

## **ORDINANCE NO. 1203**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO SIGNS; AMENDING CHAPTER 17.80.110 OF THE GIG HARBOR MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH SIZE AND DURATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY EVENT SIGNAGE IN THE C-1 DISTRICT/SIGN AREA 2; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1195; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

---

WHEREAS, Section 17.80.110 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code presently limits temporary event signs to one 20-square foot banner with a duration of no longer than 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the existing allowance for temporary signage is not adequate or appropriate for the C-1 zoning district which is also in Sign Area 2 due to the varying sizes of buildings in this area, from 1,093 square feet to 14,698 square feet; and

WHEREAS, the C-1 Zoning District/Sign Area 2 is located at the northwest entrance to downtown Gig Harbor and the C-1 zoning district is our most intense commercial zoning in the view basin; and

WHEREAS, for temporary event signage in the C-1 zoning district which is also in Sign Area 2, the City desires to base the size of temporary event signage on the size of the building façade so that size of the temporary sign is proportionate to the size of the building, with some limitations; and

WHEREAS, given that the C-1 Zoning District/Sign Area 2 area serves as the northwest entrance to downtown Gig Harbor, the City feels that private temporary light pole signs consistent with the City's public works standards are appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to change the term "business sign" to "event sign" throughout the temporary sign code provisions to acknowledge that not all tenants or uses are "businesses" and the city's past practices have allowed temporary signs for all uses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed development regulations amendments were forwarded to the Washington State Department of Commerce on July 15, 2010, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106; and

WHEREAS, the City's SEPA Responsible Official issued a threshold Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for this Ordinance on October 27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Gig Harbor City Council considered the Ordinance at first reading and public hearing on November 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2010, the City Council held a second reading during a regular City Council meeting; Now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Repeal. Ordinance No. 1195 adopted on July 26, 2010 by the Gig Harbor City Council is hereby repealed.

Section 2. Section 17.80.110 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby amended, to read as follows:

**17.80.110 Temporary signs.**

Except for ~~business~~ signs described under subsections (A) and (B) of this section and balloon signs described under subsection (F) of this section, no permit is required for temporary signs. Temporary signs are not allowed to continually advertise goods, services, political messages or events on a site; permanent signs shall be used for that purpose. Temporary signs located within public right-of-way shall be subject to the requirements of Chapter 12.02 GHMC.

A. Exterior ~~Business~~ Event Signs. Such signs include grand opening signs, sale signs, promotional signs, exhibitions, quitting business signs, and other nonpermanent exterior signs used ~~by businesses to advertise an event~~. Exterior ~~business event~~ signs shall be limited to 20 square feet in size. No more than one exterior ~~business event~~ sign may be displayed at any one time for any one business or tenant. Exterior ~~business event~~ signs may be displayed for no more than 60 cumulative days per calendar year ~~per business or tenant~~. A permit is required for each temporary exterior ~~business~~ sign. This subsection does not apply to exterior event signs regulated under subsection (B) of this section.

B. Exterior Event Signs in the C-1 zoning district which are also in Sign Area 2. Such signs include grand opening signs, sales signs, promotional signs, exhibition signs, quitting business signs and other nonpermanent exterior signs used to advertise an event. Exterior wall-mounted temporary event signs shall be allowed up to the greater of: (i) eight (8) percent of a building's largest wall façade provided the combined total of all temporary exterior wall-mounted event signs does not exceed 300 square feet and no one single sign exceeds 120 square feet; or (ii) 20 square feet. In addition, one banner sign not exceeding seven (7) square feet per side may be located on each light pole on private property. Such temporary signs shall not be displayed more than 10 days before the temporary event begins and must be removed upon conclusion of the

event, but in no case longer than 150 days. A temporary banner permit is required for such signs.

B. C. Real Estate (On-Premises and Off-Premises Signs).

1. Residential "For Sale," "For Rent" and "Sold" Signs. Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage not to exceed six square feet in sign area per side, placed wholly on the property for sale, and not to exceed a height of six feet. One off-premises "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign no larger than two square feet and no further from the subject house than the nearest arterial street intersection is permitted. No more than one "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign may be used at any street intersection for any one developer, broker, seller or owner. No off-premises "Sold" signs are allowed. All real estate signs shall be removed within five days of the final sale or rental.

If a development or subdivision with more than eight parcels or units has more than 25 percent of the parcels or units for sale at any one time by a single or joint developer, agent, or seller, signage shall be limited to one project identification sign, no larger than 32 square feet, at the subdivision or project entrance with a map showing available lots or units by number. Each lot or unit may have a corresponding number sign not exceeding one square foot.

2. Residential Directional "Open House" Signs. "Open House" signs are permitted only during daylight hours and when the broker/agent or seller is in attendance at the property for sale. No such sign shall exceed six square feet in sign area per side. The sign may be placed along the periphery of a public right-of-way, provided it does not interfere with traffic safety, but it may not be attached to a utility pole or traffic safety device.

3. Undeveloped Commercial and Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs. One sign per street frontage advertising undeveloped commercial property for sale or for rent is permitted while the property is actually for rent or sale. The sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area per side and six feet in height.

4. Developed Commercial and Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs. Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage not to exceed 16 square feet in sign area per side, placed wholly on the property for sale, and not to exceed a height of six feet.

C. D. Construction Signs. Sign copy shall be limited to information about a building under construction or being remodeled. Maximum duration shall be until construction is completed or one year, whichever is shorter. Maximum area shall be 32 square feet.

D. E. Campaign/Political Signs. Campaign/political signs may be posted on private property or on the planting strip between the sidewalk and the street, when such planting strip is immediately adjacent to the sign owner's property; provided, that it does not present a safety hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic. If related to an event or election, such signs shall be removed within seven days after the event or election. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner, tenant or candidate to remove

such signs as required by this section. Maximum sign area shall be 12 square feet. Maximum height shall be six feet.

E. F. Signs Advertising a Public Event. Maximum duration shall be from one month before the event to five days after the event. Because public events are allowed on a limited time basis and on sites not normally associated with the event, public event signs may be located off-premises within the city right-of-way, subject to the provisions of Chapter 12.02 GHMC, Encroachment Permits, or within the windows of buildings, subject to the building owner's approval and all other window sign requirements. Signs shall be removed by the promoters of the event, or the city will remove such signs at the promoter's expense.

F. G. Balloon Signs. Such signs include display of six or more balloons, either individually or as festoons, connected to one or more fixed objects or vehicles. Balloon sizes shall not exceed 18 inches in any dimension. Balloon signs may be displayed for no more than 60 cumulative days per calendar year. A permit is required for each balloon sign display.

~~G.~~H. Temporary window signs conforming to GHMC 17.80.020(E).

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after passage and publication of an approved summary consisting of the title.

PASSED by the Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Gig Harbor, this 13th day of December, 2010.

CITY OF GIG HARBOR

---

Mayor Charles L. Hunter

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

---

Molly M. Towslee, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Office of the City Attorney

---

Angela S. Belbeck

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 11/17/10  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 12/13/10  
PUBLISHED: 12/22/10  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/27/10  
ORDINANCE NO: 1203