

ORDINANCE NO. 113

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON AMENDING SECTION \_\_\_\_45.075 (B) (6) OF THE ZONING CODE, ORDINANCE 79 AS AMENDED BY DELETING LANGUAGE RELATING TO A 60-DAY TIME LIMIT FOR PLACING POLITICAL SIGNS AND LOCATION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND BY ADDING PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PLACEMENT AND SIZE OF POLITICAL SIGNS.

WHEREAS, the City has determined that certain provisions of the existing City sign code may interfere with constitutionally protected rights of political candidates; and

WHEREAS, the City Council discussed the issues at a study session on August 26 and held a public hearing on September 3, 1996; NOW THEREFORE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1. Amending Section \_\_\_\_45.075 (Exemptions) (B) (6) of the University Place Zoning Code.**

Section \_\_\_\_45.075 (Exemptions) (B) (6) of the University Place Zoning Code is hereby amended as follows:

- 6.a. The City recognizes the right of political candidates to exercise their right of free speech in a traditional public forum. Candidates or proponents of ballot measures are encouraged to recognize the concerns of citizens regarding sign blight and to limit placement of signs to a reasonable time before the election. Signs for a successful primary candidate may remain in place until after the general election. The exemption of political signs from City regulation is limited by the following provisions.
- a.b. ~~Signs located on private property relating to the nomination or election of any individual for a public political office or advocating any measure to be voted on at any special or general election are political signs and exempt from the sign permit requirement; provided, that such political signs shall not be displayed more than sixty (60) days prior to or removed ten (10) days after the date of the election for which they are intended. In cases where a general election follows within fifty five (55) days of a primary election, those signs for candidates whose names will appear on the ballot in the general election may be displayed during the interim period and up to ten (10) days after the general election. If~~

political signs are not removed within the specified time, they will be subject to removal by the City in addition to any other remedies provided in this Chapter. The City will notify the candidates or their designated representatives of sign removal and a designated location for picking up signs that have been removed. When these appropriate individuals cannot be contacted or do not respond within five working days, the signs will be destroyed.

b. c. No political sign shall be erected upon any private property without permission of the resident or owner thereof.

e. d. Political signs along the edge of the right-of-way shall not exceed ~~sixteen (16)~~ three (3) square feet in area per sign face nor three (3) feet in height, and shall not obstruct safe visibility of any mobile or pedestrian traffic, nor interfere with routine maintenance and other common uses of the right-of-way such as public parking, pedestrian and bicycle traffic or access to utilities.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

**Section 3. Publication and Effective Date.** A summary of this Ordinance consisting of its title shall be published in the official newspaper of the city. This ordinance shall take effect five days after publication .

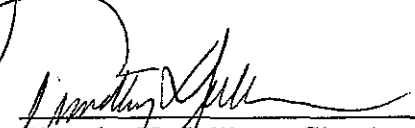
**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1996.**

  
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Ronald L. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Susan Matthew, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Timothy K. Sullivan, City Attorney

Date of Publication: September 5, 1996  
Effective Date: September 10, 1996