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**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE, AD HOC COMMITTEE,
SIGNS ON CITY PROPERTY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010**

The City Council Ad Hoc Committee met in the 3rd Floor Caucus Room of City Hall on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Chair, Charles Trombetta called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

PRESENT

Committee Members: Charles Trombetta, Chair, Colleen Stanley, and Fred Visconti

Ex Officio Council Members: Jack Knapp, Donald Taylor, Ben Chianase and Paul Rotello

Also in attendance:

- Les Pinter, Corporation Counsel, Sean Hearty, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Director of Permit Coordination, Dennis I. Elpern, Director of Planning and Zoning, Shawn Stillman, Neighborhood Coordinator—The UNIT.
- Members of the Public

Chairman Trombetta opened the meeting and asked Mr. Pinter to clarify the charge of the committee. A discussion ensued regarding the current ordinance and Planning and Zoning regulations, the types of signs in question and private versus public property. Mr. Pinter stated that he understands the Mayor is looking for a recommendation to avoid signs that obstruct view and access on Public Property. Mr. Hearty informed the committee that under the current ordinance and regulations, temporary signs are not permitted on public property without permission from the City. Mr. Elpern further added that signs are not permitted on rights of way. Additionally, he informed the committee that they may not regulate the content of the signs only the size and placement. Mrs. Stanley asked for clarification about right of way and the use of temporary signs like those used by contractors. Mr. Hearty stated that the right of way is typically the space between the sidewalk and the curb. In addition, the temporary signs that are on private property are permitted as long as they meet the square foot and set back requirements in the regulation. Mrs. Stanley stated that she was happy that these were not the types of signs in question, as many contractors use these signs to help locate job sights, for marketing and safety reasons. Further, Mrs. Stanley stated that the current ordinance and regulations seemed address the issue. It prohibited signs on public property and did not limit the use of sign on private property. She asked Mr. Hearty explain what the committee could do help the situation. Mr. Hearty stated he believed that he current ordinance was fair and specific. However, there is an enforcement issue. Chair Trombetta and Mr. Visconti both stated that the charge was very broad as to the kind of signs and areas in question. Further discussion occurred regarding real estate, charity, and cultural signs as well as for-profit signs. Mr. Elpern stated that he and Assistant Corporate Council revised the current regulation which is quite complex. He feels it addresses the issue. However, he feels there is an enforcement issue.

Mrs. Stanley asked Mr. Pinter to clarify enforcement. Mr. Pinter stated that there are currently only a few City employees currently authorized to remove unpermitted signs but that the ordinance could be interpreted to give authority to others. Mr. Pinter further stated that the committee could add some additional language to make enforcement stronger.

Mr. Visconti asked if the ordinance covers power poles. Mr. Stillman informed the committee that the signs on power poles are prohibited under a federal regulation, and they are removed when they see them.

Mr. Rotella asked if the City has authority to remove commercial signs on public property. Mr. Pinter stated that the City can remove any signs on public property that is inconvenient to the public unless the permission has been given. Further discussion took place regarding the placement of signs on public property and the enforcement of the current regulations. Mr. Pinter stated that the current ordinance and regulations are probably adequate, but that enforcement can be increased. He will look into that further.

Colleen Stanley made a motion which was seconded by Fred Visconti to recommend that the Common Council expands the city officials that can enforce the current ordinances and regulations. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was not further business of the committee, Colleen Stanley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Fred Visconti. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Trombetta, Chairman

Colleen Stanley

Fred Visconti