**POLITICAL ADVERTISING – HERE’S YOUR SIGN!**

 **2020 CITY GENERAL ELECTION**

***WHERE CAN MY SIGNS GO? I NEED A PERMIT?***

Campaign signs can **only** be erected on **private property** **with** the owner’s **permission**.

It is illegal for a campaign sign to be erected . . . .

►Within 100 feet of a voting precinct on any election day or during any early voting. Review the Polling Location list in the Voter Education section; make sure you do not have signs in violation.

►On any public lands. Most public lands within the City can be identified on the Zoning Map, see City website, labeled Public Facilities, or you can search the Property Appraiser’s website. If a campaign sign is found within a City, County, or State right-of-way, or on government owned property, it will be removed. City and County Code Enforcement, and the State may issue citations to repeat violators. Examples of where signs have been found illegally, and removed:

City Hall & Court House lawn Right on the edge of a street/sidewalk

Water Management areas Right next to a mailbox

City or County Parks OUA Office

Recreation Fields Attached to a traffic light or utility pole, streetlight, or fence

Post Office Outside Fences

Over 30-ft in height In the Visibility Triangle (any intersection)

Moving or Flashing Lights Inflatable wind signs, spot/search lights

 Using the words STOP, LOOK or DANGER

You are strongly encouraged to review City Code Division 5-Signs, available online via the City web site. Additionally, you are encouraged to contact City Building Official Jeffrey Newell for clarification on whether a type of sign is prohibited, requires permits, or can be displayed.

Permits within the City are applied for at City Hall, General Services Department. For signs erected outside the City Limits, contact the County Building Department. (**Permit fee is paid from Campaign Account**)

***WHO TOOK MY SIGNS?***

If you have signs missing within the City, call City Code Enforcement to see whether they were collected. Illegal signs are usually placed next to the dumpster at the Public Works Facility. Signs may be collected when the facility gate is unlocked, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 AM to 5 PM, excluding holidays.

If you have multiple signs missing or have ones that continue to disappear from a certain area, and you’ve verified Code Enforcement did not collect them, contact the Police Department to make a report. It will assist them if you can provide the approximate number of signs taken, their general area, and date(s) they were discovered missing.

***IS*** ***THERE A DEADLINE TO REMOVE CAMPAIGN SIGNS?***

All signs MUST be removed after becoming elected or defeated within. . .10 days inside the City Limits, 15 days out in the County.

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**REPORT VIOLATIONS**

Be advised the Office of the City Clerk does not have the authority to investigate or punish violations of the sign ordinances. If you believe that a candidate has violated the City’s sign ordinance, you may file a complaint with Code Enforcement Officer Fred Sterling.

Failure to remove signs within 10 days of the end of an election is a violation of the City Code of Ordinances and could result in a citation by Code Enforcement.

Additionally, signs not removed within 30 days is a violation of Florida Statute 106.143 and complaints can be directed to the Florida Elections Commission.