

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2011-181
October 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Working Group to Review the District's Existing Sign Rules and Provide Advice on Proposed Revisions

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia by sections 422(2) and (11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22 (2) and (11) (2011 Supp.), and sections 4 and 10 of the Construction Codes Approval and Amendments Act of 1986 ("Act"), effective March 21, 1987 (D.C. Law 6-216; D.C. Official Code §§ 6-1403 and 6-1409) (2008 Repl.), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP

There is hereby established a multi-agency Working Group to advise the Mayor on the revision and updating of statutes and rules governing signs in the District of Columbia. The Working Group shall make recommendations on amendments to rules issued under the Construction Codes and other statutes and regulations governing the construction, reconstruction, alteration, addition, repair, removal, demolition, use, location, and maintenance of signs in the District of Columbia.

II. REVIEW AND REVISION OF EXISTING RULES

- A. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, the Working Group shall convene to review the District's sign rules and advise the Mayor on proposed revisions to these rules. The members of the Working Group shall include, at a minimum:
1. The Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, or a designee, to provide expertise on policy, enforcement, and other issues relating to signs on private property;
 2. The Director of the District Department of Transportation, or a designee, to provide expertise on signs on public space and signs subject to federal regulation pursuant to the Federal Highway Beautification Act;

3. The Director of the Office of Planning and the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Review Board, or their designees, to inform the Group with respect to planning issues and concerns about signs on historic properties;
 4. The Director of the Department of Public Works, or a designee, to provide expertise on issues relating to the enforcement of regulations relating to signs on public space;
 5. The Chairman of the Construction Codes Coordinating Board, or a designee, to provide guidance on the structural and mechanical aspects of signs and the need for any associated regulations;
 6. A representative of the Office of the Attorney General, designated by the Attorney General, to provide advice with respect to the drafting of the proposed revised regulations and any other applicable legal or constitutional requirements; and
 7. Any other members the Mayor designates whose participation would contribute to the quality and effectiveness of the revised rules.
- B. The Mayor shall appoint a Chairperson, who shall develop and adopt operating procedures for the Working Group and ensure that the Working Group meets bi-weekly, as appropriate, to accomplish its objectives. All members of the Working Group shall attend the meetings and participate diligently in the Working Group's activities.
- C. In reviewing the District's sign rules, the Working Group shall assess whether these rules:
1. Reflect a comprehensive, consistent policy for the regulation of signs;
 2. Satisfy all applicable federal and local legal requirements;
 3. Adequately promote the public safety;
 4. Establish an operationally effective approach to permitting that is comprehensible to the public; and
 5. Provide for a clear, consistent means of enforcement.
- D. Based on this assessment, the Working Group shall recommend appropriate changes to the existing sign rules and assist the Mayor by developing a single, comprehensive, consolidated set of proposed rules governing signs. The Mayor shall submit the appropriate proposed rules to the Council for approval pursuant

to section 10 of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 6-1409). All other affected agencies and entities shall make any necessary conforming changes to their regulations. The Working Group shall complete the proposed rules and make all needed conforming changes within 180 days of the effective date of this Order.

III. RESCISSIONS AND SUPERSESIONS

- A. Mayor's Order 2009-224, dated December 18, 2009, is hereby rescinded.
- B. All prior Mayor's Orders relating to this subject, including Mayor's Order 2009-22, dated February 25, 2009, Mayor's Order 96-175, dated December 9, 1996, Mayor's Order 79-50, dated March 21, 1979, and Mayor's Order 83-119, dated May 6, 1983, are superseded to the extent of any inconsistency.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Order shall become effective immediately.



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

ATTEST: 

CYNTHIA BROCK-SMITH
SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA