



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IV. A
11/22/2022

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Ordinance to be introduced and adopted with emergency, amending Ordinance No. 26,451 to extend the 905-day moratorium to a 1,085-day moratorium effective from November 19, 2022 to May 17, 2023 or the effective date of a revised sign code, whichever is sooner, on the acceptance of new applications for Planned Unit Developments and Simplified Planned Unit Developments that would allow construction on, or use of, property within Oklahoma City for freestanding signs with a display surface area over 200 square feet and on the acceptance of new applications for and issuance of electrical, building or sign permits for freestanding signs over 200 square feet associated with rezoning applications submitted during the moratorium; providing an appeal process; providing effective and expiration dates; providing severability; and declaring an emergency.

(Seven affirmative votes required to approve emergency.)

Councilmember Stonecipher

Background:

On May 26, 2020, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 26,451 declaring a temporary 180-day moratorium on the acceptance of applications for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), Simplified Planned Unit Developments (SPUDs), and the issuance of any electrical permit, sign permit or building permit, to permit the construction of new freestanding signs over 200 square feet in areas associated with a rezoning application submitted during the moratorium. The moratorium was enacted to address a number of rezoning applications requesting PUDs and SPUDs wherein large freestanding signs have been requested, which otherwise would not be allowed within the existing zoning district, while the City drafts and adopts new sign regulations.

The moratorium has previously been extended four times. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the new sign Ordinance on April 14, 2022. The Ordinance was introduced at City Council on September 17, 2022, and a public hearing was held on October 11, 2022. On October 17, 2022, before the Ordinance was scheduled for final adoption at City Council, the City received a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union threatening litigation if the sign Ordinance was adopted as proposed. Also, a group of concerned artists contacted the City to request additional consideration of the impact of the proposed Ordinance on murals. An extension of the moratorium, effective from November 19, 2022, to May 17, 2023, is required to determine whether revisions to the proposed Ordinance are necessary.

Councilman Stonecipher desires to amend the moratorium to 1,085 days to further allow for public hearing and adoption of a revised sign Ordinance.

Review: Municipal Counselor's Office

Recommendation: Ordinance be introduced and adopted with emergency.