

**CITY OF FERNDALE  
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**FROM:** Marsha Scheer, CDS Director

**SUBJECT:** Revisions to Sign Ordinance for Sandwich Board Signs

**SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:**

Council requested changes to the Sign Ordinance relative to Sandwich Board Signs to control blight, assess reasonable fees, and assure the City is covered in the event of a mishap. City Attorney Dan Christ and the Ordinance Committee have reviewed and revised the suggested changes. Additional changes were also made including defining flags and abandoned signs and placing authority to review sign appeals under the Plan Commission.

Fees associated with Sandwich Board Signs are currently \$15-\$35 plan review fee and \$35 permit fee. CDS suggests that the annual fee for these signs be set at \$70 to cover the costs of informing businesses and tracking compliance. This fee falls between the \$35 charged in Birmingham and the \$175 fee charged in Berkley.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Amended Sign Ordinance  
City Attorney Correspondence

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**COUNCIL AGENDA DATE:** June 23, 2008

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** Attached

**FINANCE DIRECTOR REVIEW:** N/A

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:** Robert J. Bruner, Jr.

**COMMENTS:**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Moved by, seconded by, to adopt the amendments to the Sign Ordinance including an annual permit fee of \$70 per Sandwich Board Sign, associated changes to Chapter 2, Article III adding Section 2-44 authorizing the Plan Commission to consider appeals to the Sign Ordinance and to direct the City Clerk to publish notice thereof.

ORDINANCE NO. 1050

CITY OF FERNDALE  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, ARTICLE VIII, SIGNS OF THE FERNDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES

**THE CITY OF FERNDALE ORDAINS:**

The City of Ferndale Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VIII, Signs is amended as follows:

**ARTICLE VIII. SIGNS**

**Section 6-258. Intent**

- A. The intent of this Ordinance is to regulate the location, size, construction, repair, maintenance, and manner of display of signs and to minimize visual clutter in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The requirements contained herein are intended to be content neutral.
- B. These objectives are accomplished by establishing the minimum number of regulations necessary concerning the size, placement, construction, illumination, and other aspects of signs in the City so as to:
  - 1. Recognize that the proliferation of signs is unduly distracting to motorists and nonmotorized travelers, reduces the effectiveness of signs directing and warning the public, causes confusion, reduces desired uniform traffic flow, and creates potential for accidents.
  - 2. Prevent signs that are potentially dangerous to the public due to structural deficiencies or disrepair.
  - 3. Reduce visual pollution and physical obstructions caused by a proliferation of signs which would diminish the City's image, property values and quality of life.
  - 4. Recognize that the principal intent of signs, to meet the purpose of these standards and serve the public interest, should be for identification of an establishment or product on the premises.
  - 5. Enable the public to locate goods, services and facilities without excessive difficulty and confusion by restricting the number and placement of signs.

6. Prevent placement of signs which will conceal or obscure signs of adjacent uses.
  7. Protect the public right to receive messages, including religious, political, economic, social, philosophical and other types of information protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
  8. Prevent billboard and off-premise signs from conflicting with other allowed land uses.
  9. Maintain and improve the image of the City by encouraging signs of consistent size which are compatible with and complementary to related buildings and uses, and harmonious with their surroundings.
  10. Minimize abundance and size of signs to reduce visual clutter, motorist distraction, and loss of visibility.
  11. Promote public convenience.
  12. Enhance the aesthetic appearance of the City.
- C. Where more restrictive in respect to location, use, size, and height of signs and outdoor display structures, the limitations of the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance, affecting required light and ventilation requirements and use of land shall take precedence over the restrictions of this Article.

**Section 6-259. Approved Rules**

In the absence of approved rules governing details of construction, the CDS Director shall establish requirements to conform with this Article unless otherwise specified.

**Section 6-260. Definitions**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- A. **Abandoned Sign.** A sign that no longer advertises a valid business, product, service, activity, owner or lessor or is vacated for sixty (60) days or a sign support structure with no signage for more than six (6) months where the owner or lessor has failed to notify in writing the CDS Director that such lack of sign is not a voluntary act to abandon such sign support structure.
- B. **Alter.** The addition or change to, refacing of, or removal of any part of any sign or the whole sign.

- C. **Awning/Canopy Sign.** A retractable or fixed shelter constructed of materials on a supporting framework which projects from the exterior wall of a building.
- D. **Banner Sign.** A sign made of non-rigid material with or without an enclosing structural framework.
- E. **Billboard or Off-premises Sign.** A sign which contains a message unrelated to a business, activity, or service conducted on the premises, or to a commodity not sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located.
- F. **Changeable Message Sign, Electronic.** A sign that provides a changeable display created by electronic means such as lights, television, liquid crystal display or LED.
- G. **Changeable Message Sign, Manual.** A reader board attached to a sign or a sign whose copy is changed manually.
- H. **Construction Sign.** A temporary sign identifying the name(s) of project owners, contractors, developers, realtors representing developers, architects, designers, engineers, landscape architects, and financiers of a project being constructed or improved; and not including any advertising of any product or announcement of availability of leasing space.
- I. **Device Signs.** Permanent signs on vending machines or other containers indicating only the contents of such devices.
- J. **Directional Sign.** Any sign that is designed and erected for the purpose of providing direction and/or orientation for vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- K. **Emergency Vehicle Simulation Signs.** Signs that simulate or could in any way be confused with the lighting of emergency vehicles or traffic signals.
- L. **Employment Sign.** "Help wanted" signs soliciting employees for the place of business where posted.
- M. **Enclosed Sign.** Any sign that is located completely within a building and is not visible from the outside. If the sign is visible from outside the building and is within five (5) feet of a window, it is a window sign.
- N. **Festoon Sign.** A sign which includes, but is not limited to, pennants, streamers, ribbons, pinwheels or similar material or string lights or light bulbs, which is hung or strung and which is not an integral, physical part of the building or structure.
- O. **Flag.** An emblem usually consisting of a piece of cloth with the insignia of any nation, state, city, community organization, educational institution, noncommercial enterprise, college or university. Commercial Flags include brand name, product name, trademark,

- P. **Flashing, Animated, or Moving Sign.** A sign that has intermittently reflecting lights, or has moving illumination such as flashing, scintillating, varying intensity, or a sign that has any visible portions in motion, or is designed to give the appearance of movement, either constantly or at intervals, whether caused by artificial or natural sources, with the exception of time/temperature signs.
- Q. **Ground Sign.** A three dimensional, self supporting, permanent, base-mounted free-standing sign which does not allow visual clearance underneath.
- R. **Government Sign.** A temporary or permanent sign erected by the City of Ferndale, Oakland County, or the State or Federal government including signs as necessary in conjunction with the improvement of public infrastructure or vehicular or pedestrian traffic direction or information.
- S. **High Intensity Sign.** A sign using high intensity lights.
- T. **Illegal Sign.** Any sign unlawfully installed, erected, or maintained.
- U. **Incidental Sign.** A sign, emblem, or decal informing the public of goods, facilities, or services available on the premises. Examples of incidental signs include signs indicating the hours of business, service club identification signs, no smoking signs, signs used to designate bathrooms, and signs providing information on credit cards and business affiliations.
- V. **Inflatable Sign.** A sign composed of an inflatable, flexible material tethered to a building or the ground.
- W. **Integral Sign.** A memorial sign or commemorative tablet which contains names of buildings, dates of erection, and monumental citations installed as a permanent part of a building or structure.
- X. **Marquee Sign.** A sign attached to or hung from a structure, or supported by a building, that projects over an entrance and/or public right-of-way, but does not include canopy or awning signs.
- Y. **Menu Board Sign.** A sign which displays a menu, products, or services available and is intended to service patrons.
- Z. **Mural.** A graphic displayed on the exterior of a building for the purposes of decoration or artistic expression that does not contain any brand name, product name, trademark, trade name, logo, or abbreviation related to a product, company, profession, business, or any other commercial message.

- AA. **Nameplate Sign.** A non-electric sign stating the name and/or address of a person, business entity or firm located on the site.
- BB. **Non-Conforming Sign.** Any sign which was lawfully erected and maintained prior to the effective date of this Ordinance and any amendments thereto, and which fails to conform to any applicable regulations and restrictions of this Article.
- CC. **Pole Sign.** A three-dimensional, self-supported, permanent, base-mounted, free-standing sign which allows visual clearance underneath.
- DD. **Political Sign.** Refer to *Section X.04* below.
- EE. **Portable Sign.** A freestanding sign designed to be moved from place to place including, but not limited to, searchlights and signs with wheels; but excludes political signs, real estate signs, construction signs, and government signs.
- FF. **Premises.** A lot or group of lots with one or more buildings, which is under the same ownership or control, and is not divided by a public street, alley, or right-of-way. Multiple tenants of a single premise may share common vehicular access-ways and off-street parking. Examples of premises include, but are not limited to, a shopping center, a multiple-family dwelling, industrial park, and an educational or medical campus.
- GG. **Projecting Wall Sign/Blade Sign.** A sign which projects perpendicularly or at an angle from a building. A projecting wall sign does not include canopy, awning, roof, or marquee signs.
- HH. **Public Property.** Any land within the City that is owned by a governmental entity.
- II. **Public Right-Of-Way.** The area designated for public use by easement, dedication, or otherwise, as shown in the plat records of the City or recorded with the County Register of Deeds.
- JJ. **Real Estate Open House Sign.** Any temporary sign which advertises and directs the public to an open house for a building which is available for sale or lease, with the event held on a specific day.
- KK. **Real Estate Sign.** A temporary sign advertising that the property is for sale, rent, or lease.
- LL. **Road Furniture Sign.** A sign which displays a message on road furniture, such as a bench, pedestrian lights, bus shelters and decorative trash receptacles.
- MM. **Roof Sign.** A sign which is erected, constructed, or maintained on or above the roof or parapet of a building, or any portion thereof.

- NN. **Sandwich Board.** Any sign located outside of a business which is not secured or attached to the ground, any building or structure, or surface upon which it is located for the purpose of providing the public with information about the business (e.g. products and services offered, scheduled events, daily specials, etc.) on the premises where it is located. Acceptable sign materials include: steel, iron, chalkboard, metal or wood. Plastic signs with interchangeable letters are not permitted as Sandwich Board Signs. Sandwich board signs do not include signs carried by or attached to a person.
- OO. **Sign.** Any visible device which displays either commercial or noncommercial messages by means of graphic presentation of alphabetic or pictorial symbols or representations.
- PP. **Sign Setback.** The distance, where required, that a sign must be located from property lines or public rights-of-way. Such distance will be measured from the portion of the sign structure nearest to the specified line. For purposes of these measurements, the property lines and public right-of-way lines extend vertically and perpendicularly from the ground to infinity.
- QQ. **Sign Structure.** Any structure supporting a sign.
- RR. **Temporary Sign.** Any sign, regardless of size and materials that is not permitted for long term use. Examples of temporary signs include, but are not limited to, banners, construction signs, political/expressive signs, real estate/open house signs, and signs which announce special events that occur for a limited period of time.
- SS. **Traffic Control Sign.** Private traffic control and parking signs that conform to the requirements of the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- TT. **Tree/Utility Pole Sign.** Signs attached to, supported by, or otherwise placed upon a utility pole or tree.
- UU. **Vehicle Sign.** A sign painted on or attached to a vehicle, including trailers, which is parked in such a manner as to attract attention or advertise a business, product, service, or activity. Commercially licensed vehicles which are generally used daily off-site are not included.
- VV. **Wall Sign.** A sign attached to, painted or placed on the exterior wall or surface of any building or structure.
- WW. **Window Sign.** A temporary or permanent sign oriented to the public right-of-way and placed on a window, or inside a building in such a manner as to be oriented toward the public right-of-way.

**Section 6-261. Political and Expressive Signs**

- A. For the purposes of this Section, “political sign” shall mean any temporary sign, not otherwise regulated by this chapter, placed or displayed for the purpose of influencing the

nomination or election of a candidate, or for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of a ballot question. An “expressive sign” shall mean any temporary sign, not meeting the definition of a “political sign” placed or displayed for the purpose of expressing an opinion about any societal, cultural or political issue.

- B. The purpose of this Section is to regulate and control the proliferation of temporary political and expressive signs which may, if not regulated, create a visual blight and detract from the natural beauty of the municipality.
- C. It shall be unlawful to place or display a political sign on any property owned or under control of the City of Ferndale, the County of Oakland, the State of Michigan, the United States of America, or any school district, any utility, or within any public right-of-way easement located on private property, unless otherwise permitted by law.
- D. The specifications for political and expressive signs shall be consistent with those specifications required for temporary signs as set forth in the Ferndale Code of Ordinances.
- E. It shall be rebuttable presumption that any political sign placed or displayed in violation of this Section was placed or displayed by the candidate, and the candidate committee, committee, or ballot question committee, whose name is displayed on the political sign. For the purposes of this Section, a “candidate,” “candidate committee,” “committee,” and “ballot question committee” shall be defined in the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388 (MCLA 169.201 et seq.), as from time to time amended.
- F. It shall be unlawful to display or place a political sign which is in violation of the requirements of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388 (MCLA 169.201 et seq.), as from time to time amended.
- G. If the Building Inspector, or their designee, or any police officer shall find that any political or expressive sign is installed, erected or maintained in violation of the provisions of this Section and if it shall be located on any property owned or under the control of the City of Ferndale, the sign shall be immediately removed by the Inspector or police officer.
- H. Any violation of this Section shall be a civil infraction with the violator being subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first violation and fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each and every violation thereafter which might occur within one year after a prior violation of this subsection has occurred.

**Section 6-262. Exempt Signs**

The following signs do not require a sign permit provided they are not located in the public right-of-way, are not in conflict with the visibility requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and are in compliance with Table 1. Exempt signs shall not relieve the owner of the sign from responsibility for erection and maintenance in a safe manner.

- A. **Device Signs**
- B. **Employment Signs**
- C. **Enclosed Signs**
- D. **Expressive Signs**
- E. **Flags.** Any American flag displayed shall be done so in compliance with Public Law 94-344 and shall never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. Commercial Flags shall be limited to one per property.
- F. **Government Signs**
- G. **Holiday Signs and Decorations.** Holiday signs and decorations may be erected without a permit, but subject to the provision that they be removed within two (2) weeks after the passage of the holiday.
- H. **Incidental Signs**
- I. **Integral Signs**
- J. **Nameplate Signs**
- K. **Political Signs**
- L. **Real Estate Signs**
- M. **Real Estate Open House Signs**
- N. **Time and Temperature Signs**
- O. **Traffic Control Signs**

**Section 6-263. Prohibited Signs**

Prohibited signs shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Any sign which is not specifically permitted by, or does not conform to the provisions of this Article.
- B. **Abandoned Signs**
- C. **Billboard or Off-premise Signs**
- D. **Emergency Vehicle Simulation Signs**
- E. **Exterior String Lights.** String lights used in connection with a commercial enterprise, other than holiday decorations.
- F. **Festoon Signs**
- G. **Flashing, Animated or Moving Signs**
- H. **High Intensity Signs**
- I. **Home Occupation Signs**
- J. **Illegal Signs**
- K. **Inflatable Signs**
- L. **Pole Signs**
- M. **Portable Signs,** except where expressly permitted by these regulations.
- N. **Road Furniture Signs**
- O. **Roof Signs**
- P. **Signs that Confuse Traffic.** Signs that make use of the words "Stop", "Look", "Go", "Slow", "Caution", or "Danger", or any other words, phrases, symbols, or characters, in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic.

- Q. **Signs that Obstruct Access.** Signs that prevent free and unobstructed access to any door, window, fire escape, or required exit.
- R. **Signs that Obstruct Vision.** Signs that obstruct any approved traffic control device, road sign, or signal from view; interfere with site distance necessary for traffic safety; or distract from visibility of existing traffic signs or devices.
- S. **Structurally Unsafe Signs.** Signs which are deemed structurally unsafe, constitute a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, abandonment, or by reason of blocking views; are capable of causing electric shock to a person who comes in contact with it; are unlawfully installed, erected, or maintained; are not kept in good repair, such that they have broken parts, missing letters, or non-operational lights or do not meet applicable requirements of the State of Michigan Building Code.
- T. **Tree/Utility Pole Signs**
- U. **Vehicle Signs,** where the vehicle is parked longer than twelve (12) hours.

**Section 6-264. General Standards**

Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, alter, relocate, or maintain within the City any sign without first obtaining a permit from the Building Inspector.

- A. **Sign Display Area.** No sign shall exceed the maximum sign display area allowed. The sign display area is to be expressed in square feet, computed to the nearest tenth of a square foot, and shall be computed as follows:
  - 1. **Single-Face Signs.** Sign area shall be measured as the square footage of the sign face and any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate it from the background against which it is placed.
  - 2. **Double-Face Signs.** The area of a double-faced freestanding sign shall be computed using only one (1) face of the sign provided that: 1) the outline and dimensions of both faces are identical, and 2) the faces are back to back so that only one face is visible at any given time.
  - 3. **Wall Signs.** When a sign consists solely of lettering or other sign elements printed, painted or mounted on a wall of a building without any distinguishing border, panel or background, the calculation for sign area shall be measured by enclosing the outermost edges of the sign elements within a parallelogram or rectangle. If the sign includes a border, panel or background, the calculation for sign area shall be measured by the enclosing element.
- B. **Sign Height**
  - 1. The permitted height of all signs supported by the ground shall be measured from the level of the ground, finished grade surface, adjacent to the sign.

2. The permitted height of signs shall not be measured from an area of the ground that has been built-up or constructed in a manner that would have the effect of allowing a higher sign height than permitted by these regulations (e.g. the height of signs erected on a berm shall be measured from the lower grade adjacent to the berm).

C. **Location**

1. **Public Right-of-Way.** Unless otherwise provided in these regulations, no sign, except those established by the City of Ferndale, Oakland County, state or federal governments shall be located in, project or overhang into any public right-of-way or dedicated easement.
2. **Setbacks.** All signs, unless otherwise specified, shall conform to the provisions of Table 1.
3. **Visibility.** All signs must comply with the visibility requirements of the City of Ferndale Zoning Ordinance.

D. **Illumination**

1. **General Requirements.** Signs shall be illuminated only by steady, stationary, shielded light sources directed solely at the sign (i.e. front lit signs) or internal to it (i.e. back-lit signs).
2. **Non-glare, Shielded Lighting.** Use of glaring undiffused lights or bulbs shall be prohibited. Lights shall be shaded and/or shielded downward so as not to project onto adjoining properties or thoroughfares.
3. **Intensity.** Lighting intensities for illuminated signs shall not exceed 10 foot-candles, measured at four (4) feet perpendicular to any surface.
4. **Bare Bulb Illumination.** Illumination by bare bulbs or flames is prohibited.
5. **Wiring.** Underground wiring shall be required for all illuminated signs not attached to a building. All wiring for signs attached to a building shall be concealed (i.e., exposed conduit or wiring is prohibited).

E. **Design and Construction**

1. **Materials.** Sign materials shall be designed to complement the original construction materials and architectural style of the building façade to promote an overall unified and aesthetic effect. Signs shall not be constructed from materials that are remnants or manufactured for a different purpose. Wood or approved plastics or other materials of combustible characteristics similar to wood may be used for moldings, cappings, nailing blocks, letters and latticing, and for other purely ornamental features.

2. **Fastenings.** All signs must be erected in such a manner and with such materials to remain safe and secure during the period of use and all bolts, cables, and other parts of such signs shall be kept painted and free from corrosion by the owner. No sign may be placed upon a tree or utility pole, except signs of a unit of government or utility.
3. **Support Location.** No pole, cable or support of any nature shall be placed on any publicly owned property, road right-of-way, or proposed road right-of-way.
4. **Sign Safety**
  - a. All signs erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered or moved shall be constructed in such a manner and of such materials as to comply with all requirements of the Building Code.
  - b. Any sign, including cables, guys, etc. shall have a minimum clearance of six (6) feet from any electrical conductor, electric light pole, road lamp, traffic light, or other public utility pole or standard.
  - c. Signs with electrical connections shall comply with Electrical Code requirements, including the application, inspection, and approval of an electrical permit.

**Section 6-265. Non-Conforming Signs**

- A. **Continuance.** Any sign lawfully existing at the time of the adoption of this Article that does not fully comply with all provisions shall be considered a legal nonconforming sign and may be permitted to remain as long as the sign is properly maintained and not detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the community except as herein provided.
- B. **Restrictions.** A nonconforming sign shall not be altered or reconstructed, unless the alteration or reconstruction is in compliance with the provisions of this Section. For the purpose of this Article only, the term "altered" or "reconstructed" shall not include any of the following:
  1. Normal maintenance.
  2. Changing of surface sign space to a lesser or equal area.
  3. Ornamental molding, frames, trellises, or ornamental features.
  4. Changing backgrounds, letters, figures, or characters, or other embellishments.
  5. Diminishing the size or dimension or the copy of the sign.
- C. **Requirements.** Nonconforming signs shall comply with the following requirements:
  1. **Repairs and Maintenance.** Normal maintenance shall be allowed, provided that any nonconforming sign that is destroyed by any means to an extent greater than

fifty percent (50%) of the sign's pre-existing fair market value, exclusive of the foundation, shall not be reconstructed. Normal maintenance shall include painting of chipped or faded signs; replacement of faded or damaged surface panels; or repair or replacement of electrical wiring or electrical devices.

2. **Substitution.** No nonconforming sign shall be replaced with another nonconforming sign.
3. **Removal.** Any non-conforming sign must be removed when the current business, service, or activity it references is discontinued for a period of sixty (60) days. When a non-conforming sign, or portion thereof, is removed, it shall be replaced only with a sign that conforms to all requirements of this ordinance. A nonconforming sign may be removed for maintenance or repair upon receipt of a permit from the Building Department conditional upon the sign being reinstalled within sixty (60) days of removal, otherwise the non-conforming sign use shall be deemed abandoned.

## **Section 6-266. Inspection and Maintenance**

### **A. Sign Inspection**

1. **Responsibility for Compliance.** The owner of any property on which a sign is located is declared to be responsible for the permit, erection, inspection, safety, condition, and removal of a sign and the area in the vicinity thereof.
2. **Inspection of New Signs.** All signs for which a permit has been issued shall be inspected by the Building Inspector when erected. Approval shall be granted only if the sign has been constructed in compliance with the approved plans and applicable requirements of City Ordinances and Codes.
3. **Inspection before Enclosure.** In cases where fastenings or anchorages are to be eventually bricked in or otherwise enclosed, the sign erector shall advise the Building Inspector when such fastenings are to be installed so that inspection may be completed before enclosure.
4. **Inspection of Existing Signs.** The Building Inspector may, at such times as deemed necessary, inspect any sign allowed under this Section, and if upon inspection a sign is found to be unsafe or in a condition that does not comply with all the provisions of this Section, the Building Inspector shall give notice of such condition to the owner for such sign and cause to be made the necessary repairs or alterations, or remove the sign.

### **B. Sign Maintenance.** All signs for which a permit is required and all supports therefore shall:

1. Be kept in compliance with the plans and specifications filed and approved for issuance of the construction permit.

2. Be kept and maintained in a safe condition, consistent with adopted building, electrical and mechanical codes.
  3. Not have peeling paint or paper, sun fading, staining, rust, or other conditions which impair the legibility or intelligibility of the sign.
  4. At all times conform to all the provisions of this Article.
- C. **Correction of Defects.** If the Building Inspector finds that any sign is unsafe, insecure, improperly constructed, or poorly maintained, the owner of the property shall make the sign safe and secure by completing any necessary reconstruction or repairs, or entirely remove the sign in accordance with the timetable established by the Building Inspector. Existing signs determined to be unsafe and an immediate hazard to health or safety shall be removed or repaired within twelve (12) hours of notification.
- D. **Removal of Abandoned Signs.** The owner of the property shall be responsible for removal of all signs and sign faces used in conjunction with a business upon vacation of a commercial or industrial establishment. Where a sign structure or frame, with the exception of a sign prohibited by this Ordinance, can be reused by a new occupant in a leased or rented building within six (6) months, the building owner shall not be required to remove the sign structure and frame in the interim periods when the building is not occupied, however, the building owner shall reface the sign with an opaque, blank panel to cover any exposed lights, structures or equipment.
- E. **Application of Building Code**
1. All signs shall be designed and constructed to conform to the provisions of the Building Code, as amended, in addition to the requirements of this Article.
  2. No sign shall be illuminated by other than electrical means. All electrical devices and wiring shall be installed in compliance with the Electrical Code, as amended. In no case shall any open spark or flame be used for display purposes. If all or any portion of an illuminated sign fails to function, said sign shall be repaired within thirty (30) days.
  3. No sign shall be attached in any form, shape, or manner which will interfere with any opening required for ventilation except that such signs may be erected in front of and may cover transom windows when not in violation of any provision of the City Code.
- F. **Relocation.** Any sign that is moved to another location either on the same or to other premises shall be considered a new sign under the provisions of this Article and compliance with the procedures outlined in this Article for new signs shall be followed.
- G. **Alteration or Reconstruction.** Any conforming sign which is altered or substantially reconstructed (to an extent greater than fifty percent (50%) of the sign's pre-existing fair

market value) for any reason including partial destruction by fire, wind, or accident, shall be considered a new sign and be subject to the rules and procedures outlined in this Article.

#### H. **Removal**

1. If the Building Inspector finds that a sign is maintained in violation of the provisions of this Article and such sign is not a non-conforming sign, the Building Inspector shall give written notice by certified mail or personal service to the owner of the property. If such person fails to alter or remove the sign so as to comply with this Section within ten (10) days after such notice, the Building Inspector may issue a Notice of Violation or a citation requiring the property owner to appear in Court.
2. If such sign is not brought into conformance or removed within ten (10) days of such person's conviction for violation of this Article, the Building Inspector may cause such sign to be removed at the expense of the property owner.
3. The Building Inspector may cause any sign which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed. These provisions are supplemental to other legal remedies available for the enforcement of this Article.
4. If the Building Inspector shall find that a sign constitutes an immediate peril to persons or property, such sign shall be removed forthwith, at the expense of the owner or person having the official use of the property where the sign is located.
5. A violation of any of the Sections or subsections of this Article shall be punishable as provided in Section 1.7 of the Code of Ordinances.

## Section 6-267. A.

## Sign Standards for Permitted Signs

**Table 1**  
**Sign Standards for Permitted Signs**

Type of Sign	Max. Height	Max. Size (per face)	Max. Number	Permit Required	Additional Requirements
<b>Awning/ Canopy</b>	Minimum 8ft. 6 in. to grade	a. 4 ft maximum projection for non-retractable awning/canopy signs b. 18 in. max. projection from property line for non-retractable awning/ canopy signs on Woodward c. 8 ft. maximum projection for retractable awning/ canopy sign from building line		yes	a. Back-lit awnings/canopies with or without signage are prohibited b. Retractable awnings/canopies must be retracted at the end of business daily c. Awning/canopy on Woodward with greater than 18" projection requires written MDOT approval
<b>Banners spanning a Right of Way</b>	--	300 sq. ft.		yes-from City Council	a. Must be removed as soon as torn or damaged and in any case within 7 days after the event or activity advertised is completed b. For banners not spanning a right of way, see Temporary Signs
<b>Changeable Message (Electronic and Manual)</b>	--	8 sq. ft.	1	yes	a. Area of changeable message shall be included as part of the maximum permitted size of any wall, window, ground, or other applicable sign b. Changeable message cannot change more than twice every 24 hours
<b>Construction</b>	6 ft.	6 sq. ft.	1 per project	yes	a. Erected during the construction period only b. Shall be removed within 14 days of the date a final approval for occupancy is issued
<b>Device</b>	--	3 sq. ft.	1 per vending machine or container	no	
<b>Directional</b>	3 ft.	1 sq. ft.	2 per business	yes	a. Shall not be illuminated
<b>Employment</b>	--	6 sq. ft.	--	no	
<b>Flags</b>	30 ft. pole	--	3 flags	no	
<b>Ground</b>	42 in.	32 sq. ft.	1	yes	a. Minimum 2 ft. from property line b. Shall not be placed between the sidewalk and the curb c. Shall not project over the public right-of-way d. Must meet visibility requirements of the Zoning Ordinance
<b>Garage Sale</b>	6 ft.	6 sq. ft.	1 per premise	yes - from City Clerk	a. Shall be erected no more than 10 business days before and removed within 1 business day after the announced sale
<b>Government</b>	--	--	--	no	
<b>Incidental</b>	--	2 sq. ft. (total of all)	--	no	
<b>Integral</b>	--	6 sq. ft. per face	--	no	

**Table 1  
Sign Standards for Permitted Signs**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Max. Height</b>	<b>Max. Size (per face)</b>	<b>Max. Number</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>	<b>Additional Requirements</b>
<b>Marquee</b>	Minimum 8ft. 6 in. above grade, limited to 1:1 ratio (height to width) not to exceed 8 ft high	--	1 per building	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Such sign shall not extend beyond the ends, above the top, or below the bottom of a marquee</li> <li>b. No part of a marquee sign shall project more than two (2) inches from any face of a marquee</li> <li>c. A marquee sign shall be constructed entirely of metal or other approved noncombustible materials</li> </ul>
<b>Menu Boards</b>	--	32 sq. ft.	1 per business	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shall not be designed or located so as to be read from the public right-of-way</li> <li>b. Speakers and illumination of such signs shall be directed away from residential uses</li> </ul>
<b>Murals</b>	--	--	1 per building	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Murals determined to be advertising by the Building Inspector shall be considered a sign and shall be included in the calculations of allowable sign area</li> </ul>
<b>Nameplate</b>	--	24 sq. in.	1 per side of building	no	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shall be located near a secondary entrance or access point</li> </ul>
<b>Political / Expressive</b>	--	6 sq. ft. total aggregate		no	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Property must contain an occupied structure</li> <li>b. Shall not placed within the public street right-of-way line</li> <li>c. Shall be removed within 10 business days following the event for which they are erected, if applicable</li> </ul>
<b>Projecting or Blade</b>	8 ft. 6 in.	3 sq. ft.	1 per business	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 24 in. max. projection</li> </ul>
<b>Real Estate</b>	42 in.	6 sq. ft.	1 per parcel for each public street frontage	no	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prohibited in the public right-of-way</li> <li>b. Shall not be illuminated</li> <li>c. Shall be removed immediately when property is sold, rented, or leased</li> </ul>
<b>Real Estate Open House</b>	--	6 sq. ft.	2 off-premise and 1 on-premise	no	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Must be removed at the end of each day of the open house</li> <li>b. Prohibited in the public right-of-way</li> </ul>
<b>Sandwich Boards * (refer to Section 6-267 B)</b>	3 ft.	6 sq. ft.	1 per business	<p>Yes. Annual permit required beginning March 1.</p> <p>Refer to Insurance and Liability Section below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sign shall only be placed in front of the business it references.</li> <li>b. Sign shall not be chained, cable locked or similarly attached to structures, poles, signs, bike racks, news racks, sidewalk café enclosures, etc.</li> <li>c. Sign shall be placed so as to maintain four (4) foot unobstructed clearance to any permanent object, sidewalk ramp, building or sidewalk café enclosure and shall not be placed within public street right-of-way line.</li> <li>d. Sign shall be removed if damaged, vandalized or when event advertised is no longer current.</li> </ul>

**Table 1  
Sign Standards for Permitted Signs**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Max. Height</b>	<b>Max. Size (per face)</b>	<b>Max. Number</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>	<b>Additional Requirements</b>
<b>Temporary</b>		6 sq. ft.; 16 sq. ft. for banners not spanning rights-of-way		yes	a. 60 day maximum display, unless torn or damaged at which time the sign shall be removed immediately b. Shall not obstruct any door, window, fire escape, or ventilation opening
<b>Traffic Control</b>	--	--	--	no	
<b>Wall</b>	--	Shall not exceed 10% of wall surface excluding the calculated area of windows and doorways or 40 sq. ft., whichever is smaller	1 per street frontage on each parcel	yes	a. Any sign attached to the wall of a building shall be constructed of metal or other approved non-combustible material b. Wall signs shall not extend beyond the wall in any direction, except they may project from the wall to which they are mounted a maximum of 12 in. c. Any existing wall sign painted on the surface of a structure made illegal either by the prohibition against advertising signs on the wall of a building or structure or by the area provisions of this Section shall be removed or painted out with a color to match the rest of the wall to the extent necessary to reduce the sign area to 10% of the wall surface excluding the calculated area of doors and windows
<b>Window</b>	--	20% of glass surface	--	no	a. Window signs shall not be attached to or painted on the outside of any window b. Any temporary sign shall comply with the Temporary Sign regulations c. Window signs that are faded, yellowed, ripped, or otherwise damaged shall be removed immediately

**Section 6-267. B. Insurance and Liability for Sandwich Board Signs.**

Any application for a Sandwich Board Sign shall be accompanied by a current certificate of general liability coverage in an amount not less than one million dollars for the period of the permit, naming the City of Ferndale as an additional insured and which shall indicate it shall not be cancelled or materially modify or coverage reduced without thirty (30) days notice to the City. Additionally, every person who places or maintains a Sandwich Board Sign on a public sidewalk or public right-of-way shall file a written statement with the City Manager, in a form satisfactory to the City Attorney, agreeing to indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers and employees from any loss, liability or damage, including expenses and costs for bodily or personal injury, and for property damages sustained by any person as a result of the installation, use and/or maintenance of a Sandwich Board within the City.

**Section 6-268. Appeals**

A. Any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the Building Inspector in connection with any dimensional or location provision of these regulations may appeal to the City of

Ferndale Plan Commission within thirty (30) days of the decision or order. Decisions of the Plan Commission may be appealed to Ferndale City Council.

- B. The Plan Commission, by vote, may affirm, annul or modify the order or action of the Building Inspector. Any decision to grant a variance or annul the decision of the Building Inspector shall require a majority vote of its full membership, not just a majority of those present.
- C. After reviewing a sign application to appeal an administrative decision or request a variance from these sign regulations, the Plan Commission shall either:
  - 1. Approve the sign application as presented upon a finding, point by point, that all the criteria in are met.
  - 2. Approve the sign application appeal or variance subject to certain changes to sign dimensions or proposed location.
  - 3. Reject the sign application appeal or variance, in which case the applicant shall be provided with a written explanation of the reasons for such rejection.
- D. Criteria for Variance from the Sign Regulations. The Plan Commission may hear requests for variances from these regulations. A variance may be granted by the Plan Commission only in cases involving practical difficulties or unique conditions regarding the sign and/or its location. The burden of proof lies with the applicant. Requests for variances shall be reviewed for compliance with the following:
  - 1. Variances may be granted for any one (1) of the following conditions:
    - a. The applicant has demonstrated a variance is needed due to a practical difficulty on the site, such as varied topography, horizontal or vertical road curvature, or presence of structures or desired trees that limits visibility of a sign on the premises; or
    - b. A variance is warranted due to the relatively large size of the site, frontage or building; or
    - c. A variance would significantly improve the conformity of an existing sign.
  - 2. To grant a variance for one of the conditions specified above, all of the following standards must also be met:
    - a. The inability to conform with the regulations is due to a practical difficulty or unique condition that includes more than mere inconvenience or mere inability to attain a supposed higher financial return; and
    - b. That the alleged practical difficulties or unique condition, or both, are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the person requesting the variance, and result from conditions which do not exist generally throughout the city; and

- c. That allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by the regulations, the individual practical difficulties that will be suffered by a failure to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance, and will not be contrary to the public purpose and general intent of these regulations; and
- d. The variance granted is the minimum necessary to allow the applicant to have a reasonable outlet for free speech and meet the intent of these sign regulations; and
- e. The variance will not adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

**Part II. Savings Clause.**

All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when commenced.

**Part III. Severability.**

The various parts, sections and clauses of this ordinance are declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected.

**Part IV. Repeal.**

All regulatory provisions contained in other city ordinances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are repealed.

**Part V. Effective Date; Publication.**

This ordinance shall become effective upon publication of a notice in a newspaper circulated in the city, stating the date of the enactment and the effective date of the ordinance, a brief notice as to the subject matter of this ordinance, and such other facts as the city clerk shall

deem pertinent and that a copy of the ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the city clerk.

MADE, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FERNDALE, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CRAIG COVEY, MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. CHERILYNN TALLMAN, CITY CLERK

Date of Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

I certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Ordinance passed at a meeting of the Ferndale City Council held on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. CHERILYNN TALLMAN, CITY CLERK

CITY OF FERNDALE  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE 1050

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the City of Ferndale Council has adopted Ordinance No. 1050, an ordinance to amend Chapter 6, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VIII, Signs.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication. This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

J. CHERILYNN TALLMAN, CITY CLERK  
(248) 546-2384



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Laura M. Hallahan  
John D. Staran  
Ann D. Christ, Of Counsel  
Sanford J. Mall, Of Counsel

June 5, 2008

Mr. Robert J. Bruner, Jr., City Manager  
City of Ferndale  
300 E. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

*Via E-Mail Only*

*Re: Sandwich Board Amendment to Sign Ordinance*

Dear Bob:

Enclosed please find a draft of the proposed amendment to Sign Ordinance which has been previously reviewed by the Ordinance Committee as noted in my May 20, 2008 correspondence. As requested, I have made a suggested revision to Section 6-260 A. "Abandoned Sign" to attempt to clarify and provide an objective basis to infer "intent" by an owner who fails to have a sign on a sign support structure for a period of more than six months. The proposed change to the definition of "Abandoned Sign" would state, "A sign that no longer advertises a valid business, product, service, activity, owner or lessor or is vacated for sixty (60) days or a sign support structure with no signage for more than six (6) months where the owner or lessor has failed to notify the CDS Director that such lack of sign is not a voluntary act to abandon such sign support structure." This language will strengthen the argument that a sign structure with no sign is abandoned when no contact is made with CDS. The Ordinance Committee also suggested the flag definition eliminate the reference to "rectangular" piece of cloth since not all flags are rectangular. This suggested modification is reflected in the draft.

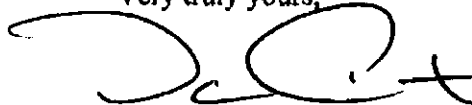
Additionally, the requested amendment provides for appeals, as authorized in Section 6-268, to be considered by the Plan Commission (rather than the City Council). This authority is not included in the Plan Commission's duties set forth in Chapter 2, Article III of the Ferndale Code of Ordinances. Accordingly, I have attached a proposed amendment to Chapter 2, Article III to add an additional Section 2-44 to provide that the Plan Commission may consider appeals from a person aggrieved by decision or order of the building inspector in connection with the dimensional or locational provision of the sign ordinance.

Finally, as requested in discussion with your office and CDS, I've added language to 2.267 B to require mandated insurance be kept in force with notice to the City of any cancellation or material alteration.

Mr. Robert J. Bruner, Jr., City Manager  
June 5, 2008  
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Daniel Christ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P. Daniel Christ

PDC/bbo

Enc.

cc: Ms. Marsha Scheer, CDS Director  
Ms. J. Cherilynn Tallman, City Clerk  
Committee Member T. Scott Galloway  
Committee Member Mike Lennon

ORDINANCE NO. 1051

CITY OF FERNDALE  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION,  
ARTICLE III, PLAN COMMISSION, ADDING SECTION 2-44 OF THE  
CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FERNDALE.

**THE CITY OF FERNDALE ORDAINS:**

**Part I.** That Chapter 2, Administration, Article III, Plan Commission, is amended to add Section 2-44 as follows:

**Sec. 2-44. Sign Appeals.**

The Plan Commission shall be authorized to consider an appeal of an aggrieved person with any decision or order of the building inspector, in connection with any dimensional or locational provision of the sign ordinance of the City of Ferndale. In connection with that appeal, the Plan Commission may affirm, annul, or modify the order or action of the building inspector as it relates to the dimensional or location provisions of the sign ordinance.

**Part II. Savings Clause.**

All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this Ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law enforced when they are commenced.

**Part III. Severability.**

The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be effected thereby.

**Part IV. Effective Date; Publication.**

This ordinance shall become effective upon publication of a notice in a newspaper circulated in the City, stating the date of the enactment and the effective date of the ordinance, a brief notice as to the subject matter of this ordinance, and such other facts as the city clerk shall deem pertinent and that a copy of the ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the city clerk.

MADE, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
FERNDALE, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CRAIG COVEY, MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. CHERILYNN TALLMAN, CITY CLERK

Date of Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Ordinance passed at a meeting of the Ferndale City Council held on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. CHERILYNN TALLMAN, CITY CLERK

CITY OF FERNDALE  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Ferndale Council has adopted Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Article III, Plan Commission to Add Section 2-44 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Ferndale.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication. This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, \_\_\_\_\_, 2008. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

J. CHERILYNN TALLMAN, CITY CLERK  
(248) 546-2384



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John D. Staran  
Ann D. Christ, Of Counsel  
Sanford J. Mall, Of Counsel

May 20, 2008

Ms. Marsha Scheer, CDS Director  
City of Ferndale  
300 East Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

*Via E-Mail*

*Re: Sandwich Board Amendment to Sign Ordinance*

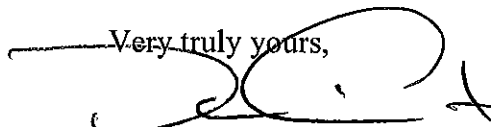
Dear Marsha:

The Ordinance Committee meet on May 13, 2008 and considered the proposed amendment to the Sign Ordinance addressing principally, sandwich board signs. The Ordinance Committee suggests the matter be forwarded to Council for its consideration.

The draft also added an additional amendment to the definition section regarding a flag. The Ordinance Committee discussed the definition and thought the limitation on a flag being a "rectangular" piece of cloth may not be sufficiently broad since some flags utilize other shapes. Otherwise, that definition seems fine.

The draft also provided additional language in Section 6-266 D. Removal of Abandoned Signs. The Ordinance Committee discussed that language and that Michigan courts have ruled that the necessary elements of abandonment are "intent" in some act or omission on the part of an owner which clearly manifests a voluntary decision to abandon (see May 7, 2008 Memo). The Ordinance Committee thought it may be appropriate to add additional language to this section which referenced an intent by some act or omissions on the part of the owner which indicate a voluntary decision to abandon prior to a person being deemed to have abandoned a sign.

The Ordinance Committee recommends that the draft be forwarded to Council for its consideration with respect to these items. If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,  
  
P. Daniel Christ

PDC/bbo

Enc.

cc: Mr. Robert J. Bruner, Jr. City Manager  
Committee Member T. Scott Galloway  
Committee Member Mike Lennon

HAFELI STARAN HALLAHAN  
CHRIST & DUDEK, P.C.

TO: Ordinance Committee

FROM: P. Daniel Christ

RE: ***Sandwich Board Amendments to Sign Ordinance***

DATE: May 7, 2008

---

As you will recall, at the Committee's February 6, 2008 meeting, it considered certain amendments to the Sign Ordinance concerning sandwich board signs. The Committee was supportive of the amended definition to sandwich boards and temporary signs and certain aspects of the suggest regulation, except for the need for appearance review. (See attached correspondence of February 18, 2008). The CDS Department requested review of certain additional revisions to the Sign Ordinance to address abandoned signs, sign appeals and additional definition and regulation concerning flags. (See attached correspondence)

I have the following comments: There is a concern with respect to the regulation containing abandoned signs which would require an owner to remove the sign or sign structure where it is not reused by a new occupant in a leased or rented building within six (6) months. Michigan courts have ruled that while rights to non-conforming uses may be lost through abandonment, the necessary elements of abandonment are "intent" in some act or omission on the part of the owner which clearly manifests his voluntary decision to abandon. (See attached *Bialik v Stambaugh Township*, 2008 Mich App Lexis 860, *Hart v Miller-Ward*, 2004 Mich App Lexis 2863 and *Elmhirst v Cheboygan County Road Commission*, 2002 Mich App Lexis 1313) It may be appropriate to add additional language in this section for removal of abandoned signs to indicate where there is sufficient evidence of intent and acts or omissions on the part of the owner evidencing a decision to abandon.

As to the section on appeals, the draft proposes that the Plan Commission be designated to consider appeals and variances from the criteria for the Sign Ordinance. Typically the variances and appeals are considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals which currently has the power to consider variances and deviations from the requirements of the City's zoning ordinance. The Committee may want to consider this aspect of the proposed revision. The proposed revisions concerning flags seems reasonable.

**C. Tallman**

**From:** mailinglistbouncer@dreamhost.com on behalf of Megan Owens, TRU [transitinfo@detroittransit.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2008 7:05 PM  
**To:** ctallman@ferndale-mi.com  
**Subject:** [TRU e-newsletter] Big transit events next week - Oakland Co rally, Dump the Pump, and more

Hello!

We've got some really exciting events coming up next week that we need everyone's support to make successful - the **Oakland County Public Transit Rally, Dump the Pump day**, the start of Detroit RiverDays, and more. We need your help in two important ways – **please come to these great events and help spread the word**. Read on for details:



- [Oakland County Public Transit Rally](#) – next Monday June 16 in Oak Park
  - [Macomb and Wayne County events](#) coming soon
- [Dump the Pump](#) – Thursday, June 19, 11am-2pm in downtown Detroit
- [Tabling at local festivals](#) – planning meeting & training this Thursday 6:30pm
  - Ann Arbor Greenfair, Detroit RiverDays, Comerica CityFest and more
- [New Mobility panel](#) – this Wednesday evening in Ann Arbor

### **Oakland County Public Transit Rally – next Monday, June 16, 7pm in Oak Park**

*Some elected officials have questioned whether people in Oakland County really care about public transit. Help us prove them wrong! **Come to this rally to show our elected officials that public transit must be one of their top priorities!***

**Where:** [Temple Emanu-El](#)

14450 W. 10 Mile Road, between Coolidge and Greenfield, in **Oak Park**

**When:** **Next Monday evening**, June 16 at 7:00pm

**Who:** **TRU, MOSES, and Oakland County elected officials** (local, county, state and federal),  
**Plus YOU and 250 of your friends and neighbors**

[MOSES](#) and TRU are partnering to host this event, which will include the latest information on public transit efforts throughout the Detroit area, a challenge to elected officials to make transit a priority, and a commitment from participants to support transit efforts.



A big crowd will show how important this issue is, so **please join us, bring lots of friends and help spread the word!** Please forward this message (this section or the whole thing) to friends, neighbors, co-workers, community groups, congregations, neighborhood associations, and anyone else who supports transit.

Facebook users - Find out more and RSVP at [our Rally Facebook page](#)

Also, if you're in Oakland County, take a minute to call or email your elected officials and encourage them to attend!

*Remember, if the people lead, the leaders will follow.*

Plus Macomb and Wayne County Rallies coming soon

Oakland County officials aren't the only ones who need to hear how important public transit is. **We're planning rallies in Macomb County and Wayne County too!** So mark your calendar:

**Macomb County Public Transit Rally**

**Monday, June 30, 7:00pm**

Erin Presbyterian Church  
30000 Gratiot, Roseville

The Wayne County event will be in Dearborn in mid-July – details coming soon.

If you can help us plan these events and spread the word throughout these communities, please let me know. Thanks!

**Dump the Pump – Thursday, June 19, 11am-2pm in downtown Detroit**



**Sick of outrageous gas prices? Then try transit and save money!**

That's the message we'll be sending on June 19 as part of the national Dump the Pump Day. Come join us!

- Take a walk through a bus or rideshare van.
- Hear from people about why they ride transit or rideshare.
- Get help figuring out the bus route that's best for you.
- Take SEMCOG's survey on future transportation funding.
- Maybe even win free bus passes, restaurant gift certificates or other prizes!

Do you already ride? Then bring out those friends and co-workers who've been complaining about gas prices and **help them dump the pump!**

Facebook users - find out more and RSVP at our [Dump the Pump facebook event page](#)

And for a little amusement and distraction, check out APTA's [Whack-A-Pump game](#).

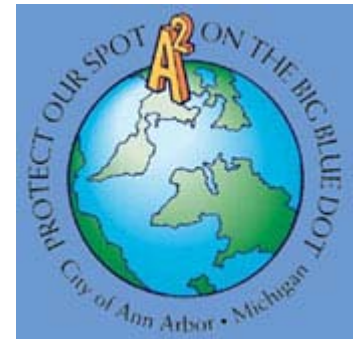
## Tabling at local festivals – planning meeting & training this Thursday 6:30pm

My favorite part of summer in Detroit are all the great fairs and festivals. Whether you're into art, music, food, the river, silly dog tricks – there's a great festival for you. And **TRU plans to be at many of those festivals spreading the word about transit!**

**Come join us this Thursday evening (6/12) at 6:30pm at the TRU office to help us plan those tabling opportunities, sign up for your times talking transit, and learn how to be an effective transit spokesperson with TRU.**

Ann Arborites – stop by and see us this Friday, 6/13, 6-9pm, at the [Ann Arbor Green Fair](#) in the Green Commute section (Main Street between Liberty and William).

We also plan to be at the [Detroit RiverDays](#) (June 20-23), the Target International [Freedom Festival Fireworks](#) on June 23, [Comerica CityFest](#) (July 2-6) and more. If you know of other events we should be at, please let me know and help us get signed up!



## New Mobility panel – this Wednesday evening in Ann Arbor

This Wednesday (tomorrow) evening, U of M is hosting a very interesting transportation panel:

### **NEW MOBILITY MEANS BUSINESS: EMERGING MARKETS IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION**

Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30pm at Rackham School of Graduate Studies

By 2020 more than two-thirds of the planet will be living in city regions. This has profound implications for how we think about and implement transportation in a world of accelerating globalization, congestion, climate change, demographic shifts (including aging populations), and economic disparity. “New Mobility Means Business” will take a journey into the near and not so near future, profiling how new services, products, transport modes, energy sources, technologies, and designs are converging to provide urban transportation portfolios that work for people, the planet, and the economy.

Panelists are asked the question: “How does New Mobility / sustainable transportation mean business for you, and how do you envision the future of the New Mobility industry globally?”

Speakers and panelists include:

- Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan
- William Clay Ford Junior, Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company
- Sue Cishke, Senior Vice President, Sustainability, Environment and Safety Engineering, Ford Motor Company
- David Berdish, Manager, Sustainable Business Development, Ford Motor Company

- Val Stoyanov, Managing Partner of Internet Business Solutions at Cisco Systems.
- Robin Chase, Founder and Former CEO of ZipCar, and CEO of GoLoco

Whew! It should be a busy and wonderful next few weeks. Remember, you can help in two important ways:

- **Come attend as many of these events as possible, especially the county transit rallies**
- **Help spread the word. Forward this information to anyone who might be interested.**

And if you got this forwarded from a friend, join our e-newsletter list to get all the latest and best news and opportunities regarding transit in greater Detroit, directly to your email. Visit [www.DetroitTransit.org/lists.php](http://www.DetroitTransit.org/lists.php). Enter your email, then look for the confirmation email.

Thanks,

Megan Owens  
 TRU Director  
[www.DetroitTransit.org](http://www.DetroitTransit.org)

PS - Remember, you can always join or unsubscribe from TRU's email list at [www.DetroitTransit.org/lists.php](http://www.DetroitTransit.org/lists.php) and you can support TRU financially at [www.DetroitTransit.org/registration.php](http://www.DetroitTransit.org/registration.php).

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 This message was sent by Transportation Riders United (TRU). TRU's mission is to improve transportation access and mobility in Greater Detroit by improving and promoting public transit. Visit [www.DetroitTransit.org](http://www.DetroitTransit.org) for more information about TRU and upcoming events. To join or be removed from TRU mailing lists, visit [www.DetroitTransit.org/lists.php](http://www.DetroitTransit.org/lists.php).

INFORMATION ONLY

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June 9, 2008

City Manager Robert Bruner  
City of Ferndale  
300 East Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI 48220

Dear Mr. Robert Bruner:

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Environmental Impact Commission. I understand the appointment I was given consisted of a three year term. However at this time, I will need to step down from that position. I originally joined the EIC believing it would be a group of people seeking a balanced approach at environmental sustainability. However, the direction of the group is more attuned to an activist organization. I feel there is a place for extreme positions but not when it is being relied upon as guidance by a municipality.

I would like to continue my efforts to help the City of Ferndale in its quest to make itself a leader in environmental sustainability. I feel the most effective way for me to offer this support is to serve The City as a consultant in the area of transportation policy. I have enjoyed my time with the EIC and its efforts and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Very Truly Yours,

Jeffrey R. Brandon



# F.P.D. NEWSLETTER

Read On-Line at [www.ferndalepolice.org](http://www.ferndalepolice.org)

Volume 10 Issue 211

June 4, 2008 thru June 17, 2008

## Daily Summary

### WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a larceny from auto complaint on W. Troy and a stolen vehicle case on Vester. Officers investigate a home invasion case on E. Woodland and investigate two traffic accidents, one of which is an injury traffic accident on East Nine Mile Road. Afternoon Shift Officers arrest a man on E. Woodland for disorderly conduct and resisting and obstructing a police officer and arrest a man on West Nine Mile Road for drunk driving. Officers make three warrant arrests today as well. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a woman for driving while license suspended second offence on Wanda and arrest a man on Allen for drunk driving at the scene of an injury traffic accident.

10 COMPLAINTS 7 ARRESTS

### THURSDAY JUNE 5, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a larceny complaint on W. Marshall and assist the Crime Suppression Task Force on East Nine Mile Road. Officers assist the Fire Department with an injured person on Goodrich and investigate a case of child neglect on Harris. Officers investigate a Carrying a Concealed Weapon case at Ferndale High School and make two warrant arrests today. Officers investigate a fraud case on East Nine Mile Road as well and investigate one traffic accident today.

Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a fraud case on Garfield and make three warrant arrests today. Officers investigate a retail fraud case on East Nine Mile Road and investigate one traffic accident. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a woman on East Nine Mile Road for drunk driving and investigate a domestic violence case on Laprairie. Officers arrest a man for fleeing and possessing a stolen vehicle on Woodward Ave. The vehicle crashed into a city bus after the chase was terminated. The suspect was severely injured and taken for medical treatment. Officers investigate a breaking and entering case on Woodward Ave. tonight as well.

15 COMPLAINTS 7 ARRESTS

### FRIDAY JUNE 6, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate two check fraud cases on East Nine Mile Road and make four warrant arrests today. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a stolen vehicle case on St. Louis and a robbery case on St. Louis. Officers make two warrant arrests today as well. Midnight Shift Officers investigate one traffic accident today and arrest a man on East Eight Mile Road for drunk driving third offence. Officers make one warrant arrest tonight as well.

12 COMPLAINTS 8 ARRESTS

### SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a larceny from auto complaint on Pearson and an intimidation case on Almont. Officers investigate a hit and run traffic acci-

dent on Wordsworth and arrest a man on West Eight Mile Road for malicious destruction of property. Officers make one warrant arrest today. Afternoon Shift Officers arrest a juvenile male for driving without a drivers license and investigate a improper license plate case in the Lux Parking Lot. Officers arrest a man on West Eight Mile Road for domestic violence today as well. Midnight Shift Officers investigate a stolen vehicle case on E. Oakridge and assist the Fire Department with a mental commitment on Woodward Ave. Officers arrest a man on Woodward Ave. for drunk driving second offence tonight.

10 COMPLAINTS 5 ARRESTS

### SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2008

Day Shift Officers assist the Fire Department with a hospice death on E. Marshall today. Afternoon Shift Officers arrest a man on East Eight Mile Road for driving without a drivers license and make one warrant arrest today. Officers investigate two injury traffic accidents today, one on West Nine Mile Road and one on West Eight Mile Road. Officers investigate a fail to comply with sex offender registry case on Kensington today as well. Midnight Shift Officers investigate a domestic violence complaint on Kenwood and arrest a man on East Eight Mile Road for drunk driving second offence.

6 COMPLAINTS 3 ARRESTS

### MONDAY JUNE 9, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a

## Daily Summary (continued)

breaking and entering case on Livernois and a larceny complaint on Hilton. Officers assist the Fire Department with two mental commitments, one on Fair and another on Wanda. Officers investigate an assault and battery case on East Ten Mile Road and investigate a larceny complaint on Hilton. Officers make one warrant arrest today as well. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a trespassing case on Woodward Ave. and assist the Fire Department with a mental commitment on Wanda. Officers investigate a counterfeiting case on East Nine Mile Road and make two warrant arrests today. Midnight Shift Officers investigate a domestic violence case one E. Cambourne and investigate a felonious assault case on East Ten Mile Road. Officers investigate a stolen vehicle case on Edgewood Place and arrest a man on E. Cambourne for drunk driving third offence.

16 COMPLAINTS 4 ARRESTS

### TUESDAY JUNE 10, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a stolen vehicle case in Allen and a larceny complaint at Ferndale High School. Officers make four warrant arrests today and investigate two traffic accidents, one of which is a hit and run traffic accident on Bonner. Afternoon Shift Officers assist another law enforcement agency at East Eight Mile Road and West End and investigate a larceny complaint on Woodward Hgts. Officers investigate a stolen vehicle case on West Eight Mile Road and a larceny complaint at

Ferndale High School. Officers investigate a fraud case on West Eight Mile Road and another larceny complaint at Ferndale High School. Officers assist the Fire Department with a mental commitment on Annabelle and assist the Narcotics Enforcement Team on Channing with a raid and arrest. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a man on Woodward Ave. for drunk driving second offence tonight.

13 COMPLAINTS 6 ARRESTS

### WEDNESDAY JUNE 11, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate an assault and battery case on Kensington and a suspicious circumstances case on East Nine Mile Road. Officers investigate a check fraud case on East Nine Mile Road and a trespassing case on Farrow. Officers make four warrant arrests today as well. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a check fraud case on Woodward Ave. and a counterfeiting case on Hilton. Officers make five warrant arrests today and arrest a man on East Eight Mile Road for violation of parole. Officers arrest a man on East Eight Mile Road for driving while license suspended, resisting and obstructing a police officer and driving without a drivers license and investigate one traffic accident today. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a man on West Eight Mile Road for possession of cocaine and driving while license suspended second offence tonight and make one warrant arrest.

18 COMPLAINTS 13 ARRESTS

### THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a larceny from auto complaint on Meadowdale and an assault and battery case on West Nine Mile Road. Officers investigate a breaking and entering case on East Nine Mile Road and arrest a man on Pinecrest for driving while license suspended second offence. Officers investigate

one traffic accident today as well. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a larceny complaint on College and a larceny complaint on Silman. Officers make three warrant arrests today and investigate a probation violation on Vester. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a man on West Eight Mile Road for driving while license suspended second offence and make two warrant arrests tonight. Officers investigate an arson case on Farmdale and assist the Fire Department with a mental commitment at that location.

12 COMPLAINTS 7 ARRESTS

### FRIDAY JUNE 13, 2008

Day Shift Officers assist the Fire Department with a hospice death on W. Hazelhurst and investigate a larceny from auto complaint on W. Cambourne. Officers investigate an identity theft case on Garfield and a fraud case on Withington. Officers investigate another larceny from auto case on Meadowdale. Afternoon Shift Officers have a routine shift with numerous runs but only one criminal complaint. Officers investigate a home invasion case on W. Cambourne. Midnight Shift Officers make four warrant arrests tonight and investigate a manufacture of marijuana case on E. Hazelhurst and assist another law enforcement. Officers investigate a larceny from auto on Gardenale as well.

13 COMPLAINTS 4 ARRESTS

### SATURDAY JUNE 14, 2008

Day Shift Officers investigate a larceny from auto complaint on Albany and investigate a hit and run traffic accident on E. Chesterfield. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a retail fraud case on West Nine Mile Road and suspicious circumstances on

**CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE TWO**

Academy. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a woman on Hilton for drunk driving and arrest a man on Hilton for drunk driving. Officers arrest a man on Camden for domestic violence and investigate a stolen vehicle complaint on Channing. Officers make one warrant arrest on East Nine Mile Road.

8 COMPLAINTS 4 ARRESTS

**SUNDAY JUNE 15, 2008**

Day Shift Officers have a routine shift, no criminal complaints and no arrests. Afternoon Shift Officers assist the Fire Department with a non-traffic injury on Channing and investigate a larceny complaint on Martin Road. Officers investigate a counterfeiting case on Hilton and investigate a fleeing and eluding case on East Eight Mile Road. Officers arrest a woman on East Eight Mile Road for driving while license suspended. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a man on East Nine Mile Road for armed robbery tonight.

6 COMPLAINTS 2 ARRESTS

**MONDAY JULY 16, 2008**

Day Shift Officers investigate a malicious destruction of property complaint on E. Webster and arrest a man on Woodward Ave. for retail fraud. Officers make two warrant arrests today as well. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate a fraud case on Dover and make two warrant arrests today. Midnight Shift Officers arrest a woman on West Eight Mile Road for driving while license suspended second offence and make one warrant arrest tonight. Officers arrest two men on W. Oakridge, one for Carrying a Concealed Weapon and the driver for drunk driving.

9 COMPLAINTS 9 ARRESTS

**TUESDAY JUNE 17, 2008**

Day Shift Officers investigate an injury traffic accident on Burdette and a property damage accident on West Nine Mile Road. Officers make two warrant arrests today and investigate a larceny complaint on Annabelle. Afternoon Shift Officers investigate one traffic accident today and arrest a man on East Eight Mile Road for resisting and obstructing a police officer. Officers assist the Fire Department with an injured person in Martin Road Park. Midnight Shift Officers assist the Fire Department with a hospice death on E. Marshall and arrest a man on West Eight Mile Road for possession of heroin, possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and Carrying a Concealed Weapon. Officers investigate a possession of drug paraphernalia case on W. Hazelhurst and a domestic violence case on Minerva. Officers make one warrant arrest tonight as well.

10 COMPLAINTS 5 ARRESTS



2008

MONTH	COMPLAINTS	ARRESTS
JAN	316	215
FEB.	359	240
MARCH	348	187
APRIL	378	236
MAY	298	187
JUNE	169	87
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPT.		
OCTOBER		
NOV.		
DEC.		
TOTAL	1868	1152