

ORDINANCE NO. 610
2ND SERIES

**AN INTERIM ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE STUDY PERIOD AND
MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE
COPY, GRAPHIC DISPLAY AND/OR VIDEO DISPLAY BILLBOARD AND/OR
OFF-PREMISE SIGNS AND THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS THEREFORE, IN THE
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

The City Council of the City of Alexandria, Minnesota, does hereby **ORDAIN**:

SECTION I. Purpose and Intent. The purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to extend the study period authorized under Ordinance No. 592 and 603. By this Ordinance, the City intends to exercise its authority under Minnesota Statutes 462.355, Subd. 4 by the creation of an interim ordinance which has the effect of creating a moratorium on the installation or permitting of such electronic changeable copy, graphic display and/or video display billboard signs as defined in Section 10.24 of the Alexandria City Code.

SECTION II. Preliminary Findings. The City Council hereby makes the following preliminary findings to serve as the basis for the necessary study to be made during the moratorium. These preliminary findings serve as the reasons why it is in the public interest for the City to so declare a moratorium by virtue of this Ordinance:

1. The current regulations and controls of the City may not adequately address the unique needs and impact of such billboard signs on public safety. Such billboard sign requests need to be deferred while appropriate revisions to the zoning ordinance are considered.
2. The City has not completed a full study of the public safety impacts of such billboards signs in relationship to zoning and comprehensive planning. The public interest requires that the City study, analyze, and evaluate the impacts of the signs in relationship to the type of uses that may be located near streets and highways, in relationship to the visual clutter which may be generated by their installation and in relationship to the zoning districts that are located nearby.
3. The League of Minnesota Cities conducted a state-wide study of the relevant issues surrounding the location, size, character, etc., of such billboard signs.
4. This moratorium will ensure that ordinance changes will not need to be rushed through and that all of the issues can be completely examined.

SECTION III. Moratorium. Until the City has completed the studies previously authorized by Ordinance No. 592 and 603, and by other actions, related to the aforementioned findings, the City shall not accept or process applications, issue permits for, or allow the installation of such billboard signs as referenced in Section 1 of this ordinance. The extended study period authorized hereunder will last no longer than 65 days from the effective date of this ordinance, unless further extended by the City in accordance with Minnesota Statute 462.355, Subd. 4.

SECTION IV. Study. During the period of this extended moratorium, City staff and its respective appointed Planning Commission will study and evaluate whether its current sign regulations and its previously considered amendments to those regulations adequately control the wide variety of commercially available electronic message signs, particularly in consideration of the constantly evolving technology. The City has held a hearing and plans to conduct an additional hearing or hearings following the review of additional available information by the City staff.

SECTION V. Exceptions. This interim ordinance shall not apply to (1) the lawful use of existing permitted billboard signs; (2) the repair and/or maintenance of any existing legally permitted sign provided that such work does not enlarge or expand that sign; (3) work on a sign necessary to preserve health, safety, life, or property in the face of an emergency; and (4) sign work or installation that has received all necessary permits and approvals from the City prior to the effective date of the ordinance.

SECTION VI. Effective Date. This interim ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Minnesota this 22nd day of October, 2007, by the following vote:

YES: Bigger, Carlson, Benson Frank

NO: None

ABSENT: Weisel

ATTEST: _____
Jim Taddei, City Administrator

H. Dan Ness, Mayor