



Press

Release



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For Immediate Release

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## Illegal Placement of Signs in the Public Right of Way

Wichita Falls, Texas–The city of Wichita Falls has received several complaints about the placement of signs, particularly political signs, in the public right of way and on city-owned property. As a reminder, it is the responsibility of those installing signs to:

- 1) Obtain permission from the property owner to place the sign on privately owned property.
- 2) Work with the property owner to ensure that the sign is placed on private property.

Determination of where the public right of way and private property intersect is the responsibility of the individual(s) placing the sign, working in conjunction with the property owner, to ensure that sign placement does not occur in the public right of way.

City staff will wait to begin removal of all illegally placed signs until Monday, February 3rd in an effort to give those unaware of the ordinance the opportunity to correct this issue.

For reference, below is the current ordinance:

[Sec.] 6766 – Signs on Public Right-of-Way.

No signs of any kind shall be erected or placed on the right-of-way of any street or alley in the city, nor any public place or city owned property, except for temporary signs, flags or banners authorized under [section 6767](#), traffic-control signs, signals and devices placed by the city under authority of the ordinances of the city, and advisory, safety and useful directional information signs placed by the city under authority of state law. Notwithstanding any other provision of this [ordinance], any sign so erected or placed on the right-of-way of any street or alley in the city in violation of this section shall be subject to immediate removal by the city manager's designee without notice to the owner or the lessee thereof. No signs of any kind shall be attached to any utility pole located in any street or alley right-of-way or utility easement except by the owner of such pole. (Code 1966, § 7-15; Ord. No. 48-2004, § 1, 6-15-2004)

If a sign is seized by city staff, the following conditions will apply:

There is hereby established a fee and procedure for confiscation and impoundment of signs, vehicles, trailers, or other items confiscated and impounded of \$50.00 for the cost of confiscating the sign, and \$1.00 per day for impoundment in addition to costs incurred to remove and impound or otherwise confiscate a sign, vehicle, trailer or other item. Signs, vehicles, trailers or other items impounded shall be retained and reasonable efforts made to notify the owners of such confiscation and impoundment. A sign, vehicle, trailer or other item shall be retained for a period of 90 days, at which time the sign, vehicle, trailer or other item shall be disposed of at a public auction, sold for scrap, or otherwise disposed of to recover public cost involved and at the discretion of the city.

For questions, please contact the Wichita Falls Traffic Engineering Department at 940-761-7640.