sign which is personally attended by two or more persons is twenty-four (24) square feet.
5. The displayed sign may not be inflated or inflatable or activated by moving air or gas.
6. In order to serve the City's interests in traffic flow and safety, persons displaying signs under this section may not stand in any vehicular traffic lane when a roadway is open for use by vehicles, and persons displaying signs on public sidewalks must give at least five feet width clearance for pedestrians to pass by.

SECTION 7. PUBLIC PROPERTY SIGN PERMITS; APPLICATION FORMS AND PROCEDURES

The Community Development Director shall prepare and make available to the public a form for Application for a Public Property Sign Permit, which shall, when fully approved, constitute a permit and indicate the City's consent, in its proprietary capacity, for placement of a sign. The applicant for the Public Property Sign Permit must be the same person or entity who is to be the owner of the sign. The processing fee for each

application, which shall not be refundable even if the application is denied, shall be the same as the fee for a sign permit under Gardena Municipal Code Chapter 18.58 (the "Sign Ordinance"). The application form shall require the applicant to indicate that he or she shall abide by City policy, as well as any special terms or conditions which may be stated on the Public Property Sign Permit.

Any Public Property Sign Permit issued in error may be summarily revoked by any officer of the City, by simply informing the applicant of the nature of the error in issuance; any applicant whose permit is revoked as issued in error may, at any time thereafter, submit a new permit application which cures any deficiencies in the original application. The application fee shall apply separately to each new application. Applications which fully comply with the terms and conditions of this Policy Statement shall be duly issued. Applications which are denied, or permits which are revoked or suspended, may be appealed in the same manner as denials of sign permits, as described in the Sign Ordinance.

SECTION 8. TEMPORARY POLITICAL AND OTHER NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY DURING CAMPAIGN PERIODS

1. INTENT AS TO PUBLIC FORUM

In this section only, the City's intent is to designate a public forum which is available only at limited times and places for sign expression on political and other noncommercial topics, absolutely without favoritism as to any speaker, topic or point of view. Signs which conform to the rules of this section are not subject to any permitting requirement.

2. TIME PERIOD

The signs allowable under this section may be displayed only during the period of time 45 days preceding and 10 days following a general, special or primary election. All political and other noncommercial message signs must be removed from Public

Property, by the person placing such sign, not more than 10 days after such election.

3. LOCATIONS

This section allows the display of signs expressing political or other noncommercial messages. The signs allowable under this section may be placed in the public right-of-way adjacent to a public street in commercially or industrially zoned areas or in residentially zoned areas along prime or major arterials as shown in the circulation element of the City's General Plan.

4. PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Signs which are allowable under this section may not exceed twelve (12) square feet in display area, must be made of materials and construction methods to withstand normal weather conditions for the period of display, and mounted in such a manner that they will not be blown away or dislodged by normal weather and climate conditions for the area. Each sign must be mounted at least one (1) foot above grade, and no higher than three (3) feet above the grade. Signs may not be specially illuminated. No sign allowable under this section may be mounted or displayed in such a manner as to obscure the visibility of another sign previously placed on display.

No sign shall be:

- attached to any utility pole, bench, pole or structure supporting a traffic control sign or device, or hydrant; or
- placed on any tree or shrub by any nail, tack, spike or other method which could cause physical harm to the tree or shrub; or
- placed in such a manner as to obstruct the public use of the sidewalk or interfere with the visibility of persons operating motor vehicles or constitute a hazard to persons using the public road right-of-way; or
- placed in the roadway or on the sidewalk.

SECTION 9. REMOVAL OF NONCONFORMING SIGNS

Signs which do not conform to this Policy or any permit issued under this Policy may be summarily removed by the City upon discovery of the nonconformance. Alternatively, when the owner of the sign is known, the City may contact the owner and request that it be removed or brought into compliance with this Policy. Removed signs will be stored by the City for a maximum of fifteen (15) days. The City will destroy or discard signs not claimed within the storage period. City will attempt to notify sign owners prior to destroying or discarding signs if owner identification and contact information is known to the City.

SECTION 10. SIGNAGE ASSOCIATED WITH USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

When the City allows a special event in accordance with Section 5.04.278 of the Gardena Municipal Code, sponsored by a private entity, the City shall state only the time, place, manner and quantity of signage allowed, and leave decisions as to which signs may be displayed as part of the event to the private party sponsor.

When the City sponsors or co-sponsors a special event, public property may be used to promote and identify the special event, but co-sponsors, if any, shall be limited to commercial entities and commercial sign messages only.

SECTION 11. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the City Council.

SECTION 12. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution; shall cause the same to be entered in the Book of Resolutions of the City of Gardena; and shall make a record of the passage and adoption thereof in the records of the proceedings of the City Council of said City in the minutes of the meeting at which the same was passed and adopted.

Passed, approved and adopted this 8th day of July 2003.

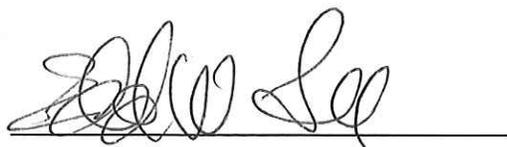


TERRENCE S. TERAUCHI, Mayor
City of Gardena, California

ATTEST:


RACHEL C. JOHNSON, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


EDWARD W. LEE, City Attorney

(Resolution No. 4761 signature page)

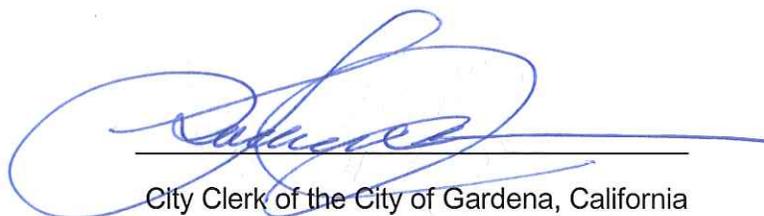
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS:
CITY OF GARDENA)

I, **RACHEL C. JOHNSON**, City Clerk of the City of Gardena, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City is five; that the foregoing Resolution, being Resolution **No. 4761** was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City of Gardena, approved and signed by the Mayor of said City, and attested by the City Clerk, all at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the **8th** day of **July 2003** and that the same was so passed and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MAYOR TERAUCHI, COUNCILMEMBERS BRADFORD, IKEJIRI,
MEDRANO JR. AND TANAKA

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE



City Clerk of the City of Gardena, California

(SEAL)

18.58.030 Signs allowed without permits.

The signs described in this section are not subject to the permit requirement of section 18.58.070, and may be displayed in all zones of the City, subject to the limitations set forth in this section. All signs allowable under this section shall not be illuminated.

A. Construction signs which meet these requirements: maximum number per project under construction: one; maximum area: 32 square feet; maximum height (if free standing): 10 feet; minimum setback from property line: five feet; maximum display time: from the time a grading or building permit is issued and remains valid and unexpired, until the construction project is completed or abandoned.

B. Real estate signs, subject to the following:

1. On single family residential properties and other single residential uses: maximum number per parcel: one; maximum size: six square feet; maximum height (if freestanding) five feet; setback from property line (if freestanding): at least five feet;
2. On multiple-family dwellings and subdivisions of fewer than five lots or units: maximum number per parcel or lot: one; maximum size: twenty square feet; maximum height if freestanding: ten feet; setback from property line (if freestanding): five feet; maximum display time: until thirty days after the sale, rental or lease of all the units advertised;
3. In subdivisions of five or more lots or units, and on commercial and industrial properties: maximum number per parcel or lot: one; maximum size: thirty two square feet; maximum height if freestanding: ten feet; minimum setback from the property line (if freestanding): five feet; maximum display time: not more than thirty days after all the units have been sold, rented or leased.

C. Certain other signs on residential uses: in lieu of all or part of real estate signage allowable under 18.58.030.B, any legal residential use may display:

1. Noncommercial message signs (including but not limited to political and religious messages), subject to: allowable types: wall, window, projecting, freestanding, banner; number: not limited; cumulative maximum area: as determined under 18.58.030.B (however, during the period of time beginning 45 days before a general or special election and continuing until three days after such election, the cumulative total area may be increased by four square feet); number: not limited; maximum height if freestanding: five feet; minimum setback from property line: five feet.
2. Also, in lieu of part or all of the allowable real estate and noncommercial message signs, residential uses may display temporary signs pertaining to properly permitted garage sales, yard sales, moving sales, etc., subject to: location - only on the parcel where the sale is to be conducted; display time: sunrise to sunset on the day the sale is conducted.
3. Identification signs.
4. This subsection does not authorize or allow signs for home or hobby occupations, or any commercial messages other than real estate and garage sales, etc.

D. Governmental signs not exceeding two square feet in area, unless another body of law requires a larger size, in which case the minimum size under such law shall control;

E. Warning signs not exceeding two square feet in area;

F. Legally required signs. (Ord. 1638 § 2, 2003; Urg. Ord. 1637 § 2, 2003; Urg. Ord. 1635, 2003; Urg. Ord. 1632, 2003; prior code § 10-3.2903)