



www.bransonmo.gov

City of Branson

110 West Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-337-8526

Public Information Department
jadams@bransonmo.gov

News Release

July 14, 2009

Contact: Jim Lawson, planning/development director, 337-8549

City seeking citizens' help in avoiding sign clutter

Branson city officials are seeing an increase in the number of illegal temporary signs around town and want to remind residents and businesses that there are city codes regulating the placement of these types of signs.

"While we all take pride in keeping our homes and businesses clean, we need to exercise that same pride in keeping the whole city clean, especially since Branson hosts millions of visitors throughout the year," said Jim Lawson, Branson's director of planning and development department, which enforces the municipal sign code. "One area needing improvement is temporary signs."

Under the city's sign ordinance, no private or business signs are allowed on any public right-of-way including city street, directional or stop signs, and no signs are allowed on utility power poles.

Any temporary sign not anchored in the ground, like a sandwich board sign, is unlawful on commercial or residential private property. Not only can these signs clutter an area, they can also be a safety issue, according to Lawson, because the signs can easily blow into a street or strike a pedestrian.

Temporary signs staked in the ground or banners do require a permit from the city's planning and development department. However, on-premise commercial and residential real estate "For Sale" signs do not require a permit if sized and staked as per the sign code. Residential garage sale permits obtained through the city's finance department allow garage sale signs without a permit; however, they may be staked only on residential private property and may not be placed on any right-of-way property, utility poles or signs.

"Most of our complaints have come from temporary signs on commercial property along Branson's heavily traveled streets like Highway 76 and Highway 248," Lawson said. "My employees will remove any illegal sign they see in the public right-of-way or when our department receives a complaint about a temporary sign,"

Lawson said studies have been conducted that concluded a clutter of signs along a street can actually hurt a business. Drivers only have a few seconds to read a sign and keep their eyes on the road, and with too many signs close together, only one or two will be seen.

“Just like high weeds on property, sign clutter can also leave a negative impression on our visitors,” said Lawson. “Pride in our community starts with pride in the look of our own property.”

More information regarding the city’s Sign Code (Chapter 70 of the Branson Municipal Code) can be found through the Branson Municipal Codebook link on the city’s website, www.bransonmo.gov, or by calling the Branson Planning and Development Department at (417)-337-8549.