

Illegal Sign Posting

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Many times as you drive throughout the City of Phoenix you will see signs posted announcing things such as garage sales, dogs for sale, limo services, weight loss, mortgage help and so on. These signs could be posted on utility poles, on the shoulder of the road, in the median or on “A” frames on the sidewalks. The reality is that all of the signs mentioned above are **ILLEGAL**. Political signs less than 32 square feet must also adhere to these regulations and can only be posted on private property with the owner’s permission. Signs larger than 32 square feet may be posted on private property but the person responsible for the signs must get a permit from the City of Phoenix. All political signs must be removed 10 days after the election is over, unless the candidate has moved on to the general election and after that is over the signs must be removed in 10 days.

The purpose of the Sign Ordinance in the City of Phoenix is to provide for a safe and well maintained community throughout the city. Illegal signs can become dangerous if they fall off into the street and strike a vehicle or car, causing an accident. These signs can also block the view of motorists or pedestrians as they make their way on the streets and sidewalks of the city. The attachment of these signs can also damage the integrity of the poles and also cause more maintenance due to staples, tape, etc. They can force bicyclists or pedestrians into the traffic way where vehicles are traveling and make it difficult for drivers to see at intersections. They are also an eyesore and contribute to the blight and litter in the city.

The general rule is that signs are prohibited in the right of way through the City of Phoenix. This usually includes streets, curbs, medians, traffic and utility poles, unimproved shoulders of streets up to private property and about 2 and half feet beyond sidewalks. “A” frame signs are also prohibited on sidewalks and private property. Businesses do have the right to attract customers and advertise as long as they adhere to the ordinance and receive the proper permit from the City of Phoenix Development Services Department. Violations for placing illegal signs in the right of way range from \$250 to \$2500 and are imposed **PER VIOLATION (SIGN)**. The City of Phoenix Police Department has the authority to cite any business or individuals for these signs, even if the actual owner may not have placed the signs themselves.

So please, be mindful of the ordinance and don’t post signs in the right of ways defined above. This will help keep the City of Phoenix clean and beautiful and will reduce the blight in our neighborhoods and thus improving the quality of our great neighborhoods. If anyone has any questions about the posting of signs or any other issue, please feel free to contact me by phone at 602-495-5238 or email at tim.mitten@phoenix.gov.