

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
1997 Legislative Session

Bill No. _____ CB-98-1997

Chapter No.

Proposed and Presented by _____ Council Member Scott

Introduced by

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction

ZONING BILL

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Signs

For the purpose of prohibiting the placement of certain temporary directional signs near churches and providing that unauthorized signs placed in the public right-of-way are considered abandoned and may be removed by any person.

BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

Sections 27-609 and 27-631,

The Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland,

being also

SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.

The Prince George's County Code

(1995 Edition, 1996 Supplement).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that part of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 27-609 and 27-631 of the Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland, being also Subtitle 27 of the Prince George's County Code, be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.

PART 12. SIGNS.**DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION.****Subdivision 3. Enforcement.****Sec. 27-609. Maintenance and removal of unsafe or illegal signs.**

(a) Whenever the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources (or his designated representative) determines that a sign is unsafe or illegal, he shall (in writing) order that the sign be made safe or removed. The order shall be complied with by the person owning or using the sign or, in the case of a gateway sign, the Homeowners' Association or other entity responsible for maintenance within five (5) days after the person, Homeowners' Association, or entity receives the order. In the event of an emergency situation (when there is an immediate danger to public safety), the unsafe sign shall be made safe or removed without any delay or written order.

(b) If the unsafe or illegal sign is not removed or maintained in accordance with the order, the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources shall have the sign removed. The cost of removal shall be borne by the owner, user, Homeowners' Association, or entity responsible for the sign.

(c) The penalties prescribed in Section 27-265 may be invoked if the sign is not removed or maintained in accordance with the order.

(d) The maintenance of an entrance feature, including gateway signs and associated landscaping, shall be the responsibility of a Homeowner's Association or any other entity or person designated in a maintenance arrangement approved by the Department of Environmental Resources. Any entrance which has not been maintained in a safe and attractive manner may, for the purpose of this section, be deemed by the Department of Environmental Resources to be an unsafe sign.

(e) Any person who places a real estate directional sign in the public right-of-way within 500 feet of a church shall relinquish all right, title and interest in such sign. Such signs shall be considered abandoned at the time the sign is placed in the right-of-way and may be removed and disposed of by any person at any time thereafter.

DIVISION 3. DESIGN STANDARDS.

Subdivision 3. Signs Exempt from Sign Permit.

Sec. 27-631. Real estate, directional.

- (a) Not located in right-of-way:
 - (1) Area.
 - (A) Maximum area - 3 square feet.
 - (2) Location.
 - (A) The signs shall be placed on private property behind the street line, as authorized by the owner or tenant.
 - (3) Quantity.
 - (A) Maximum number - 4 per each property advertised.
 - (4) Height.
 - (A) Maximum height - 3 feet (above finished grade at base of sign).
- (b) Located in right-of-way:
 - (1) Area.
 - (A) Maximum area - 1.5 square feet.
 - (2) Location.
 - (A) Within public street rights-of-way under Prince George's County jurisdiction; and
 - (B) Within 25 feet of the corner of a street intersection.
 - (C) Within 500 feet of a church.
 - (3) Quantity.
 - (A) Maximum number - 4 per each property advertised.
 - (B) At any one intersection, there shall be only one (1) sign facing each direction of traffic.
 - (4) Height.
 - (A) Maximum height - 3 feet (above finished grade at base of sign).
 - (5) Validity period.
 - (A) These signs may only be erected between the hours of noon Saturday and

noon of the following Monday.

(6) Other regulations.

(A) If a police officer finds that the sign is a hazard to traffic, he may remove the sign; and

(B) Any person who places a real estate directional sign in the public right-of-way within 500 feet of a church shall relinquish all right, title and interest in such sign. Such signs shall be considered abandoned at the time the sign is placed in the right-of-way and may be removed and disposed of by any person at any time thereafter.

(C) The sign shall be erected in accordance with standards adopted by District Council Resolution.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 1997.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON
REGIONAL DISTRICT IN PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

Dorothy F. Bailey
Chair

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.