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When making inquiries relative  
to this matter, please refer to the  
Council File Nos. **17-0893**

# City of Los Angeles CALIFORNIA



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April 21, 2020

Vince Bertoni  
Director of Planning  
Attention: Tom Rothmann  
Phyllis Nathanson

Honorable Mike Feuer  
City Attorney  
Attention: Terry Kaufmann-Macias  
Adrienne Khorasanee

Osama K. Younan  
General Manager  
Department of Building and Safety  
Attention: Frank Lara

Paul Racs  
Director  
Office of Community Beautification

## REQUEST FOR ORDINANCE

On March 3, 2020, the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee considered the following: Categorical Exemption, joint report from the Department of City Planning (DCP), Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) and Department of Public Works' (DPW) Office of Community Beautification, relative to a proposed Ordinance adding a preamble to Article 4.4 and amending Sections 14.4, 14.4.3, 14.4.4 and 14.4.17 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to clarify regulations pertaining to temporary signs on temporary construction walls and on solid fences surrounding vacant lots.

During the discussion, the PLUM Committee instructed the DCP and the LADBS, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present an Ordinance that includes additional directives, attached to the Council file, and thereby amend the proposed Ordinance presented to the PLUM Committee on June 12, 2018. In addition, following No. 5 "Under 'Review by the Office of Community Beautification', or as determined appropriate by the Office of the City Attorney", under letter C, at the end of the paragraph of the attachment, add the following language: "including permit expiration date on placard" as read by the Chief Legislative Analyst.

Please prepare a written response as requested by the PLUM Committee. In your response, please reference Council file No. 17-0893. When this matter is scheduled for Committee consideration, your attendance, or that of your designee, is respectfully requested. If you have questions, please contact me at (213) 978-1078 or via e-mail at [Leyla.campos@lacity.org](mailto:Leyla.campos@lacity.org) or Rita

17-0893– Request for Report  
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Moreno at (213) 978-1074 or via e-mail at [rita.moreno@lacity.org](mailto:rita.moreno@lacity.org)

Thank you,

Leyla A. Campos  
Deputy City Clerk  
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Attachments: Communication from PLUM Committee (Amendments)

**ACTION:**

INSTRUCT the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present an Ordinance that includes the following additional directives, and thereby amend the proposed ordinance presented to the PLUM Committee on June 12, 2018 as follows:

1.

- (a) Approve the requested changes identified in the Department of Building and Safety report dated February 22, 2018.
- (b) Approve the recommended changes identified in the joint Department of Building and Safety, Planning Department, and Department of Public Works (Office of Community Beautification) report dated March 19, 2019.
- (c) And more specifically, LADBS offered two recommendations in the joint March 19, 2019 report to strengthen the enforcement of the proposed ordinance as follows:

- (i) (a) **Modify the expiration provisions of the Sign Permits, so that the sign permit expires without having to wait for the construction permit to expire or be revoked; and (b) Allow LADBS to deny a sign permit if site had a sign permit that was expired or revoked in the previous two years at the time of submission of application. This will prevent repeat violators from posting signs after being required to take them down.**

APPROVE the following ADDITIONAL recommendations:

1. To allow temporary construction signs on lots with operating businesses with the following recommendations:
  - a. Add clarifying language, which limits the location of temporary signage to the area of the required pedestrian barricade as determined by LADBS.
2. To the "Permit Required" provision:
  - a. For re-issuance of temporary sign permits that are in compliance with the provisions set forth in the ordinance: The Director of the Office of Community Beautification and Department of Building and Safety shall establish time limits by which the Office of Community Beautification will provide written consent to LADBS for the new sign permit and subsequently, LADBS' issuance of the new sign permit to the permit holder
3. To the "Time Limit" Provisions add language which clarifies that:

- a. For operating businesses, If the construction work authorized by the separate building permit at a site has not commenced by the **90<sup>th</sup>** day following the permit issuance date, or work has been suspended, discontinued or abandoned for a continuous period of **90 days**, the sign permit for the temporary sign shall be expired. If the building permit is revoked, the permit for the temporary sign shall be expired.
  - b. Signage on a Temporary Construction Wall at a construction site shall not exceed two years.
  - c. A sign permit for a temporary sign on a vacant lot shall be permitted to be renewed on an annual basis, not to exceed 2 annual renewals for a maximum total of three years.
4. To the Location Provisions:
  - a. ~~Allow temporary signs to be placed in RAS zones~~
5. Under "Review by the Office of Community Beautification", or as determined appropriate by the Office of the City Attorney, add language which states that:
  - a. Expand the minimum clean up radius to 750-feet
  - b. The applicant shall also report through the City's 311 phone number or app for any bulky items that need to be picked up with the abatement area
  - c. Upon issuance of a sign permit, the sign permit operator shall notify the public by posting an 18" x 24" placard on the property in a conspicuous, visible place, mounted at a minimum four feet above the ground. The placard shall have black letters on contrasting background white or color paper and be made of durable, laminated, or weather-resistant material. The notification shall include information regarding the temporary sign program, the period the temporary sign permit is valid, a name and number to contact for information regarding the program or which allows the public to notify the sign permit operator of the location of graffiti, posters, handbills, trash, debris, rubbish, or weeds within the 750-foot radius.
  - d. The sign operator shall report to the Office of Community Beautification every 30 days, or as determined appropriate by the City Attorney, beginning from temporary sign permit issuance, the number and type of removals and clean up incidents within the 750-foot radius. The reports shall include before and after pictures or 311 request confirmation, indicate the date and time of pick up, and receipts or other documentation indicating where trash, debris, and weeds. Reports shall be filed in a timely manner and shall be thorough in their documentation.
- 6.

- a. If the required reports or documentation are not submitted to the Office of Community Beautification in a thorough and/or timely manner as determined by the City Attorney, the temporary sign permit shall be expired and no renewals or new sign permits may be filed on the property for a period of one year.
    - i. For expired permits, LADBS will issue a notification to the permit holder upon expiration of the permit including information about the appeals process
7. Under the "Nuisance Abatement" provisions:
- a. the language shall be expanded to include the removal of illegal signage, posters, handbills, trash, debris, rubbish, weeds, and bulky items.
- 1) Under "Permit Revocations" clarify the materials to be removed are consistent with the revised language under Nuisance Abatement and expand the radius to 750 feet.