



MICHAEL N. FEUER  
CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 1 4 - 0 2 4 2  
MAY 19 2014

**REPORT RE:**

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF SECTION 91.6205.18  
OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO REDUCE THE LENGTH  
OF THE INSPECTION CYCLE, REDUCE THE INSPECTION FEE  
AND ELIMINATE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE  
FROM THE OFF-SITE SIGN PERIODIC INSPECTION PROGRAM**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 11-1122

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the request of City Council, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance amends Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 91.6205.18 to reduce the length of the inspection cycle, reduce the inspection fee from \$186 to \$169.87 and eliminate issuance of a certificate of compliance from the Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Program (OSSPIP).

Summary of Ordinance Provisions

On December 26, 2008, Ordinance No. 180,446 was adopted, creating the OSSPIP. OSSPIP requires a survey of every off-site sign in the City of Los Angeles. Currently, OSSPIP requires inspection of every off-site sign in the City of Los Angeles every three years, payment of a \$186 regulatory fee for inspection, and issuance of a

certificate of compliance when fees have been paid, inspections have been conducted and the off-site sign structure has been determined to be in compliance with the terms of its permit as described in Section 91.6205.18.2.

The proposed amendments would reduce the inspection cycle to two years, reduce the regulatory fee for inspection to \$186.87 and eliminate the necessity of issuing and attaching a certificate of compliance to the off-site sign structure.

#### CEQA Determination

The ordinance is not a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under Subsections (b)(2) and (b)(5) of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, continuing administrative activities and organizational activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment are not CEQA projects. The ordinance makes an administrative change to existing portions of LAMC Section 91.6205.18, and the change will not result in any change to the physical environment.

#### Council Rule 38 Referral

The draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Department of Building and Safety with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Kim Rodgers Westhoff at (213) 978-8242. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 

DAVID MICHAELSON  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM/KRW:mrc  
Transmittal

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

An ordinance amending certain provisions of Section 91.6205.18, Division 62, Article 1 of Chapter IX of the Los Angeles Municipal Code regarding the Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Program to reduce the length of the inspection cycle, reduce the inspection fee and eliminate the certificate of compliance requirement.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subsection 91.6205.18.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**91.6205.18.1. General.** All off-site sign structures as defined in Section 14.4.2 of the LAMC and subject to the provisions of Chapter I of the LAMC are subject to regular inspection. Beginning February 1, 2015, the Superintendent or an authorized representative shall inspect each sign a minimum of once every two years.

Sec. 2. Subsection 91.6205.18.2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**91.6205.18.2. Fees for Inspection.** This fee shall be known as the "Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Fee." The person or entity in control of an off-site sign structure subject to inspection shall pay a regulatory fee of \$169.87 to the Department and provide a copy of a valid permit issued by the City of Los Angeles for each off-site sign structure or a copy of a valid permit issued by the appropriate jurisdiction if the lot was annexed to the City of Los Angeles.

The regulatory fee shall be due on February 1 every two years, starting on February 1, 2015. If the fee is not paid on or before the last day of the month in which it is due, a monthly penalty equal to five percent of any outstanding fee, but not less than \$10.00, shall be added to the outstanding fee each month until the outstanding fee is paid. Should the person or entity in control fail to pay the required fee, the City of Los Angeles may recover the fee, plus accrued penalties, utilizing any remedy approved by law.

The Department shall cause all money collected pursuant to this section to be deposited into the Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Fee Trust Fund described in Section 5.111.17 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code for purposes of disbursement as that section permits.

The regulatory fee shall be used to finance the costs of administering the inspection program, including, but not limited to, inspection and maintenance of an off-site sign structure database. Payment of the fee shall not create a presumption that the sign is lawfully erected, as that term is defined in Section 91.6205.18.7.

Sec. 3. Subsection 91.6205.18.3 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is deleted in its entirety.

Sec. 4. A new Subsection 91.6205.18.3 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**91.6205.18.3. Inspection Records.** The Department shall keep records of the off-site sign inspection program, showing the following information for each off-site sign structure subject to inspection pursuant to Section 91.6205.18: the payment of inspection fees; that inspections have been conducted; any known building permit number; size of sign as shown on any known building permit; issuance date of any known building permit; any subsequent building permits issued for that sign; any information required pursuant to this Division or obtained pursuant to inspection; and whether the off-site sign structure has been determined to be in compliance with the terms of the permit described in Sec. 91.6205.18.2 and with all applicable regulations at the time the permit was issued.

Sec. 5. Subsection 91.6205.18.4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**91.6205.18.4. Frequency of Inspection.** Each off-site sign structure shall be inspected once every two years.

Sec. 6. Subsection 91.6205.18.5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is deleted in its entirety.

Sec. 7. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, Interim City Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By *Kim Rodgers Westhoff (Heu)*  
KIM RODGERS WESTHOFF  
Deputy City Attorney

Date *5/19/14*

File No. CF 11-1122