

**ORDINANCE NO. 572**

**AN INTERIM ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A 90-DAY STUDY PERIOD AND MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF BILLBOARD SIGNS AND THE ISSUANCE OF BILLBOARD SIGN PERMITS, 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 prohibit the installation of billboard signs under a permit from the City. 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 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 billboard signs. Billboard sign requests need to be deferred while appropriate revisions to the zoning ordinance are considered.
- 2) The city has not yet recently studied the impacts of billboard 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) This moratorium will ensure that ordinance changes will not need to be rushed through and that all the issues can be completely examined.

**SECTION 3. Moratorium.** Until the City has completed a study related to the aforementioned findings, the City shall not accept or process applications, issue permits for, or allow the installation of billboard signs as referenced in Section 1 of this ordinance. This study period will last no longer than 90 days from the effective date of this ordinance, unless extended by the City in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 462.355, Subd. 4.

**SECTION 4. Study.** During the period of this moratorium, City staff will conduct a study, such study to help determine the regulatory controls which may need to be adopted or revised to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. This study may include appropriate locations for these signs and the conditions under which they may be allowed within the City, including but not limited to: Possible elimination of the permitting and installation of billboard signs; review of the allowable sizes for billboard signs, appropriate locations for billboard signs, etc. Study participants may include, but not be limited to, members of the public, firms engaged in the renting, installation or other provision or utilization of such signs, and elected and appointed officials.

**SECTION 5. 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 6. 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2005, by the following vote:

YES: KALPIN, CARLSON, WEISEL, BENSON, FRANK

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

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/S/ President Pro Tempore David J. Benson

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
/S/ Jim Taddei, City Administrator