

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 5, 2017
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator
SUBJECT: Temporary Signs



Recently, I have received comments and questions from several Board members concerning temporary roadside signs and, in particular, our procedures for monitoring their placement and addressing any issues regarding compliance with Zoning Ordinance requirements. I know that signs in general, and temporary signs specifically, can generate a great deal of interest from the standpoint of both those who put them in place and those who view them and I appreciate the Board allowing me the opportunity to look further into the matter before providing this response.

Staff has informed me that the placement of temporary signs along highway corridors has been a longstanding issue and that the number of signs dotting the roadsides, particularly on weekends, had become so significant in the early 2000's that the Board expressed interest in a concerted effort to address compliance with both the State Code and York County Zoning Ordinance provisions that prohibit the unauthorized placement of signs within the limits of any highway right-of-way. Those of you who were on the Board at that time may recall that the interest in monitoring and minimizing sign placements along highway corridors coincided with the work of the Route 17 Revitalization Committee and its recommendations for aesthetic improvements. Prompted partially by the Committee's work as well as observations and requests by individual members, in 2005 the Board authorized execution of an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner allowing County code enforcement staff to act as the Commissioner's agent to enforce the State Code provisions by the removal of unauthorized signs. The County's enforcement efforts were initially conducted by staff members working overtime on weekends and later the weekend enforcement effort was assigned to a part-time (work-as-required) employee. The weekend enforcement initiative was and has continued to be a seasonal effort (warm weather months) since that tended to coincide with the most prolific weekend sign placements.

Based on the recounting of past conditions provided to me by staff and my own observations, it seems as though considerable progress has been made in terms of educating the public (residents, local businesses, etc.) concerning the rules for sign placement and, consequently, their willingness to respect and comply with those rules. With that in mind, and in recognition of the Board's current concerns, I have directed that the weekend enforcement program be suspended for the year as of the end of September (approximately one month earlier than would otherwise have been the case). As such, any signage issues will be addressed by the regular code enforcement staff in the course of their normal workweek schedules. I will remain optimistic that the suspension of weekend monitoring will not lead to a proliferation of unauthorized signage being placed along roadways after 5:00 PM on Fridays. If that happens to occur and it is the Board's

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sense that the situation has again become inconsistent with your policy desires, then we can always re-evaluate options.

Should you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

NAM/jmc