

**ORDINANCE NO. 770**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SERIES**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 10.24 FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
CLARIFYING THE PLACEMENT OF NON-COMMERCIAL SPEECH SIGNS ON  
CITY PROPERTY**

The City Council of the City of Alexandria does **ORDAIN**:

**SECTION I.** That Section 10.24, Subd 5, of the Alexandria City Code is hereby amended by the addition of the following:

**I. Traditional public forum areas.**

1. Applicability. This section applies only in traditional public forum areas as defined herein.
2. Display Right. In an area qualifying as a traditional public forum, private persons may display signs expressing noncommercial messages that are within the protection of the First Amendment, without a permit, but subject to:
  - a. The signs must be personally held by a person, or personally attended by one or more persons;
  - b. Inanimate signs which are left unattended may not be displayed under this section, regardless of the type of message they may display;
  - c. The signs may be displayed only during the time period of sunrise to thirty minutes after sunset, except on occasions when the City Council, Planning Commission, or other reviewing authority of the City is holding a public hearing or meeting; on such occasions, the display period is extended to thirty minutes after such meeting is officially adjourned;
  - d. The maximum aggregate area of all signs held by a single person is eight square feet, measured one side only. For purposes of this rule, apparel and other aspects of personal appearance do not count towards the maximum aggregate sign area;
  - e. The maximum area of any one sign that is personally held or attended by two or more persons is thirty-two square feet, measured one side only;
  - f. The sign must have no more than two display faces and may not be inflatable or air-activated;
  - g. In order to serve the City's interests in traffic flow and safety, persons displaying signs pursuant to this section may not stand in any vehicular traffic lane when a roadway is open for use by vehicles, and persons displaying signs on public sidewalks must give at least five feet width clearance for pedestrians or other traffic to pass by. Signs and persons holding signs may not block the free and clear vision of drivers, bicyclists and/or pedestrians;
  - h. So long as the foregoing rules are followed, no permit is required for display of signs authorized by this section.

**SECTION II.** That Section 10.24, Subd 4 ("Definitions"), of the Alexandria City Code is hereby amended by the addition of the following, as they will appear alphabetically:

"City property" means real property over which the City (1) holds an interest, including, without limitation, fee title ownership, easement, leasehold, and public street right-of-way; and (2) has the present right of possession and control.

"Hand-held sign" means a sign displaying a noncommercial message that is held by a natural person, not including insignia on apparel or aspects of personal appearance.

“Public events banner” means a sign made of material similar to heavy canvas or reinforced plastic and used in connection with a community event, parade, protest, march or demonstration.

“Snipe sign” means a temporary sign displaying a commercial message, placed on City property or the public right-of-way in violation of this chapter or other applicable law.

“Street banner” means a sign made of material similar to heavy canvas or reinforced plastic, attached to poles or buildings, and suspended over a City street from time to time.

“Traditional public forum” means the surfaces of City-owned streets (not including a median or roundabout area), City-owned parks (not including athletic fields or community centers) during the hours that they are normally open to the public, City-owned parking lots, and public sidewalks that are connected to the City’s pedestrian circulation system. In consultation with the City Attorney, the Zoning Administrator shall interpret this phrase for compliance with court decisions, as may occur from time to time.

**SECTION III.** That Section 10.24, Subd. 6. (“Prohibited Signs”) of the Alexandria City Code is hereby amended by the addition of the following:

U. Signs displaying either commercial or non-commercial messages and located or displayed in locations defined as the traditional public forum, which are not in compliance with Section 10.24, Subd. 5.

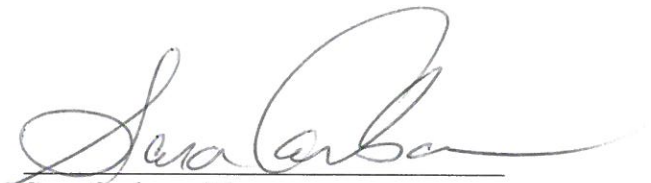
**SECTION IV:** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Alexandria this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017, by the following vote:

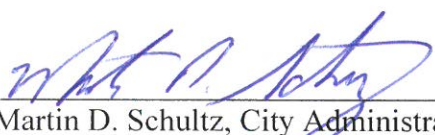
YES: Batesole, Kuhlman, Osterberg, Benson, Jensen

NO: None

ABSENT: None



Sara Carlson, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Martin D. Schultz, City Administrator