

CITY OF RENTON, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 5604

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RENTON, WASHINGTON, AMENDING SECTION 1-3-2 OF CHAPTER 3, REMEDIES AND PENALTIES, OF TITLE I (ADMINISTRATIVE), AND SECTION 4-4-100 OF CHAPTER 4, CITY-WIDE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, OF TITLE IV (DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS) OF ORDINANCE NO. 4260 ENTITLED "CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RENTON, WASHINGTON", BY INCREASING THE ALLOWED SIZE OF POLITICAL SIGNS, LENGTHENING THE TIME IN WHICH POLITICAL SIGNS BE CAN DISPLAYED, MAKING VIOLATIONS OF THE REQUIRED REMOVAL PERIOD OF POLITICAL SIGNS CIVIL CODE VIOLATIONS AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES.**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RENTON, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION I.** Subsection 1-3-2B.6, "Penalties", of Chapter 3, Remedies and Penalties, of Title I (Administrative) of Ordinance No. 4260 entitled "Code of General Ordinances of the City of Renton, Washington", is hereby amended as follows:

6. "Penalties" are any monetary recovery or reimbursement including, but are not limited to, fees and/or assessments. Penalties shall accrue for each day or portion thereof that each violation occurs. A Violator may be responsible for multiple penalties for each violation.

Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate violation subject to separate penalties except for violations of the sign code, per RMC 4-4-100, Signs, or violations constituting a noise disturbance, per RMC 8-7, Noise Level Regulations. See RMC 1-3-2P.5-6, Penalties.

**SECTION II.** Subsection 1-3-2P, Penalties, of Chapter 3, Remedies and Penalties, of Title I (Administrative) of Ordinance No. 4260 entitled "Code of General Ordinances of the City of Renton, Washington", is hereby amended as follows:

P. Penalties: The penalties shall be as so defined in Subsection B6 of this Section.

1. The minimum penalty for the first violation shall be ~~five~~ one hundred dollars (~~\$5~~100), not including costs or court costs, fees, and assessments.

2. The minimum penalty for the second violation of the same nature or a continuing violation shall be ~~seven~~ two hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars (~~\$75~~200), not including costs or court costs, fees, and assessments.

3. The minimum penalty for the third violation of the same nature or a continuing violation shall be ~~one thousand~~ three hundred dollars (~~\$1,0~~300), not including costs or court costs, fees, and assessments.

4. After three (3) prior violations, whether they occurred at the same time or in succession, the fourth violation shall constitute a gross misdemeanor. The Administrator and/or CCI has the authority to submit the violations to the prosecutor for criminal prosecution as provided in RMC 1-3-3E.

a. The criminal offense shall be for failing to eliminate a violation after a Finding of Violation or after a confirmation or modification of a Finding of Violation.

b. The prosecutor's burden is to prove beyond a reasonable doubt as to any Violator cited that in the City of Renton:

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i. The Violator has had three (3) prior violations under this Section of the Code; and

ii. The prior convictions were within the last ten (10) years. Time served in jail is not excluded from the ten (10) year period.

c. If a Violator/Defendant is found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, the Violator/Defendant shall serve no less than five (5) days in jail for the first conviction, no less than ten (10) days for the second conviction, and no less than thirty (30) days for any subsequent conviction.

d. A Violator/Defendant shall not be eligible for Electronic Home Detention or any other alternative to jail time.

e. A Violator/Defendant shall remain responsible for the RMC civil code violation penalties and/or any costs, not including the cost of prosecution.

5. For violations of the sign code, as set forth in RMC 4-4-100, Signs, the monetary penalty for each violation shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) per sign up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

6. For violations of the sign code, as set forth in RMC 8-7, Noise Level Regulations, the monetary penalty for each violation shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per violation up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

7. The payment of a monetary penalty pursuant to this Section does not relieve a person of the duty to correct the violation as requested by the CCI or as ordered by the Administrator. The payment of a monetary penalty does not

prevent the City from asserting that the violation continues to exist or from asserting that a new violation has been found.

~~68~~. It shall be a misdemeanor to impede, delay, obstruct or interfere with the City's employees or agents designated to perform the abatement. Any physical efforts to impede, delay, obstruct, or interfere with City employees or agents will be forwarded to the prosecutor for appropriate criminal filing. Nothing in this Section is intended to limit or prevent the pursuit of any other remedies or penalties permitted under the law, including criminal prosecution.

**SECTION III.** Subsection 4-4-100B.6.m, Political Signs, of Chapter 4, City-Wide Property Development Standards, of Title IV (Development Regulations) of Ordinance No. 4260 entitled "Code of General Ordinances of the City of Renton, Washington", is hereby amended as follows:

m. Political Signs: Political signs less than ~~twelve (12)~~ thirty-two (32) square feet on one face as herein defined.

**SECTION IV.** Subsection 4-4-100J.4.c, Removal Required, of Chapter 4, City-Wide Property Development Standards, of Title IV (Development Regulations) of Ordinance No. 4260 entitled "Code of General Ordinances of the City of Renton, Washington", is hereby amended as follows:

c. Removal Required: Each political sign shall be removed within ~~ten~~ fourteen (14) days following an election, by the candidates, ~~or~~ candidate's representative or proposition sponsor except that the successful candidates of a primary election may keep their signs on display until ~~ten~~ fourteen (14) days

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after the general election, at which time they shall be promptly removed. After ~~ten~~ fourteen (14) days the City may pick up and dispose of remaining signs.

Violation or failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall subject the offender to RMC 1-3-2, Code Enforcement and Penalties.

**SECTION V.** This ordinance shall be effective upon its passage, approval, and five (5) days after publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 6th day of June, 2011.

Bonnie I. Walton  
Bonnie I. Walton, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 6th day of June, 2011.

Denis Law  
Denis Law, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Lawrence J. Warren  
Lawrence J. Warren, City Attorney

Date of Publication: 6/10/2011 (summary)

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