

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 13-2022

Introduced: February 7, 2022

Auditor: Michael A. Martin

Fiscal Impact:

The Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) has indicated that existing staff and resources will fulfill the resulting duties of this legislation. As a result, the proposed fee will cover and may exceed the County's associated sign removal costs. Our Office expects the fiscal impact of this legislation to be minimal.

Per historical data provided by the DPZ and its expected rate of violations, it anticipates additional General Fund revenues of up to \$2,000 per year. This is based on a five-year average of 163 signs posted annually coupled with its assumption that 5 percent of such postings will result in a \$250 fee assessment.

Purpose:

This legislation requires that meetings or hearings with a poster or sign requirement for activities associated with the following County functions are to be removed in accordance with the proposed text in Section 16.1613:

- Planning, Zoning, and Subdivisions and Land Development Regulations per Title 16 of the County Code
- Administrative Procedures per Title 2 of the County Code
- Department of Planning and Zoning Procedures
- Planning Board
- Design Advisory Panel
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Cemetery Preservation Board

Furthermore, this legislation immediately establishes a \$250 fee for the removal of the above noted posters and signs and requires this fee to be set through a resolution starting in Fiscal Year 2023.

Other Comments:

The Department of Planning and Zoning will provide existing staff to administer this legislation as follows:

- Two Administrative Analysts, one in the Division of Land Development and one in the Division of Public Service and Zoning Administration, will be responsible for notifying an applicant of the proposed requirements.
- Three Code Enforcement Inspectors in the Division of Public Service and Zoning Administration will be responsible for managing sign removal complaints and physically removing signs that are not properly removed by applicants.

Please note that a violation of the signage removal requirement related to a Zoning Regulation Text Amendment proposed in Section 16.208(c)(11) of this legislation will also provide DPZ with the authority to assess a \$100 fine per enforcement provisions in Section 16.209 of the County Code. Such a violation and fine would be in addition to the proposed \$250 sign removal fee provided by Council Bill 13-2022 as prescribed under Section 16.1613(c). The DPZ indicated it could issue both fines at its discretion.