

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REVIEW SHEET

Amendment: C20-2017-003 – Signs

Description: Consider an ordinance amending the Land Development Code, Chapter 25-10, relating to the regulation of signs.

Proposed Language: See attached draft language.

Summary of proposed code changes: See attached memo from staff.

Background: Initiated by City Council by Resolution 20170608-037 on June 8, 2017.

From Council’s initiating Resolution:

“WHEREAS, the City of Austin is currently in the process of considering the adoption of a new Land Development Code through the CodeNext process; and WHEREAS, in light of recent case law affecting municipal sign regulation, updates to the City's current sign regulations should be considered in advance of CodeNext;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

- 1. The City Council initiates amendments to Title 25 {Land Development} of the City Code relating to the regulation of signs.*
- 2. The City Manager, in consultation with the Law Department, is directed to:*
 - (a) Develop proposed code amendments that are deemed appropriate to achieve consistency with federal and state case law affecting municipal sign regulation;*
 - (b) Include only those regulatory changes that are recommended based on recent case law; and*
 - (c) Present a proposed ordinance for Council to consider at its August 17, 2017 meeting.”*

Staff Recommendation: Recommended. Staff finds that the proposed amendments:

1. Retain the prohibition on new off-premise signs, which was adopted in 1983, as well as corresponding limitations on existing nonconforming off-premise signs.
2. Provides for a comparable level of restriction on the size, number, and location of noncommercial and on-premise signs as exists under current Chapter 25-10 (Sign Regulations). However, as detailed more fully in the Law Department’s memo, dated June 16, 2017, the regulations for noncommercial and on-premise signs are revised to remove references to sign content and to clarify key sections of Chapter 25-10 (Sign Regulations). These provisions of the ordinance respond to guidance from the Law

Department and are modeled after similar provisions in other municipal sign codes.

Board and Commission Actions:

June 27, 2017: Postponed by the Planning Commission.

July 11, 2017: Recommended by the Planning Commission on an 11-0-1 vote (Commissioner Kazi abstaining and Commissioner Thompson absent), with direction to staff to limit signs above the second floor of a building to be limited to engravings, to the greatest extent possible.

Council Action:

August 17, 2017: A public hearing has been set.

Ordinance Number: NA