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**Ordinance No. 383**

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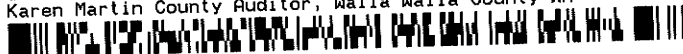
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08/11/2010 03:36:09 PM Page 1 of 7 Fees: 68.00  
Karen Martin County Auditor, Walla Walla County WA



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**ORDINANCE NO. 383**

**ADOPTING AN INTERIM ORDINANCE REGARDING THE  
REGULATION OF SIGNS IN UNINCORPORATED WALLA WALLA  
COUNTY, TEMPORARILY MODIFYING WALLA WALLA COUNTY  
CODE CHAPTER 17.28.**

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WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners may adopt interim development regulations for a period of up to six months provided that the Board holds a public hearing on the proposed interim development regulations within sixty (60) days after adoption of the Ordinance (RCW 36.70A.390); and

WHEREAS, Walla Walla County Code Section 14.15.030 allows the Board of County Commissioners to amend the County development regulations more than once per year by majority vote of the Board; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to U.S. Highway 12 have changed the traffic patterns near tourism-related industries located on Old Highway 12; and

WHEREAS, current requirements of the Walla Walla County zoning code, Title 17, require signs to be placed 30 feet from the right of way; and

WHEREAS, these restrictions impair the ability of tourism-related industries to direct traffic from the new U.S. Highway 12 to their locations on Old Highway 12; and

WHEREAS, the changes to U.S. Highway 12 necessitate an immediate, but temporary, change in the County's ordinances to address this issue.

Now Therefore; be it **Ordained that:**



**Section I. The Board of County Commissioners Makes the Following Findings of Fact:**

1. The recent improvements to US Highway 12 are a benefit to Walla Walla County as a whole, providing a modern, safe highway through the County to the City of Walla Walla. However, improvements to U.S. Highway 12 have changed traffic patterns for businesses located on Old Highway 12.
2. Current Walla Walla County Code 17.28 impacts the ability of tourist-related industries to redirect customers to their businesses.
3. The Board of County Commissioners conducted a workshop regarding the signage issues on August 3, 2010.
4. The Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a public hearing for August 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. for the changes adopted by this interim ordinance.

**Section II. The Board of County Commissioners Makes the Following Conclusions of Law:**

1. Walla Walla County is authorized by RCW 36.70A.390 to adopt interim zoning controls for a period of six months.
2. The proposed amendments are necessary to allow signage to be used to direct traffic to business impacted by the changes to U.S Highway 12.
3. Immediate, and temporary, action is necessary to minimize impacts from the changes to U.S. Highway 12.

**Section III. Duration and Termination:**

The interim requirements imposed by this Ordinance shall commence on the date of adoption of this Ordinance. Provided that the County holds a public hearing on the interim requirements and adopts findings and conclusions in support of the requirements, the requirements shall terminate six months thereafter, unless extended by ordinance after public hearing.

**Section IV. Interim Nature of Ordinance.**

Any sign placed in accord with this Ordinance shall be a permitted use only during the interim period of this ordinance. Signs placed in accord with this ordinance shall not be deemed an allowed non-conforming use after the expiration date of this ordinance, unless this Ordinance is made permanent or extended as set forth in Section III.



**Section V. Public Hearing:**

The Commissioners shall hold a public hearing on August 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. If necessary, the Board may adopt additional Findings of Fact.

**Section VI Severability:**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

**Section VII:**

This ordinance will be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

**Section VIII:**

**Walla County Code Chapter 17.28 is temporarily modified as follows:**

CHAPTER 17.28 - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS—SIGNS

17.28.005 - Purpose.

17.28.010 - Sign standards.

17.28.020 - Temporary signs.

17.28.030 - Outdoor advertising display.

17.28.040 - Billboards.

17.28.050 - Sign setbacks.

17.28.060 - Sign height.

17.28.070 - Building permits required.

17.28.080 - Exempt signs.

17.28.090 - Prohibited signs.

17.28.005 - Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to enhance the visual environment of the county by regulating the location size and appearance of signs and outdoor advertising. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

17.28.010 - Sign standards.

- A. The light from any illuminated sign shall be so shaded, shielded or directed that the light intensity or brightness will not be a nuisance to surrounding areas. Any externally illuminated sign shall be oriented away from the surrounding residences, and away from streets.
- B. Signs projecting over an internal sidewalk or vehicular traffic area shall be at least eight feet above internal walkways and at least sixteen feet above any area used for vehicular traffic.



- C. Signs are permitted in all zoning districts except for residential districts. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

17.28.020 - Temporary signs.

Signage for temporary events is allowed for a period not to exceed three days unless documentation is provided that the temporary event exceeds three days. In no case shall temporary signage be allowed for a period exceeding thirty days annually. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)  
(Ord. No. 371, § III(Exh. A, Pt. F), 8-3-2009)

17.28.030 - Outdoor advertising display.

Outdoor advertising displays are permitted in all zones, except residential districts. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

17.28.040 - Billboards.

- A. Billboards are allowed in industrial, primary agriculture and agriculture residential zones.
- B. Billboards along state routes are subject to permitting regulation by Washington State Department of Transportation.
- C. Billboards along state scenic/historical routes, outside of the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Transportation will be regulated for compatibility with the scenic/historical nature of the route. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

17.28.050 - Sign setbacks.

~~A. For industrial and commercial districts a A setback minimum of five feet one foot from the leading edge of the sign to the street right of way or property line, or 15 feet from the edge of the traveled way, whichever is greater, is required. In no case will signs be allowed to be placed in a location or manner that violates sight distance, clear view triangle or clear zone requirements as defined in Walla Walla County Code Title 12 and/or Chapter 3.4 of the Walla Walla County Road Design Standards, as determined by the County Engineer.~~

~~B. For all other districts a minimum of thirty feet from the leading edge of the sign to the street right of way or property line, whichever is greater, is required. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)~~

17.28.060 - Sign height.

- A. For industrial districts a maximum of eighty feet, measured from average grade to the highest point on the sign, is allowed.
- B. For commercial districts a maximum of fifty feet, measured from average grade to the highest point on the sign, is allowed.
- C. For all other districts, a maximum of thirty-five feet, measured from the average grade to the highest point on the sign, is allowed. (Ord. 269



(part), 2002)

17.28.070 - Building permits required.

Building permits are required for billboards, outdoor advertising displays and signs. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

17.28.080 - Exempt signs.

A. Signs exempt from the above standards include:

1. Signs not exceeding two square feet in area and bearing only property numbers, post box numbers, names of occupants of premises, professional or announcement signs or other identification of premises not having commercial connotations.
2. Real estate signs not exceeding six square feet in area, advertising the sale or rental of premises or land upon which they are erected.
3. Flags and insignias of any government except when displayed in connection with commercial promotion.
4. Legal notices identification, information, or directional signs erected or required by governmental bodies.
5. Integral decorative or architectural features or buildings, except letters, trademarks, moving parts, or moving lights.
6. Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking to private property, but bearing no advertising matter.
7. Banners, streamers or emblems over or across any street, alley or part thereof that causes no nuisances or hazard to the vehicle or pedestrian traffic. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

17.28.090 - Prohibited signs.

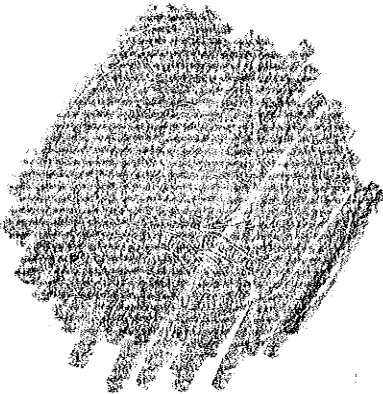
A. The following signs are prohibited:

1. Signs on any vehicle or trailer that is parked on public or private property and visible from a public right-of-way for the purpose of circumventing the provisions of this chapter. This provision shall not prohibit signs that are painted on or magnetically attached to any vehicle operating in the normal course of business;
2. Signs that purport to be, are an imitation of, or resemble an official traffic sign or signal, could cause confusion with any official signs, or which obstruct the visibility of any traffic/street sign or signal;
3. Signs attached to utility, street light, and traffic control standard poles;
4. Signs attached to trees or rocks;
5. Swinging projecting signs;
6. Signs, together with their supports, braces, guys and anchors that are not maintained in a neat, clean and attractive condition, free from rust, corrosion, peeling paint or other surface deterioration;
7. Abandoned signs;
8. Flashing, blinking or fluttering parts of signs;
9. Signs that are unsafe or hazardous;



10. Signs on doors, windows, or fire escapes that restrict free ingress or egress;
11. Unique signs unless specifically approved by the regional planning director when deemed necessary. Approval of the sign is based on the effect of the proposed sign not contributing to a cluttered, confusing or unsafe condition, or would not be in conflict with the character of the zoning district;
12. Signs on public property without prior approval;
13. Searchlights or beacons;
14. Changing message centers;
15. Any other sign not meeting the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 269 (part), 2002)

**Passed** by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners in regular session at Walla Walla, Washington, then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010.



*Gregg C. Loney*  
Gregg C. Loney, Chairman, District 1

*Perry L. Dozier*  
Perry L. Dozier, Commissioner, District 2

*Gregory A. Tompkins*  
Gregory A. Tompkins, Chairman, District 3

Constituting the Board of County  
Commissioners of Walla Walla County,  
Washington

Attest:

*Connie R. Vinti*  
Connie R. Vinti, Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form

*Jesse D. Nolte*  
Jesse D. Nolte, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney