## Planning Association of Washington Sign Code Preparation (Reed v. Gilbert)

- Spokane, Washington
  - October 26, 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
- Protect Traffic Safety
- 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 Community Focus**

 2016: Results-Emphasis on Economic Well-being, Safety, 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-Good Compliance

• 2017: Public Outreach on Switching from Interim to Permanent Sign Code

• 2017: Public Open House in June with Good Response

Adoption in 2018

#### Important Facts to Remember

- Any New Sign Code Post Reed v. Gilbert is:
  - Not a Cookbook for Cities to Plug in Their Name
  - Not a "One Size Fits All" Code Format
  - Not a "Silver Bullet" to Copy

Each City is Different Based upon City Values, Objectives, Code Purpose, and Existing Code

Spend the Time, Do the Work, and Develop Your Own Code with Stakeholder Input to Fit Your City

### 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, Feather Flag, & Inflatable Signs

Hazardous, Flashing, & Nuisance Signs

Portable Signs on Wheels

Abandoned Signs & Permanent Signs on Vacant Lots

#### Signs Exempted from Permits

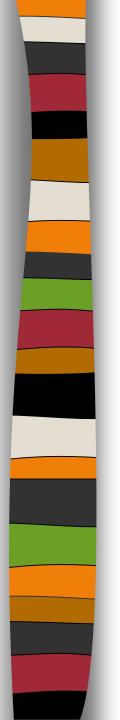
Changes to Face or Copy of Sign Message

Normal Repair & Maintenance of Sign

Window Signs

Signs on Vehicles

Certain Temporary Signs



#### Temporary Signs on Residential Properties

Shall Only Display Noncommercial Messages

 However, Allows Commercial 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 or 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,
 6 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, Through Sticker with Expiration Date



#### 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



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 (Still Resolving These issues)

 How to Regulate Temporary Real Estate Signs, including Weekend Open House Signs

How to Regulate Garage Sale Signs

 How to Regulate Commercial A-Frame (Sandwich Board Signs)

How to Regulate Digital Advertising Signs

## Thank You! Contact for Questions

- Richard Hart, AICP
- Community Development Director
- City of Covington
- (253) 480-2441
- rhart@covingtonwa.gov