From: Shannon Tuch <stuch@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 9/22/2017 9:59:41 AM
To: Gwen Wisler
Cc: Cecil Bothwell, Jaime Matthews, Adrian Vasallo, Andrew Fletcher, Dee Williams, Esther Manheimer, Jan Kubiniec, Jeremy Goldstein, Jonathan Glover, Jonathan Wainscott, Kim Roney, Ramsey Martin, Pratik Bhakta, Rich Lee, Sheneika Smith, Vijay Kapoor, Gary Jackson, Robin Currin, Todd Okolichany
Subject: Re: Political Signs
Attachments: PoliticalSigns_2017.docx

â€‹Dear candidates -Â

City staff does pull signs that are displayed improperly or otherwise do not comply with city ordinances.Â We do, however, â€‹have only two zoning enforcement officers responsible for this along with a great many number of other responsibilities - and the city has hundreds of miles of road.Â We do not keep records of how much time is spent on this task as it is most commonly performed while investigating other complaints or performing site visits. Â

Please help us make sure the regulations for political signs are followed.Â I am attaching a copy of the letter that was sent to all candidates and their campaign managers at the beginning of the season.Â

Thank you - Â

Shannon Tuch, Principal Planner/Zoning Administrator
Planning & Urban Design Department
City of Asheville
828.259.5817
stuch@ashevillenc.gov

On Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 8:42 PM, Gwen Wisler <gwen@gwenwisler.com> wrote:

Does the City maintain records of the time spent removing illegal signage? I would be interested in that information including the campaigns that are causing the increased work.Â
How does the City deal with the illegally placed signs? I would suggest the City destroy the Illegally placed signs rather than return the signs to the campaign -- it might be a disincentive. Hopefully the City is already doing this.
Best,
Gwen

gwen@gwenwisler.com

On Sep 21, 2017, at 7:55 PM, Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> wrote:

I hope City crews will have time to remove the signs placed illegally in the right of way all around town.
-c

"We all place ourselves in danger to one extent or another when we stand up.
But we place our childrenÂ and grandchildren in evenÂ greater danger when weÂ donâ€™t.â€

Cecil Bothwell
cecil@braveulysses.com
cecilbothwell.com
828-713-8840
POB 1877
Asheville 28802

On Sep 21, 2017, at 12:00 PM, Jaime Matthews <JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,
Please see information below as a reminder about the placement of political signs, if you have questions/concerns about signs, please contact the zoning administrator, Shannon Tuch, stuch@ashevillenc.gov, 828-259-5817.Â

Dear Candidates:

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Please be aware of the Cityâ€™s regulations regarding the display of political signs.Â Per Sec. 7-13-2(d)(6) of the ***Unified Development Ordinance***, political signs are exempt from permitting and allowed in all zoning districts provided they can conform to the following requirements:Â

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- ℜ•ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂCandidate (or issue) must be on a ballot.
- ℜ•ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂSigns may not exceed **eight square feet per face**, two faces per sign.
- ℜ•ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂSigns must be placed on private property and may not be placed in a **city** right-of-way (To assist in avoiding sign placement in a right-of-way it is recommended that signs be placed behind other features such as utility poles, street signs, sidewalks, stop signs, or street lights which typically identify the edge of a right-of-way).Â
- ℜ•ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂSigns may not appear more than 30 days prior to the first day of polling for the primary, or 45 days before the first day of polling for the general run-off or referendum â€" see specific dates below (this does not apply to the use of billboards, which are not limited by this standard).
- ℜ•ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂSigns must be removed within five days of the election â€" candidates and property owners are equally responsible for the removal of all political signs.

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With the respect to the upcoming 2017 election, the Primary Election date is **Tuesday, October 10, 2017** with early voting beginning on **September 21, 2017.Â** 30 days prior to the first day of polling for the primary election would be **August 22, 2017.Â This is the first day that political signs may be posted.Â Â Â**

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The upcoming General Election date is **Tuesday, November 7, 2017** with early voting beginning **October 19, 2017.Â** Signs belonging to candidates that move on from the Primary election to the General election will be permitted to remain posted until **November 12, 2017** (five days after the General election).Â Â

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In addition to signs located in a city right-of-way, the following signs are also prohibited in all zoning districts:

- Animated or Flashing
- Optical Illusion
- Portable or Moveable
- Roof
- Sandwich Board/A-frame

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- Traffic Look-Alike
- Vehicle signs (when parked off-site in high visibility areas for extended periods of time)
- Wind - including balloons, streamers, and pennants
- Signs on roadside appurtenances, including benches, bus stop shelters, utility poles, trees, parking meters, trash cans, etc.

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Please advise your staff and volunteers of the cityâ€™s signage regulations.Â If you have further questions regarding signage, please do not hesitate to contact the city Zoning Administrator at 828-259-5817.Â The City thanks you in advance for your cooperation with the sign regulations and sign placement.

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Jaime Matthews
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Asheville
Email:Â jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov
Office:Â 828-232-4541
Cell: 828-713-3090