

January 16, 2018

## **Illegal sign discussion and potential future legislation**

### **Observation:**

It seems that signs, especially political campaign signs are being installed more and more on privately owned property without the property owner's permission. During last year's political campaign, I took a short poll of property owners and of the signs installed on private property, ninety percent did not grant the candidate permission to post his/her sign.

This illegal and unauthorized sign "war" creates a false sense of who the public supports and violates the public's private property rights and increases the various candidates and other sign users to post even more signs.

If the Council agrees that this is becoming a visual problem that negatively affects our community, I would propose that we request staff and administration to research ways to prevent the installation of ALL types of signs installed on private property without the owner's permission.

Ideas could include:

- If the sign has permission, a notice of the owners name would be printed and attached to the posted sign stating that they have the owner's permission to post the sign on private property.
- If no permission is attached to the sign, then a \$20 fine per occurrence would be imposed by the code enforcement officers that would be mailed to the party or the entity that is being advertised (by complaint from the owner) and the sign would be removed.
- A strict code enforcement policy to remove all illegal signs.
- Other ideas.

The costs to implement the enforcement and administrative expenses could be from the fines paid as mentioned above.