

ORDINANCE NO. 180446

An ordinance amending Section 91.6205.18 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code and Section 5.111.17 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code regarding the Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Program.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 91.6205.18 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended in its entirety to read:

91.6205.18. Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Program.

91.6205.18.1. General. All off-site sign structures as defined in Section 14.4.2 of the LAMC and subject to the provisions of Chapter I of the LAMC, are subject to regular inspection. Inspection shall occur once in the initial three year period starting on February 1, 2009 and subsequent inspections shall be conducted in three year intervals by the Superintendent or an authorized representative. Inspections may also be complaint-based.

91.6205.18.2. Fees for Inspection. This fee shall be known as the “**Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Fee.**” The person in control of an off-site sign structure subject to inspection shall pay a regulatory fee of \$186.00 to the Department and provide a copy of a valid permit issued by the City of Los Angeles for each off-site sign structure or, a copy of a valid permit issued by the appropriate jurisdiction if the lot was annexed to the City of Los Angeles. The person in control of an off-site sign structure shall pay a regulatory fee of \$342.00 if valid permits are not provided.

The regulatory fee shall be due on February 1 every three years starting on February 1, 2009. If the fees are not paid on or before the last day of the month in which they are due, a monthly penalty equal to five percent of any outstanding fees, but not less than \$10.00, shall be added to those fees each month until the outstanding fees are paid. Should the person in control fail to pay the required fee, the City of Los Angeles will recover it, plus accrued penalties, utilizing any remedies provided by law.

The Department shall cause all money collected pursuant to this section to be deposited into the Off-Site Sign Periodic Inspection Fee Trust Fund described in Section 5.111.17 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code for purposes of disbursement as that section permits. The Department of Building and Safety shall report to the City Council on the actual costs of the regulatory program at the end of each three year cycle no later than June 30 of the third year.

The regulatory fee shall be used to finance the costs of administering the inspection program, including but not limited to, inspection, issuance of inspection certificates and maintenance of an off-site sign structure database. Payment of the fee

shall not create a presumption that the sign is lawfully erected, as that term is defined in Section 91.6205.18.7 of this division.

91.6205.18.3. Inspection Certificate. The Department shall issue a certificate of compliance when appropriate fees have been paid, inspections have been conducted and the off-site sign structure has been determined to be in compliance the terms of the permit described in Sec. 91.6205.18.2 of this division and with all applicable regulations at the time the permit was issued. A new certificate of compliance shall be issued every three years for each off-site sign structure following each subsequent inspection conducted pursuant to this program provided the off-site sign structure remains in compliance.

The certificates shall be attached to the exterior surface of the off-site sign structure in a location that will be visible from ground level.

91.6205.18.4. Frequency of Inspection. Each off-site sign structure shall be inspected once every three years.

91.6205.18.5. Off-Site Sign Inventory. The Department shall maintain a database containing the following information on all off-site sign structures subject to inspection pursuant to Section 91.6205.18 of this division. The database shall contain: building permit number, size of sign as shown on the building permit, issuance date, any subsequent building permits issued for that sign, and any information required pursuant to this chapter or obtained pursuant to inspection.

91.6205.18.6. Orders. If, upon inspection, the Superintendent or an authorized representative observes one or more violations of the LAMC, the Superintendent shall issue an Order to Comply. The person in control of the sign shall eliminate all violations by the compliance date stated on the Order to Comply.

91.6205.18.7. Violations. If the Department determines that an off-site sign structure was not lawfully erected, then the off-site sign structure shall have its sign face removed and replaced with blank panels until the off-site sign structure is made to comply with the applicable provisions of the LAMC. The term "lawfully erected" means an off-site sign structure that was erected in compliance with the provisions of the LAMC in effect at the time of its erection or which was subsequently brought into full compliance with the provisions of the LAMC, except that the term does not apply to any off-site sign structure whose use was modified after erection in a manner that caused it to become illegal.

Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of Section 5.111.17 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code is amended to read:

(c) Monies collected pursuant to Subsection (b) above, shall be deposited into the Fund. The monies in this Fund shall be used to offset the costs of administering the inspection program, including but not limited to inspection, issuance of inspection


certificates, and maintenance of an off-site sign structure database. The Fund shall be administered and expenditures authorized by the General Manager of the Department of Building and Safety or the designee of the General Manager ("General Manager"), in accordance with established City practice. There shall be no expenditure, transfer or other form of disbursement of monies from the Fund, except for purposes directly related to the administration and enforcement of Section 91.6205.18 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Sec. 3. **URGENCY CLAUSE.** The City Council finds and declares that this ordinance is required for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety for the following reasons. It has become increasingly more evident that there are approximately 3,000 illegally constructed or illegally altered signs in the City that pose a potential risk of physical injury because they have never been inspected for structural stability. In addition, the Department of Building and Safety has recently become aware that many of these signs have added electrical components without the benefit of permits or inspections. Therefore, this ordinance shall become effective upon publication pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 253.


Sec. 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, **by a vote of not less than three-fourths** of all of its members, at its meeting of DEC 17 2008

KAREN E. KALFAYAN, City Clerk

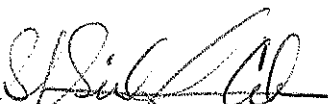
By  Deputy

Approved DEC 19 2008

 Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By 
SHARON SIEDORF CARDENAS
Assistant City Attorney

Date DEC 4 2008

File No. CF 07-1630 S5