

## ORDINANCE 12-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 155.07(A) OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "POLITICAL SIGNS," BY REGULATING THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL SIGNS PER PROPERTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

---

THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 155.07(A) of the City of Port St. Lucie Code of Ordinances, entitled "Political Signs," is hereby amended to regulate the number of political signs per property as follows:

Sec. 155.07. - Regulations for Temporary Signs or Special Events Requiring Permits.

The temporary signs identified in this section shall require issuance of a permit through the business tax office. Prior to the placement of any of the temporary signs described below in this section, all relevant provisions of this chapter shall be satisfied.

(A) *Political signs.*

- (1) *Application.* The applicant for a political sign permit shall submit a written application on a form to be provided by the Business Tax Division of the Building Department. The application format shall include the following information:
  - (a) Name, address, and telephone number of the sign(s) erector and the sign(s) owner.
  - (b) An affirmation by the applicant that the sign(s) is being placed upon the building, structure, or lot with the owner or tenant's permission.
- (2) *Fee.* At the time of submission of an application for a political sign permit, the applicant shall pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) application fee.
- (3) *General regulation for political signs.* Political signs are allowed subject to the following provisions:
  - (a) An individual political sign shall not exceed six square feet in area per lot or parcel of land.
  - (b) The maximum number of political signs per lot or parcel of land shall be one (1) political sign per candidate or issue per street frontage of the subject lot or parcel of land.
  - (bc) Sign(s) shall not be illuminated and shall be freestanding.

**ORDINANCE 12-23**

- (ed) Sign(s) shall be located wholly on private property; shall be placed at least ten feet from side and rear property lines not to include property line along road frontage, and shall not exceed five feet in height.
- (4) *Removal.* Political signs shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after the event for which they were posted has occurred. A two hundred fifty dollar (\$250.00) removal bond, refundable upon compliance with sign removal, is required for political signs.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its final adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, this \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

JoAnn M. Faiella, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roger G. Orr, City Attorney

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FL - CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

---

MEETING:                   REGULAR   X                     SPECIAL     

DATE:                      April 23, 2012 and May 14, 2012

---

ORDINANCE   X   RESOLUTION      MOTION      PUBLIC HEARING   X  

---

ITEM:                   P12-027 CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE CHAPTER 155 SIGN CODE  
                          ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT APPLICATION – POLITICAL SIGNS

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** The Planning and Zoning Department staff finds the request to be consistent with the direction and intent of the City's policies of the Comprehensive Plan and recommends approval. On April 3, 2012 the Planning and Zoning Board unanimously recommended approval of the zoning text amendment.

---

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Ordinance
  - B. Staff Report
  - C. Support Materials
- 

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The City of Port St. Lucie is proposing to amend Chapter 155.07(A) Political Signs of the Sign Code of the City of Port St. Lucie Land Development Regulations. The purpose of this amendment is to regulate the number of political signs per lot or parcel of land.

---

**IF PRESENTATION IS TO BE MADE, HOW MUCH TIME WILL BE REQUIRED?**

None.

---

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: PLANNING and ZONING   DATE: April 10, 2012**

**Katherine Huntress**

---

**From:** April Stoncius  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2012 2:45 PM  
**To:** Katherine Huntress  
**Subject:** Request for P&Z Section of Minutes - 7F - P12-027

**PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**3, 2012**

**APRIL**

**7 F. P12-027 CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, CHAPTER 155 SIGN CODE -  
 POLITICAL SIGNS - ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT**

Ms. Huntress said, "On February 27, 2012, City Staff discussed the political sign section of the Sign Code with representatives from the City Manager's Office, the Legal Department, the Building Department, and the Planning and Zoning Department. The City of Port St. Lucie is proposing to amend Section 155.07(A), Political Signs of the Sign Code of the City of Port St. Lucie Land Development Regulations. The purpose of this amendment is to regulate the number of political signs per lot or parcel of land. The amendment is proposing to add the following language under Section 155.07(3)(b), 'The maximum number of political signs per lot or parcel of land shall be one (1) political sign per candidate or issue per street frontage of the subject lot or parcel of land.'"

Ms. Huntress continued, "The Planning and Zoning Department Staff finds the request to be consistent with the direction and intent of the City's policies of the Comprehensive Plan, and recommends approval." Secretary Blazak inquired, "Is it one sign per lot?" Ms. Huntress responded, "One sign per candidate or issue per lot." Secretary Blazak clarified, "As long as it is singular of each. If you are on a corner you can have one per frontage." Mr. Holbrook replied in the affirmative and advised, "It is per street frontage." Secretary Blazak asked, "What if there is a corner lot with the same street name on both sides?" Mr. Holbrook replied, "It would be on a case by case basis." Mr. Strickland said, "I assume Code Enforcement will make sure everyone is in compliance. Are there fines associated with non-compliance?" Mr. Holbrook explained, "They have an existing process where they will cite a person, and if they don't comply, then they go through a Code Enforcement case." Mr. Strickland questioned, "Do we feel we have the personnel to dedicate to this?" Mr. Holbrook answered, "We have a division of the Building Department that will address it. We are trying to get this approved by this Board and the City Council, so that there are no concerns about how many signs a person can have when election time begins. The Chamber and the business community are requesting a little more uniformity on political signs across the county, and this is in

response to them." Secretary Blazak asked, "Does this apply to the polling locations as well?" Mr. Holbrook replied, "It is per parcel." Mr. Garrett said, "The new language specifies quantity, but are you comfortable with the language relative to location. Someone could interpret it to say that they are entitled if they have two street frontages to place both signs on one frontage. I don't know if we need to add some language to clarify that. The intent is not to have all of their allowable signs on one frontage." Mr. Holbrook said, "We are comfortable with the existing language." Secretary Blazak questioned, "Does it apply to the people that are holding signs?" Mr. Holbrook replied in the negative.

Secretary Blazak **moved** to approve P12-027, City of Port St. Lucie Chapter 155 Sign Code, Political Sign Zoning Text Amendment. Mr. Battle **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.



**City of Port St. Lucie**  
**Planning and Zoning Department**  
**A City for All Ages**

---

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL – MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2012

**FROM:** KATHERINE H. HUNTRESS, PLANNER 

**RE:** ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT – POLITICAL SIGNS  
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE CHAPTER 155 SIGN CODE  
PROJECT NO. P12-027

**DATE:** APRIL 10, 2012

---

The City of Port St. Lucie is proposing to amend Section 155.07(A) Political Signs of the Sign Code of the City of Port St. Lucie Land Development Regulations. The purpose of this amendment is to regulate the number of political signs per lot or parcel of land. On February 27, 2012, city staff met and discussed the political signs. Representatives from the City Manager's office, the Legal Department, the Building Department, and the Planning and Zoning Department attended the meeting.

All remaining provisions of Chapter 155 Sign code shall remain in full force and effect. ~~Strikethrough~~ text is proposed for deletion and underlined text is new language. The amendment to Section 155.07(A) Political Signs of the Sign Code of the City of Port St. Lucie Land Development Regulations is proposed as follows:

**Sec. 155.07 - Regulations for Temporary Signs or Special Events Requiring Permits.**

The temporary signs identified in this section shall require issuance of a permit through the business tax office. Prior to the placement of any of the temporary signs described below in this section, all relevant provisions of this chapter shall be satisfied.

**(A) *Political signs.***

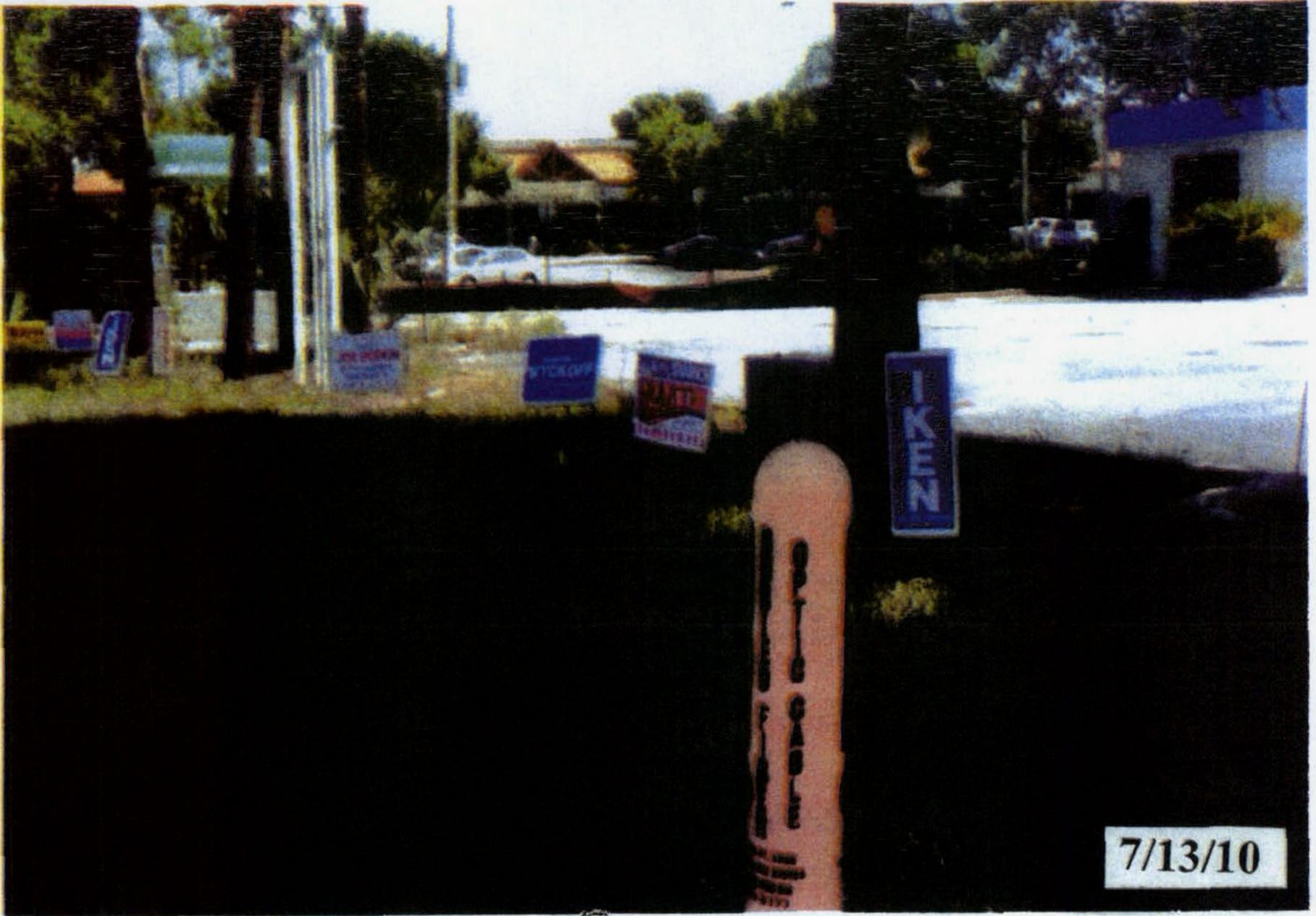
**(1) *Application.*** The applicant for a political sign permit shall submit a written application on a form to be provided by the Business Tax Division of the Building Department. The application format shall include the following information:

- (a)** Name, address, and telephone number of the sign(s) erector and the sign(s) owner.

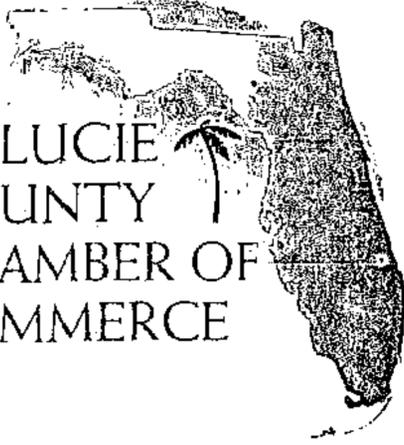
- (b) An affirmation by the applicant that the sign(s) is being placed upon the building, structure, or lot with the owner or tenant's permission.
  - (2) *Fee.* At the time of submission of an application for a political sign permit, the applicant shall pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) application fee.
  - (3) *General regulation for political signs.* Political signs are allowed subject to the following provisions:
    - (a) An individual political sign shall not exceed six square feet in area per lot or parcel of land.
    - (b) The maximum number of political signs per lot or parcel of land shall be one (1) political sign per candidate or issue per street frontage of the subject lot or parcel of land.
    - (bc) Sign(s) shall not be illuminated and shall be freestanding.
    - (ed) Sign(s) shall be located wholly on private property; shall be placed at least ten feet from side and rear property lines not to include property line along road frontage, and shall not exceed five feet in height.
  - (4) *Removal.* Political signs shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after the event for which they were posted has occurred. A two hundred fifty dollar (\$250.00) removal bond, refundable upon compliance with sign removal, is required for political signs.
- 

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Planning and Zoning Department staff finds the request to be consistent with the direction and intent of the City's policies of the Comprehensive Plan and recommends approval. On April 3, 2012 the Planning and Zoning Board unanimously recommended approval of the zoning text amendment as recommended by staff.



ST. LUCIE  
COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE



March 30, 2012

St. Lucie County Commissioners  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Mayor and City Commission  
100 North US Highway 1  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Mayor and City Council  
121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

*Re. Sign Ord.*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Over one year ago, a sub-committee of the Port St. Lucie Area Council was formed to evaluate the political sign ordinances in all three jurisdictions in an effort to establish a more uniform ordinance for the placement of political signs. This subcommittee has met with code enforcement and/or zoning officials in all of the jurisdictions during that time.

On behalf of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Port St. Lucie Area Council, we would like to offer the following suggestions for the placement of political signs:

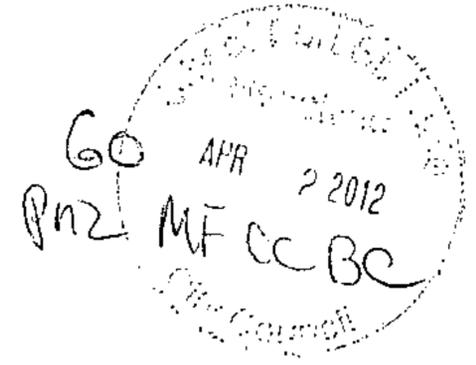
Signs shall be located only on properties in commercial, industrial and residential districts on the following conditions:

- May be no larger than six (6) square feet, excluding the freestanding supports. Said signs shall be free standing on their own supports and not attached to utility poles, lampposts or other city and/or county property or public right of ways. Said signs shall not have an aggregate height of the sign, including the support, exceeding five (5) feet, to be measured from the ground to the top of the actual sign.
- Said signs shall be placed on private property at least ten (10) feet from the road.
- No signs on vacant lots unless written approval has been received. (We would like to ask how this is enforced/verified, do you have suggestions.)

ST. LUCIE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
1850 SW Fountainview Blvd., Suite 201  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
Phone: (772) 340-1333  
Fax: (772) 785-7021

THE CHAMBER AT SEVEN GABLES  
HOUSE VISITOR CENTER  
482 N. Indian River Drive  
Downtown Fort Pierce  
Phone: (772) 468-9152

WWW.STLUCIECHAMBER.ORG  
INFO@STLUCIECHAMBER.ORG  
TOLL FREE-- 888-STLUCIE



RECEIVED

APR 04 2012

PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

- Signs shall not be illuminated.
- There shall be no more than one (1) sign per political candidate or political issue per lot.
- Signs may be placed no sooner than forty five (45) days prior to the election in which the candidate or issue will be first on the ballot. Each sign shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after the election in which the candidate or issue was last on the ballot. (If bond was required, it will be refunded in full fifteen days (15) after the election if all signs have been removed.)

We recognize that these changes are likely not to occur for the current political season as each jurisdiction will have to revise its code as appropriate to incorporate the suggestions. We recognize that each of you have various nuances within your codes but hope you will all agree that uniformity throughout the County will be beneficial to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Very truly yours,



Linda W. Cox  
President

cc: Faye Outlaw, County Administrator  
David Recor, City Manager  
Greg Orevac, City Manager