

SIGN CODE NOTICE



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DATE: January 27, 2010
TO: Chuck Arnold, Executive Director
Downtown Bend Business Association
City Council Members
Mel Oberst, Community Development Director

KATHIE ECKMAN
Mayor
FROM: Kim Voos, Sign Code

MARK CAPELL
Mayor Pro Tem

RE: Sign Code Violations – Downtown Bend

JIM CLINTON
City Councilor

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to speak to several business owners and managers within the downtown area in regards to signs installed in violation of the City of Bend sign code. It became clear that a majority of signs were installed due to a lack of knowledge of the sign code adopted by City Council in 2000.

JODIE BARRAM
City Councilor

JEFF EAGER
City Councilor

This notice is being sent to the Downtown Bend Business Association members in an effort to provide accurate sign code information and to encourage voluntary cooperation, rather than to confiscate signs and issue citations for sign violations.

TOM GREENE
City Councilor

ORAN TEATER
City Councilor

The purpose of the sign code is to provide clear regulations for the design, location, construction and use of signs. The objectives are to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication, improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety, maintain and enhance the community's overall aesthetic environment as well as enhance the city's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth. In order to accomplish these objectives, the Bend City Council adopted the sign code. Signs that are viewed by the public, except those that are inside a building and not visible or intended to be visible to the public outside the building, are regulated by the sign code. In order to verify that signs comply with the code, a sign permit must be obtained for most signs. Signs installed prior to obtaining a required sign permit are illegal and subject to code enforcement actions which may include an investigation fee, confiscation, and citation for a Class A Infraction.

ERIC KING
City Manager

SONIA ANDREWS
Finance Director

SANDRA L BAXTER
Interim Police Chief

LARRY HUHN
Fire Chief

PATRICIA STELL
City Recorder

The following is a list of signs commonly installed in violation of the Bend Sign Code:

1. Prohibited signs. The following signs or devices are prohibited and must be removed or brought into compliance immediately:

- A sign or a portion of a sign that obstructs or interferes with required exits such as windows, doors, fire escape routes or stairways. Refer to Section 9-17.7(1).
- Flashing or intermittent lights, signs or devices. As an example “open” signs, video displays, televisions, electronic reader boards, strobe lights, and projecting images. Refer to Section 9-17.7(6).
- Signs placed on the sidewalk or attached to objects located in the public right-of-way. Signs are prohibited in the public right-of-way which includes sidewalks, alleys, streets, and on structures located in the right-of-way including utility poles, street furniture, bike racks, trees, etc. Refer to Section 9-17.7(8) & (9).

For a complete list of prohibited signs or devices please refer to Section 7 Prohibited Signs.

2. Signs installed without a sign permit. The following signs require a sign permit prior to installation:

- *Building* signs which includes wall, projecting, awning and canopy signs.
- *Window* signs which includes vinyl lettering, graphics and illuminated signs.
- *Suspended* signs which are attached under awnings or canopies.
- *A Freestanding* sign permanently installed in the ground.
- *Banner.* A banner is a temporary sign and must be displayed as approved by permit. Banner sign permits are valid for a maximum of 60 days each calendar year.
- *Portable* sign placed on private property, not in the public right-of-way. A portable sign is a temporary sign and must be displayed as approved by permit. Portable sign permits are valid for a maximum of 60 days each calendar year.

Please refer to Section 14, Table E for a complete list of signs allowed in the downtown area. If you have installed a sign that requires permit approval, but have not obtained the required permit, please contact the Community Development Department or submit a completed sign permit application within 15 days of this notice. Sign permit applications are available at City Hall or on the city web site at: www.ci.bend.or.us/depts/communitydevelopment/signs.

Beginning February 1, 2010 the City of Bend will be conducting code enforcement for illegal signs installed in the public right-of-way within the downtown area.

Illegal signs placed in the public right-of-way will be subject to removal without prior notice and may subject the owner and responsible individuals to enforcement including investigation fees, removal of signs, citations, etc. Refer to Section 19 Enforcement.

To report an illegal sign please contact the Community Development Department at: 541-388-5528 or 541-388-5530.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to review your sign options please contact Kim Voos at 541-388-5530 or by email at kvoos@ci.bend.or.us. As always, your cooperation is appreciated.