



January 22, 2008

Dear Candidate:

The City of Charlotte's Code Enforcement Division enforces City Health and Sanitation Code Section 10-212 "Signs within public rights- of- way and on public property" and Zoning Ordinance Section 13-106(8) "Campaign or Election Signs".

Section 10-212 prohibits signs being placed within the public rights of way and on public property and provides for escalating citation penalties per violation as follows:

- 1st – 5th sign in violation - \$100 per sign;
- 6th – 10th sign in violation - \$500 per sign;
- 11th and greater number of signs in violation - \$1000 per sign.

Section 13-106(8) allows for campaign or election signs provided:

- (1) Individual signs shall not exceed 16 square feet in area.
- (2) All signs shall be removed within seven days after the election for which they were made.
- (3) Property owners shall be held responsible for violations.
- (4) No signs shall be permitted in the right-of-way. In the County, such signs must be placed behind telephone poles or where telephone poles would be located. Within the City, Code Section 10-212 defines the right-of-way as 11 feet of the edge of the pavement of any road, roadway, street, or alley, or within any public rights-of-way as defined in section 10-32, or upon any post, pole, tree, tree stake or guard, shrub, fire hydrant, or upon anything else within 11 feet of the edge of the public rights-of-way or upon any bridge or overpass within the city limits or upon other public property including, but not limited to, traffic medians.
- (5) Prior to the erection of any campaign or election sign, the candidates or an authorized representative shall post a \$50.00 bond with the City of Charlotte guaranteeing the removal of such signs within seven days after the election for which they were used (see attachment). The bond may be paid in person at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. 4th Street, or by mail to the City of Charlotte, P.O. Box 31032, Charlotte, NC 28202.

If, through inspection, it is determined that a person has failed to comply with the Zoning Ordinance regulations, a warning citation granting ten days to correct the violation may be issued. Subsequent citations ranging from \$50.00 to \$500.00 civil penalties may also be issued. Campaign signs placed in the street right-of-way are also subject to immediate removal.

Our mutual purpose is to work together to carry out the requirements of our local sign codes. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Walter Abernethy
Code Enforcement Division Manager

Enclosure

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