



City of Lawrence

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1 Riverfront Plaza, Suite 110
P.O. Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

www.lawrenceneighres.org

Phone 785-832-7700
Tdd 785-832-3205
Fax 785-832-3110

November 5, 2008

RE: A-Frame and Message Board Signs

Dear Business Owner:

Staff from the Planning and Development Services Department recently visited your business to deliver a letter notifying you of the City of Lawrence Sign Code regulations pertaining to signs being placed within the City right-of-way which includes the sidewalk in the commercial downtown (CD) district. Section 5-1814 of the code currently prohibits the placement of any sign on City property, City right-of-way and City easements. Therefore, all signs including "A-frame" or message boards placed on sidewalks within the commercial downtown district are a violation of code.

Over the last several months, staff has reminded numerous downtown business owners to remove such signs from the sidewalks which prompted several of the business owners to inform staff of their opinion that the code should allow advertisement signs to be located on the sidewalk in the form of "A-frame" or message board signs. While the City understands the reasons for this request, we must also consider the potential negative effects of allowing signs on the sidewalk in reference to preserving the overall historical aesthetics of the downtown district.

As a result of previous city staff discussions and the feedback we have received, a review of the above mentioned code section is underway and staff will be meeting in the near future to discuss the positive and negative aspects of amending the code to allow such signs to be located on the sidewalk within the CD district. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued compliance with all of the provisions of the sign code. The City encourages you to send your comments concerning this issue in writing either by standard mail or by email to our office by November 26th.

The sign code, Chapter 5, Article 18, is available on line at www.lawrenceks.org and copies are available at the Development Services Department at 1 Riverfront Plaza, Level 1, Suite 110. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 832-3111 or by email at bjimenez@ci.lawrence.ks.us if you have questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Jimenez
Code Enforcement Manager

Cc: Scott McCullough, Director Planning & Development Services
David Corliss, City Manager
Jane Pennington, Director of Downtown Lawrence, Inc.



We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community