

ORDINANCE # - 2013-20  
PRODUCED BY Alexis  
DATE INTRODUCED 8/6/13  
FILE NUMBER 2013-08-05  
PUBLIC HEARING 9/17/13  
REPORTED/TABLED 9/17/13  
EFFECTIVE 10/4/13  
BOOK # \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE # \_\_\_\_\_  
ORDINATION # 3  
ENDED BY ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_

# ADOPTION

# INTRODUCTION

## CITY OF COVINGTON ORDINANCE NUMBER 2013-20

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON AMENDING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES: CHAPTER 42 ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE V. ADVERTISING SIGNS ON RIGHTS-OF-WAY

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11       **WHEREAS**, certain amendments have been suggested to the chapter of the  
12 Code addressing signs on rights-of-way; and

13       **WHEREAS**, the Covington City Council deems these amendments  
14 appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Covington;  
15 and

16       **WHEREAS**, the City Council has held its public hearing in accordance with  
17 law,

18       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City  
19 of Covington, at its regular session convened, that Chapter 42 Environment, shall  
20 be amended to read as follows:

- 21 Sec. 42-132. Definitions.
- 22 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the
- 23 meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly
- 24 indicates a different meaning:
- 25 City shall mean the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Covington and all its
- 26 waterways.
- 27 Political sign shall mean any sign urging the election or defeat of any candidate
- 28 seeking any political office, or urging the passage or defeat of any ballot measure,
- 29 but not including any billboard owned or maintained by a commercial firm or
- 30 advertising company when leased or used as a political sign.
- 31 Real estate sign shall mean any temporary sign pertaining to the sale, lease or
- 32 rental of land or buildings, which is erected or displayed on the lot or parcel to
- 33 which it applies.
- 34 Right-of-Way shall mean any portion of ground dedicated to the city for public use
- 35 as a street or other use.
- 36 Sign shall mean a medium of communication, including its structure and
- 37 component parts, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention to its
- 38 subject matter or location usually for advertising purposes
- 39 Sign owner shall mean that person who owns a sign and/or is responsible for a
- 40 sign. In those cases in which an owner cannot be determined, the owner of the
- 41 subject being advertised shall be deemed the owner of the sign.
- 42 Snipe (bandit) sign shall mean a sign, including flyers, which is tacked, nailed,
- 43 posted, pasted, glued, taped or otherwise attached to poles, stakes, trees, fences or
- 44 to other like objects, or upon public or private structures or buildings.

45  
46 Sec. 42-134. Exemptions from section 42-133.  
47 The prohibition of section 42-133 shall not apply to the following:

1 (1) Signs placed by the city department of public works and city department of  
2 planning, or other city departments by order of the city mayor ~~or city council~~ to  
3 direct, warn, caution or inform the traveling public for the convenience and safety  
4 thereof;

5 (2) Signs placed by the Louisiana State Department of Transportation and  
6 Development or other state agency for the purpose of informing or warning the  
7 public of a regulation made pursuant to law by such agency in keeping with its  
8 purposes, the safety, convenience or welfare of the public; or

9 (3) Signs permitted and non-permitted on public rights-of-way according to  
10 provisions made in Code of Ordinances, Appendix B.

11  
12 ~~Sec. 42-135. Permits - Temporary required.~~

13 ~~The city director of planning, or his/her designee, should be notified in advance of~~  
14 ~~the placement on private property, of temporary signs with the purpose of directing~~  
15 ~~guests, members of organizations or other persons to a spot or location where a~~  
16 ~~permitted special event will be held.~~

17  
18 ~~Sec. 42-136. Removal of signs.~~

19 ~~Such temporary signs shall be removed within five days after the event for which~~  
20 ~~the sign pertains.~~

21  
22 Secs. 42-135 and 42-136 Reserved.

23  
24 Sec. 42-138. Notice of litter ordinance to political candidates.

25 Prior to qualification for any political office which encompasses any portion of the  
26 city limits of the city, the city ~~administrator~~ planner or his designee shall make  
27 available to the clerk of court of the 22nd Judicial District Court for the parish  
28 copies of the litter ordinance of the city for dissemination to those persons  
29 qualifying for these political offices.

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31 Sec. 42-139. Procedures for the removal of structures, signs, obstacles, objects,  
32 deposits or things within the right-of-way.

33 (a) Apparent value: When structures, signs, obstacles, etc., are of a permanent  
34 nature with significant value, the sign owner will be notified by certified mail to  
35 remove it within five days. When items do not have significant value but do retain  
36 some apparent value, the owner shall be notified orally to remove it within five  
37 days. All signs of significant or apparent value will be marked with a NOTICE OF  
38 VIOLATION at the time of owner notification. If the owner is unknown or cannot  
39 be found, a NOTICE OF VIOLATION shall be affixed to the object setting forth  
40 that it must be removed within five days from the date specified. Failure to remove  
41 within the specified period of time services as forfeiture of all rights thereto and  
42 the city government may remove the object for its own use or dispose of it in any  
43 way deemed necessary. The owner and any other person responsible therefore  
44 remain liable for any damages to the public property or expenditures of public  
45 funds resulting from the installation or removal of such items.

46 (b) No apparent value: Structures, signs, obstacles, etc. that have no apparent  
47 value will be summarily removed and destroyed or disposed of in the most cost  
48 effective manner available. Items in this category are wooden stake signs, small  
49 cardboard signs, light paper signs, signs nailed to utility poles, snipe signs, signs  
50 deemed to be a traffic hazard or obstacle to right-of-way maintenance.

51 (c) Political, real estate, or similar type signs: Political, real estate, or similar  
52 type signs shall not be located within the public right-of-way. ~~Large signs (i.e.~~  
53 ~~plywood with two inch by four inch supports, or signs that exceed four square feet~~

1 in surface area) will be marked with a NOTICE OF VIOLATION and removed  
2 after five days. The ultimate disposition of political, real estate, or similar type  
3 signs will be provided in subsection (b) above.

4 (d) Potential traffic hazard or obstacle to maintenance: Any structure, sign,  
5 headwall, obstacle, object, deposit, or thing which is potentially hazardous or  
6 interferes with road or structure maintenance because if its location or type of  
7 construction will be removed as provided for in subsection (b) above.

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9 Sec. 42-141. Litter violation.

10 Any violation of the aforementioned sections shall be considered a violation of  
11 chapter 42, article III of the City Code of Ordinances and is subject to the civil and  
12 criminal procedures as provided therein in section 1-8 of this Code.

13  
14 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all other sections of Chapter 42  
15 Environment shall remain the same and in full force.

16 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of this ordinance  
17 shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein  
18 which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the  
19 provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

20 **WHEREUPON**, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having  
21 been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council of the City  
22 of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole,  
23 the vote thereon being as follows:

24 **MOVED FOR ADOPTION** by Smith, seconded by Rolling.

25 **YEAS:** 7 **NAYS:** 0

26 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0

27 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

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30 Lee S. Alexius  
31 LEE S. ALEXIUS  
32 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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34 Bonnie D. Champagne  
35 BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
36 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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38  
39 Presented to the Mayor this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013, at 11:05 o'clock  
40 A.M.

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42  
43 Bonnie D. Champagne  
44 BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
45 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL  
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Approved  or Vetoed  by the Mayor on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September,  
2013.



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MICHAEL B. COOPER  
MAYOR

Received from the Mayor on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013, at 2:10  
o'clock P.M.



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BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE  
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL