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**CITY OF FIRCREST
ORDINANCE NO. 1726**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING FIRCREST MUNICIPAL CODE (FMC) 22.26.021
RELATED TO TEMPORARY SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY; AUTHORIZING CORRECTIONS; AND
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Fircrest promotes the public health, safety, and welfare through a comprehensive system of reasonable, effective, consistent, content-neutral, and nondiscriminatory sign standards and requirements to protect and enhance the city’s historic and residential character and its economic base through the provision of appropriate and aesthetic signage, minimize the distracting effect of signs on drivers to improve traffic and enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety, and achieve the additional intent and purpose as provided in FMC [22.26.001](#).

WHEREAS, based on input from members of the community, the municipal code regarding temporary signs on residential property was unclear and overly restrictive; and

WHEREAS, City Council intends to clarify provisions relating to and lift restrictions on freestanding temporary signs on residential property and provide additional detail on removal and enforcement measures for residential freestanding temporary signs to ensure proper and clear enforcement of those signs that may become a threat to public safety or create a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Council is choosing to engage in these limited changes at this time to provide additional flexibility for its residents and will consider additional changes to the sign code in the future to ensure the overall code is up-to-date, clear, and reflects the needs and values of the Fircrest City community.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. FMC 22.26.021, Amended. Section 21 of Ordinance No. 1598 and FMC [22.26.021](#), “Temporary signs,” are hereby amended to read as follows:

22.26.021 Temporary signs.

- (a) No Permit Required. No sign permit is required for temporary signs.
- (b) Removal. Temporary signs shall be removed if the sign is in need of repair, is worn, dilapidated, or creates a public nuisance, or if the number, placement, or size of temporary signs violates the provisions of this section, creates a public safety concern, or constitutes a public nuisance. Signs installed for periods exceeding 180 days shall be modified to meet the applicable standards for permanent (non-temporary) signs or be removed.
- (c) Materials. Temporary signs must be made of nondurable materials including, but not limited to, paper, corrugated board, flexible, bendable, or foldable plastics, foam core

1 board, vinyl canvas or vinyl mesh products of less than 20-ounce fabric, vinyl canvas
2 and vinyl mesh products without polymeric plasticizers, and signs painted or drawn with
3 water-soluble paints or chalks. Signs made of any other materials shall be considered
4 permanent and are subject to the permanent sign regulations of this chapter.

4 (d) Location.

5 (1) City Property (Excluding City Right-of-Way). Temporary signs on City-owned
6 property, excluding City right-of-way, are allowed only in conjunction with an approved
7 special event permit.

8 (2) City Right-of-Way Outside of the Roadway. Temporary signs on City right-of-
9 way placed outside of the roadway must comply with the following requirements:

10 (A) Placement. Allowed only between the property line and the back of the nearest
11 curb, or where no curb exists, between the property line and the nearest edge of the
12 pavement. Signs may not be placed on traffic islands or on sidewalks, driveways, or
13 other paved areas designed for pedestrian or vehicular use, or as conditioned in a right-
14 of-way use permit.

15 (B) Approval of Abutting Owner. Approval of the abutting owner is required.

16 (C) Type. Signs on stakes that can be manually pushed or hammered into the
17 ground are allowed. All other signs are prohibited unless specifically allowed by a right-
18 of-way use permit.

19 (D) Area and Height. Maximum four square feet in area and three feet in height.

20 (E) Dilapidated or Nuisance Signs. Any temporary sign in the right-of-way that is
21 dilapidated or a nuisance shall be removed by the person responsible for placement of
22 the sign.

23 (F) Other Signs. The City may allow other signs in the City right-of-way with a
24 right-of-way use permit.

25 (3) Residential. Temporary signs may be placed in Group 2 (residential) in
26 accordance with the requirements of this section and the following:

27 (A) Window Signs. Maximum one temporary window sign per residential unit, not
28 to exceed four square feet in area.

29 (B) Freestanding Signs (Includes Pole-Mounted, Stake-Mounted and Portable
30 Signs). Each temporary sign shall not be more than six square feet in area and four feet
31 in height.

(C) Surface-Mounted Signs. Maximum one surface-mounted sign, not to exceed
two square feet in area. Signs must be flatly affixed to walls below the fascia or parapet
line or flatly affixed to on-site fences either facing or abutting the street or facing inward
to the subject site. Signs shall not be attached or tethered to other site improvements.

1 (4) Nonresidential. Temporary signs may be placed in Group 1
2 (nonresidential/noncommercial) and Group 3 (commercial) in accordance with the
3 requirements of this section and the following:

4 (A) Window Signs. Maximum four square feet or 10 percent of the area of the
5 window in which they are placed, whichever is greater.

6 (B) Freestanding Signs (Including Pole-Mounted, Stake-Mounted and Portable
7 Signs). Maximum eight square feet in area and four feet in height. Spacing shall be no
8 closer than 100 feet apart on a property frontage.

9 (C) Surface-Mounted Signs. Maximum 32 square feet in area. Must be flatly
10 affixed to walls below the fascia or parapet line or flatly affixed to on-site fences either
11 facing or abutting the street or facing inward to the subject site. Signs shall not be
12 attached or tethered to other site improvements.

13 **Section 2. Severability:** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance
14 should be held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such
15 invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any
16 other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this sentence.

17 **Section 3. Corrections.** The City Clerk and codifiers of the ordinance are authorized
18 to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the
19 correction of scrivener/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering,
20 section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

21 **Section 4. Publication and Effective Date:** A summary of this ordinance consisting of
22 its title shall be published in the official newspaper of the city. This ordinance shall be
23 effective five (5) days after such publication.

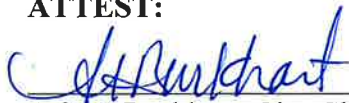
24 **PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST,**
25 **WASHINGTON,** at a regular meeting thereof this 10th day of September 2024.

26 **APPROVED:**

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28 Shannon Reynolds, Mayor

29 **ATTEST:**

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31 Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Robert Zeinemann, City Attorney

DATE OF PUBLICATIONS:

EFFECTIVE DATE: