

City of Houston, Texas, Resolution No. 2009-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TO PERFORM A STUDY RELATING TO THE USE AND IMPACT OF ON-PREMISE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY SIGNS; CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, the City of Houston has since 1980 enforced a comprehensive regulatory ordinance for signs located on the premises of Houston business; and

WHEREAS, although such provisions have been amended as needed, changes in sign technology and business practices indicated a need to review current on-premise sign regulations; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish such review, the Mayor appointed a task force with membership comprised of individuals representing a broad range of interest in on-premise sign issues, including representatives of developers, small and large businesses, restaurants, realtors, apartments, scenic organizations, quality of life organizations, and City staff to participate in the development of revised on-premise regulations; and

WHEREAS, the goals and objectives of the task force as established by the Mayor included the following:

1. Update the sign code for on-premise signage;
2. Recognize that signage is a critical tool in supporting businesses;
3. Improve on the current proliferation of signs that hinders business;
4. Improve the visual clutter that exists in major parts of the city;
5. Develop and improve communication of signage standards to enhance enforcement;
6. Set standards for new and emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, the task force, following an intensive process of meetings over approximately ten months during 2009, developed a series of proposed amendments to the Sign Code intended to accomplish the desired goals and objectives, including new regulations addressing the use of on-premise changeable message and high technology signs; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2009, the proposed amendments to Chapter 46 of the City of Houston Building Code, the Sign Code, were received and reviewed by the City Council Quality of Life Committee, and thereafter were approved in ordinance form by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City staff have also proposed that the Public Works and Engineering Department be authorized to undertake a study over the next three years of the use and impact of on-premise changeable message and high technology signs; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings contained in the preamble of this Resolution are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as a part of this Resolution.

Section 2. That the Director of the City Public Works and Engineering Department shall be and is hereby authorized to conduct a study during the period beginning September 1, 2009, and concluding September 1, 2012, regarding the use and impact of on-premise changeable message and high technology signs. The study shall include the collection of data and statistical information regarding the number, type, use, business impact, impact on adjacent properties, and impact of the city's regulations on such signs, and any other criteria or information deemed appropriate by the Director. Following the conclusion of the study period, the Director shall submit a written report to the Mayor and City Council summarizing the results of the study.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; however, in the event that the Mayor fails to sign this Resolution within five days after its passage and adoption, it shall take effect in accordance with Article VI, Section 6, Houston City Charter.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2009.

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2009.

Mayor of the City of Houston

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6, Houston City Charter, the effective date of the foregoing Resolution is _____.

City Secretary

Prepared by Legal Dept. _____
_____:_____/_____/2009 **Senior** Assistant City Attorney
Requested by _____
L.D. File No. _____