

ORDINANCE NO. 432

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING CERTAIN SIGN PLACEMENTS, REMOVAL, AND PROHIBITION ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to reasonably regulate and to narrowly tailor rules regarding the placement and removal of certain signs so as to best protect, and for the immediate protection of, the public's health, safety, property, and welfare, which the City deems to be a substantial and compelling public interest;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. Public Lands. The placement of any sign or signs of any nature, including political signs, except by local, state or federal governments, or their respective agencies, on any public lands, tracts, or parcels shall be prohibited. Public lands, tracts or parcels, or portions thereof, shall include, but not be limited to, all right of ways, known public easements, parks, piers, public roads and public waterways.

SECTION 2. Vacant Lands. The placement of any sign or signs of any nature, including political signs, except by local, state, or federal governments, or their respective agencies, on any vacant land shall be prohibited. Vacant land shall be defined as any lot, parcel, or tract of land without a properly approved structure erected on such land. Roads, streets, bridges and other infrastructure or utility improvements shall not be considered a "structure" for purposes of this section. Properly approved and erected real estate signs advertising the vacant property on which such signs are erected shall be permitted and shall not violate this section.

SECTION 3. Removal. All political signs erected during a campaign season shall be removed within seven (7) days following the date of conclusion of the general, special, or run-off election whereby the contest pertaining to the sign in question has been concluded or if the candidate withdraws his or her candidacy.

All candidates are encouraged, but not required, to refrain from placement of any campaign signs until forty-five (45) days before the general or special election in which he or she is a qualified candidate.

SECTION 4. Punishment. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, for each such offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not exceed \$500 per offense or imprisonment of up to 30 days, or by both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court.

SECTION 5. Applicable Lands. This Ordinance shall apply to all real property and lands within the jurisdiction of the City of Mexico Beach, Florida, and as may be expanded by law.

SECTION 6. Severability and Conflict. In the event any section or provision of this Ordinance or any portion thereof, any paragraph, sentence, or word be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such a decision shall not alter the validity of the remainder hereof as a whole or part thereof other than the portion declared invalid. All ordinances in conflict with any provision of this Ordinance shall be amended and repealed to the extent of the conflict only and all remaining and non-conflicting portions of such ordinances shall remain valid.

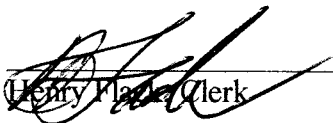
SECTION 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

INTRODUCED at a Regular Meeting of the City Council on January 14, 2003, and ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the City Council on March 11, 2003.

CITY OF MEXICO BEACH, FLORIDA


Kathy Kingsland, Mayor

ATTEST:


Henry Flagg, Clerk

