### Planning Association of Washington Sign Code Update Training

Mercer Island, Washington
June 23, 2017

• WELCOME



### **Covington Sign Code Amendments**

- Purpose: Balance Both Public & Private Interests
- Objectives Include:
- Maintain City Council's Community Vision
- Provide for Economic Well-Being of City
- Maintain a Balance of Sign Aesthetics
- Develop User-Friendly Code



## Work Completed on Covington Sign Code

- 2015: Study Sessions with Council on Sign Code Vision
- 2016: Workshops with Council on Goals & Objectives for New Sign Code Considering our Community Focus
- 2016: Results-Emphasis on Economic Well-being, Aesthetics, & Sharing of Community Information
- 2016: Desire to Make Regulations Simple & Clear, with Easy Permitting & Enforcement



## Work Completed on Covington Sign Code

- 2016: Public Hearing & Adoption of Interim Sign Code
- 2016-2017: Enforcing Interim Code-Reasonable Compliance from Businesses
- 2017: Public Outreach on Switching from Interim to Permanent Sign Code
- 2017: Public Open House in June with Good Response

# **Major Provisions of Interim Sign Code**

- Commercial & Noncommercial Messages Can Be Regulated Differently
- Minimum Standards for Life, Health, Traffic, & Public Safety
- Control Design, Quality of Materials, & Illumination
- Enhance the Appearance of City's Streetscape

# **Major Provisions of Interim Sign Code**

- Focused on Uniformity of Regulation & Ease of Enforcement
- Prohibited Signs in Roundabouts, Medians, Posted on Utility Poles & Trees in ROW, and Fences
- Reduced Sign Clutter in ROW
- New Code Addition: Allowed One A-Frame or Sandwich Board Sign Per Business on Site



# **Exemptions from Provisions in New Sign Code**

- Signs Not Visible from Public ROW
- Any Form of Public Art
- Signs Required by Local, State, & Federal Law
- Government Signs for Protection of Health & Safety



### **Prohibited Signs in Interim code**

- Animated, Rotating, & Inflatable Signs
- Hazardous, Flashing, & Nuisance Signs
- Portable Signs on Wheels
- Abandoned Signs & Permanent Signs on Vacant Lots



### **Signs Exempted from Permits**

- Changes to Face or Copy of Sign Message
- Normal Repair & Maintenance of Sign
- Window Signs
- Signs on Vehicles



# Temporary Signs on Residential Properties Shall Only Display Noncommercial Messages

- Allows Signs on Property Actively for Sale or Lease
- No Restriction on Number of Signs
- Shall Be Less Than 16 sq. ft. in Area, 6 sq. ft. Per Side
- Limited to 20% of Façade & 50% of Window Area



### **Temporary Signs on Commercial Properties**

- May Have Commercial <u>or</u> Noncommercial Messages
- Prohibits Changing Images or Electronic Elements
- Allows One Banner per Tenant Space up to 32 sq. ft., But No Longer Than <u>120 Days</u> in a Calendar Year
- One Portable A-Frame Sign Allowed per Business, 4 sq. ft. Per Side, Only Dawn to Dusk, 365 Days a Year



## **Temporary Signs on Commercial Properties**

- Window Signs Shall Not Exceed 50% of Window Area
- One Additional Temporary Freestanding Sign Per Street Frontage, up to 32 sq. ft.
- Temporary Signs, Except Window Signs, Require a Permit to Regulate Their Time, Place, & Manner

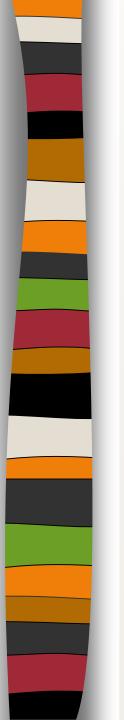


 Temporary Signs in Public ROW & Public Spaces
 Must Be Behind the Curb & Outside of Medians, Roundabouts, or Traffic Islands

- Outside of Sight-Distance Triangles at Corners, & Not Attached to a Tree, Utility Pole, or Fence
- Limited to 6 ft. in Area & 3 ft. in Height in the ROW
- No Limitation in Public Spaces if Placed by the City
- Exception for Banner Hanging Across Street ROW

#### **Permanent Signs**

- Either High, Medium, or Low Profile Classification Based Upon Zoning District or Street Location
- Signs Shall be Monument Style, Not Pole Signs
- Signs Shall Meet Design Criteria for Materials, Color, & Architectural Detail
- Must Have Landscaping Surrounding the Base

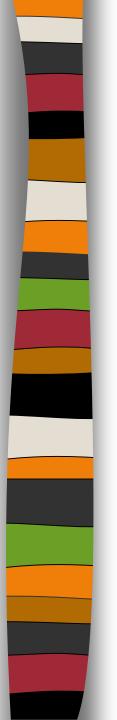


### High, Medium, & Low Profile Permanent Signs

- Maximum Height Varies from 5 to 12 ft., & 80 to 160 sq. ft. in Area Depending upon Site
- One Freestanding Monument Sign Unless Street Frontage is at Least 750 Lineal Feet
- Also Allows Wall & Building Mounted Signs Based upon Street Frontage
- Also Allows Kiosk Sign for Additional Businesses,
   6 ft. High and 15 sq. ft. in Area

# **Building Mounted Permanent Signs**

- May Use Marquee, Awning, Wall-Mounted, Projecting, & Electronic Changeable Copy Signs
- Shall Not Project Above Roofline of Building
- Area Limited to 15% of Exposed Building Face
- Number of Signs Varies from 2 to 5 Depending On Total Building Face Area



### **Major Issues Raised During Public Outreach**

- How to Regulate Temporary Real Estate Signs
- How to Regulate Garage Sale Signs
- How to Regulate A-Frame (Sandwich Board Signs)
- How to Regulate Digital Advertising Signs

# Thank You! Contact for Questions

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