

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-15

AMENDING THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 15-6-115, 116, AND 126, PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE TO REFLECT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is necessary to protect the public safety, health, and welfare of the City of Kingsville;

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the sign ordinance is in need of revision due to changes in state law regarding election signs and the revisions are for the ease of users, benefit of the public, and to add clarity between local and state regulations;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE, TEXAS:

I.

THAT Article 6: Zoning of Chapter XV, Land Usage, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Kingsville, Texas, Sections 15-6-115 through 15-6-131 shall be amended to read as follows:

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§ 15-6-115 SIGNS RESTRICTED.

(A) The size, number, characteristics, and location of signs are restricted by this article, except for political signs that are *also* governed by the Texas Election Code, more specifically Section 259.003. Signs owned by or required by governmental entities are not regulated by this article. Advertising signs (signs not on the lot occupied by the business identified or signs aimed at products sold on site) are limited to business, industrial, and agricultural districts with property having frontage on numbered U.S. and State Highways.

(B) Owner identification signs are permitted in all retail, commercial, industrial and agricultural districts (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, I-1, I-2, Ag), but in the case of freestanding signs, all signage shall be limited to a monument type signage.

(C) *Monument sign* means a sign resting on the ground immediately below it or with the bottom of the sign within 18 inches of the ground immediately below it.

(Ord. 97041, passed 12-8-97; Ord. 2012-03, passed 2-27-2012; Ord. 2013-32, §I, passed 7-22-2013)

Sec. 15-6-116. - RESIDENTIAL SIGNS PERMITTED.

No signs other than one real estate sign per street frontage (for rent or for sale) with a maximum area of ten square feet, occupant's name signs (two) with no business reference and a maximum area of three square feet shall be permitted in the R-1 Single-Family and R-2 Two-Family Districts. In the R-3 Multi-Family and R-4 General Residential Districts, all signs permitted in the R-1 District and one sign per street frontage (maximum size of 80 square feet per sign) identifying the name of apartments are permitted. No sign shall be placed within 20 feet of the point of intersection of any two right-of-way lines.

(Ord. 97041, passed 12-8-97; Ord. 2013-32, §I, passed 7-22-2013)

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§15-6-126. PERMITS.

(A) All signs and banners are required to be permitted prior to installation. See Texas Election Code Section 259.003 to determine if a political sign needs a permit.

(B) *Exempt signs.* The following signs are exempt from the permit requirements of these sign regulations. No sign, including exempt signs, may be posted within a street right-of-way without written approval from the Director of Public Works or his designee.

(1) Advertising and identifying signs located on currently licensed vehicles such as taxicabs, buses and trucks, as well as on bus benches, except for those vehicle signs prohibited under § 15-6-121;

(2) Any legal or public notice or warning required by a valid and applicable federal, state or local law, regulation or ordinance;

(3) *Noncommercial signs in all zoning districts, including but not limited to religious and social commentary signs and personal emblems.* Such signs shall be no greater than nine square feet in area within a residential zoning district or 32 square feet in a nonresidential district and may be free standing or attached flat against a wall so long as they are not painted directly on a structure. Political signs may be placed no more than 90 days prior to the election and can remain throughout the period of primary elections to the conclusion of the general election for those who are still viable political candidates. Upon the completion of the general election all political signs must be removed within ten days after said election. See Texas Election Code Section 259.003 for other political sign regulations.

(4) Holiday and seasonal lights and decorations with no commercial message;

(5) Signs advertising temporary activity on the property such as sale, rent or lease of the property; construction; grand openings; garage and yard sales; and special events and which meet the following requirements:

a. One sign shall be permitted on the property at any one time and shall be removed within 48-hours following the end of the temporary activity or event.

b. May be either installed flat against a structure or affixed in the ground as a freestanding sign.

c. In residential zoning districts, the maximum size shall be nine square feet.

d. In nonresidential zoning districts, the maximum size shall be 32 square feet.

(C) Temporary signs generally, except as otherwise permitted in this sign code, are not classified as exempt signs under § 15-6-126 of the sign code; therefore temporary signs shall:

(1) Obtain a sign permit to be valid for 30 consecutive days, and no more than two temporary sign permits shall be issued for each business per any 180 day period;

(2) Not be placed in street rights-of-way or otherwise diminish public safety such as placement in an intersection visibility triangle;

(3) Not be mounted on a roof or above the roofline;

(4) Not be artificially illuminated; and

(5) Be a maximum of 20 square feet in area when located in residential zoning districts (R3 & R4 districts only);

(6) Be a maximum of 100 square feet in area when located in nonresidential zoning districts;

(7) Be limited to one sign per parcel for each street frontage.

(8) Signs advertising a temporary event may be placed no more than 60 days prior to the event and shall be removed no later than 10 days after the event has ended.

Permit fees will be as follows: \$0.20 per square foot, with a minimum permit fee of \$15.00.

(Ord. 97041, passed 12-8-97; Ord. 98003, passed 2-23-98; Ord. 98013, passed 7-13-98; Ord. 200022, passed 11-20-00; Ord. 2013-32, §I, passed 7-22-2013; Ord. 2029-12, §I, passed 4-8-2019)

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II.

THAT all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict only.

III.

THAT if for any reason any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any other section, paragraph,

subdivision, clause, phrase, word or provision of this ordinance, for it is the definite intent of this City Commission that every section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word or provision hereof be given full force and effect for its purpose.

IV.

THAT this Ordinance shall be codified and become effective on and after adoption and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCED on this the 12th day of February, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 26th day of February, 2024.

Effective Date: March 18, 2024

Sam R. Fugate, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney