

Voice of the Community Leads to Changes in Sign, Dumpster Ordinances for Businesses

Meetings were held at City Hall earlier this year for local business owners to provide input on the city's sign and dumpster ordinances. The feedback gathered at these city-hosted community forums resulted in several recommendations to the ordinances, which have been approved by City Council. Following are highlights of some of the significant ordinance amendments.

Dumpsters

- Compliance deadline has been extended to Dec. 31, 2011.
- More material options for dumpster enclosures have been approved including architectural metal panels, cementitious fiberboard, and board-on-board cedar.
- No enclosure requirements for dumpsters that are located as far as practical from the street in industrial areas.
- Required height of enclosures to one foot above dumpster (min. 4 feet; max. 9 feet).

Signs

- Limits of wall signs to a single face of a building have been eliminated.
- Neon signs are allowed, as long as window coverage does not exceed 25 percent.
- Plastic glass (e.g., Plexiglas) and similar materials now approved for signage.
- Pole signs, which were banned earlier this year, can remain indefinitely as nonconforming signs with compliance required when the sign is changed by the business.

The previous requirements were put in place to maintain and improve the visual appearance of the city, however, some business owners cited cost as an obstacle that made it difficult for them to comply.

"This is a great example of why it's so important for residents and businesses to be involved in the process of local government," said Planning and Inspections Director Gary Miller. "By coming together and bringing our concerns to the table, we can achieve compromise that takes into account the best interest of all parties involved."