



Please note the City Council recently adopted an ordinance that amends the sign code effective June 06, 2024.

SIGNS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN: REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO TEMPORARY NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS

Foster City has established standards for signage that are outlined in recently adopted Ordinance No. 679 which is Chapter 17.59 of the Foster City Municipal Code (FCMC).

The city recognizes the importance of signs in the exercise of free speech. The city finds it necessary to regulate the time, place, and manner of the placement of signs for the following reasons:

- A. Prohibition of signs on public street medians, bridges, public utility box or any poles used for public utility, traffic control signs, traffic signals, or street signs is necessary to: prevent visual distractions to motorists which create traffic hazards, prevent unsafe road conditions, and to prevent eyesores from proliferating along public streets.
- B. Regulation of the size of signs is necessary for safety and aesthetic reasons, specifically, that the strong winds that are common in Foster City would remove the signs, creating hazards and accumulation of debris, and extremely large or illuminated signs would create a distraction to motorists.

Temporary noncommercial signs are governed by the following sections of the FCMC:

Section 17.59.060 M: Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs.

1. Location.

- (a) Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall not be placed in any public street median, or on any bridge, public utility box, or any pole used for public utility, traffic control signs, traffic signals, or street signs.
- (b) Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall not be placed in any public parks or the city's levee pedway/bikeway.
- (c) Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall not interfere with pedestrian or bicycle circulation on or along sidewalks, pathways, bicycle paths, or the city's levee pedway/pedway.
- (d) With the exception of public parks and the city's levee pedway/bikeway, temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs may be placed on public property within the first ten (10) feet back of the sidewalk or ten (10) feet from the curb, when no sidewalk is present.
- (e) Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall not be placed in or along

public rights-of-way in a manner that blocks views of walkways, pedestrians, or traffic control device, or creates a sight distance problem for the drivers of vehicles.

- (f) No temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall be located within the twenty-five (25) foot sight triangle.
- 2. **Size.** Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall be no larger than four (4) square feet.
- 3. **Height.** Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall be no taller than forty (40) inches.
- 4. **Duration of Display.** Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs relating to an upcoming event may be placed ninety (90) days prior to the date of the event and shall be removed no later than ten (10) days after completion of the event.
- 5. **Other Provisions.**
 - (a) Illumination. Temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs shall not be illuminated.
 - (b) Removal. Any temporary noncommercial right-of-way signs deemed to have damaged public property shall be subject to immediate removal by the city. Signs placed in violation of location requirements or otherwise placed in a manner that creates a hazardous condition shall be subject to immediate removal by the city.

Section 17.59.060 N: Temporary noncommercial signs placed on private property.

- 1. **Size.**
 - a) Residential Districts. Temporary noncommercial signs placed on private property shall be no larger than four (4) square feet.
 - b) Other Zoning Districts. Temporary noncommercial signs placed on private property shall be no larger than eight (8) square feet.
- 2. **Height.** Temporary noncommercial signs placed on private property shall be no taller than forty (40) inches.
- 3. **Duration of Display.** Temporary noncommercial signs relating to an upcoming event may be placed no earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the event and shall be removed no later than ten (10) days after the completion of the event.
- 4. **Other Provisions.**
 - (a) Illumination. Temporary noncommercial signs shall not be illuminated.
 - (b) Setback. Temporary noncommercial signs shall be set back at least two (2) feet from all property lines.
 - (c) Owner's Authorization. Temporary noncommercial signs may only be allowed with the owner's consent.

If you have any questions pertaining to temporary noncommercial signs, feel free to contact the Foster City Community Development Department at (650) 286-3225 or stop by City Hall.

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