

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2016 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-084-2016
Draft No.: 2
Committee: PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Date: 10/05/2016
Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable with amendments, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Harrison, Franklin, Glaros, Taveras, and Toles)

Staff provided an overview of the legislation and informed the Committee of written referral comments that were received. Council Member Harrison, the bill's sponsor, informed the Committee that the provisions of CB-84-2016 allow the conversion of some existing billboards to digital technology. She explained that this upgraded technology provides the ability to change messages quickly and is beneficial for Amber Alerts, missing persons and other public safety related purposes.

The Planning Board supports CB-84-2016 with an amendment as follows: On page 3, line 16, after the word "continuously", insert the word "since". The Office of Law reviewed the bill and determined that is in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment. The Chief Zoning Hearing Examiner (ZHE) reviewed the legislation and suggested the following minor amendments:

1. On page 3, line 28, insert a comma after "is received".
2. On page 4, lines 19-20, insert a closed parenthesis after "outdoor advertising signs".
3. On page 5, line 3, capitalize the "S" in section, and insert a comma prior to "below" on line 4.
4. On page 6, line 6 should be revised as follows: "The measurement distance criteria is:"

The ZHE also suggested that the locational requirements on page 6, lines 19-20, be discussed at the hearing so that the Committee has a clear understanding as to how close these types of signs may be to each other.

The following individuals representing Clear Channel testified in support of the legislation:

Arthur Horne, Steve Ginsberg, and Joseph King. The Town of Riverdale Park submitted a letter to PZED Committee Chair Harrison dated October 4, 2016 in opposition to the legislation. The Committee had significant discussion surrounding distance of digital billboards from residential areas, schools and religious institutions, distance between billboards, as well as location on certain roadways.

The Committee voted favorable including amendments recommended by the Planning Board and the ZHE as well as the following additional amendments to address comments and concerns raised during discussion: on page 4, lines 14-20, strike Section 27-384; on page 5, line 18, insert language clarifying that digital billboards are not allowed in residential or mixed use zones; on page 6, lines 11-12, after “outdoor advertising sign”, insert “or within 1,000 feet of another Digital Billboard located on and facing the same roadway; on page 6, insert new subsections “(f)” and “(g)” concerning distance required from certain uses and location of digital billboards on roads of certain transportation classification.