

February 15, 2010

CITY OF ANN ARBOR  
CITY CLERK  
REC'D

2010 FEB 16 PM 2:15

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I oppose changes to the current sign ordinance that result in weakened policy that allows sandwich type signs, pole signs or larger signs. While the ordinance may need some cleaning and tightening, the proposed evisceration is counter to Ann Arbor's vision of a Cool and Beautiful City. Rather, I hope the city would enforce Ann Arbor's current standards with more vigor.

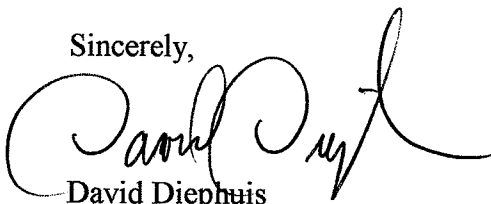
As staff noted, safety issues are a major concern with the proliferation of many little signs. But I also oppose the changes based on simple aesthetics. The City has spent millions improving the look of downtown and the major road corridors. The proposed sign ordinance trivializes those efforts.

In addition, I wonder whether such a change could lead to all manner of "message" signs being sited in the right of ways. Will we have an endless stream of "Vote for this...", "Attend that ...", "For ...medical issue.... Call" type signs lining our streets?

And, as a matter of process, at this writing, I cannot find any minutes of the public committee meetings that reviewed this ordinance. There is no information whether minutes were even kept of the committee's discussion. I find such a process shortcoming suspect and objectionable.

Ann Arbor will be diminished by the cacophony of clutter resulting from changing the sign ordinance. Please vote no on any substantive changes and instead ask that staff enforce the current ordinance with diligence.

Sincerely,



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