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**City of Branson**

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## ***News Release***

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

### **City seeking citizens' help in avoiding sign and banner clutter**

Branson city officials are seeing an increase in the number of illegal temporary signs and banners 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 a 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 and banners."

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.

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.

Some of the banners advertise a special event and are allowed on private property when they are part of the advertising for the special event permitted by the planning and development department. These events might include special sales, shows or meals.

Lawson said if an organization or business is planning a special event that would include a banner; his department should be contacted first.

"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 sign clutter is like high weeds. It can leave a negative impression on visitors.

“Pride in our community starts with pride in the look of our own property,” he said.

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](http://www.bransonmo.gov), or by calling the Branson Planning and Development Department at (417)-337-8549.