



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS TO PRESENT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE, CHAPTER 61: SIGNS AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 12, 2010 — The public is invited to attend two public informational meetings to discuss and provide comments on proposed amendments to City Code, Chapter 61 (Signs and Outdoor Advertising), otherwise known as the City Sign Ordinance.

The purpose of the amendments is to update the chapter to reflect current trends in development and design and to clarify ambiguity that has led to misinterpretation regarding the application of the regulations. The amendments also make changes to improve the chapter's readability and format.

Significant changes proposed for the code include the following: allowing signage for ground floor businesses that do not front a public street; reduction in setback from the public right of way for ground signs; limiting the number of ground signs on a premise; and, appeals to be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Identical meetings will be held on **Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and on Thursday, Jan. 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** Both meetings will be held in Council Chamber located on the 2nd Floor of the Guy C. Larcom Building (City Hall) located at 100 N. Fifth Avenue.

Staff will provide a presentation outlining the major changes proposed to the code. Following the presentation, participants will be allowed to ask questions and provide comments. For more information in advance of the meetings, contact City Planner, Chris Cheng at 734.794.6265, extension 42616 or e-mail planning@a2gov.org.

The proposed amendments and a summary of changes are posted on the City Web site at

<http://www.a2gov.org/government/communityservices/planninganddevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.