



# Sign Ordinance Update – July 30, 2024

# Sign Ordinance

- Sign Regulations are per Chapter 4, Article 4 of the Unified Development Ordinance.
- New billboards or monument/ground signs over 15 square feet must be permitted and inspected by Inspections and Code.
- Wall signs and windows signs are unregulated.
- Signs exempted from permit include address signs, real estate signs, construction signs, flags, incidental signs, banners, and menu boards.

# Sign Ordinance

- Common violations include:
  - Signs placed on the City's Right of Way including signs attached to power poles, sign poles, or other structures
  - Banners not properly attached to principal structure or canopy
  - Flag signs



# Sign Ordinance

- Violations of the Sign Ordinance can result in fines up to \$1,000 per violation.
- For signs on the right of way, ordinance gives the City the right to recover from the owner or person placing the sign the full costs of removal and disposal of the sign.

# Sign Ordinance Enforcement

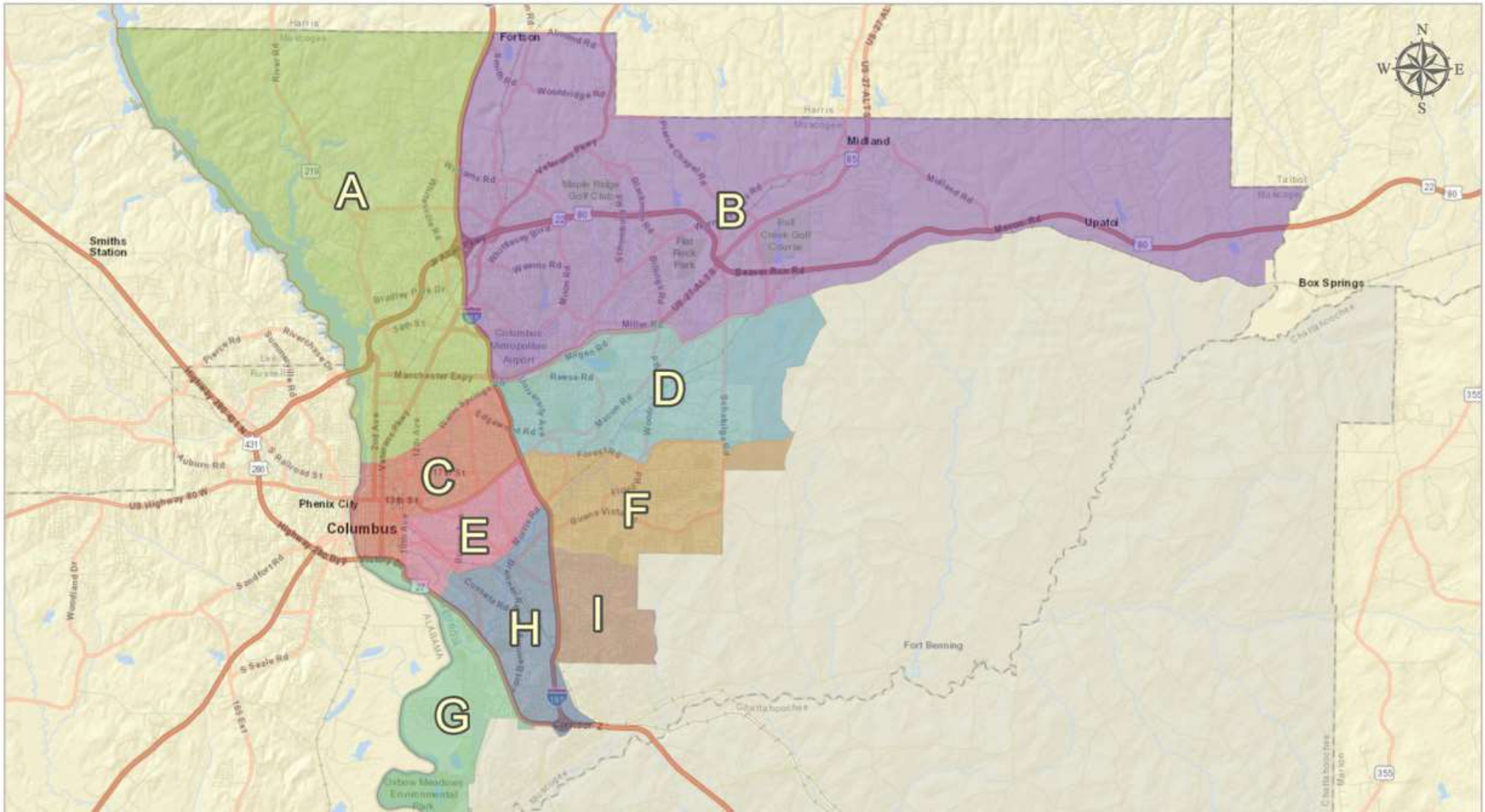
- Current Enforcement Procedures:
  - Enforcement related to new or existing billboards or ground/monument signs is the responsibility of the Building Inspectors.
  - Enforcement of other sign ordinance violations including illegally placed signs on the right of way is the responsibility of Code Enforcement.

# Code Enforcement Division

- Code Enforcement Division consists of:
  - Code Enforcement Manager
  - Code Enforcement Technician
  - 9 Code Enforcement Officers



# Code Enforcement Districts



# Code Enforcement Responsibilities

- Private Property Code Violations
  - Weeds
  - Solid Waste
  - Junk Vehicles
  - Property Maintenance Code
  - Involuntary Demolition
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
  - Enforce the Property Maintenance Code



# Code Enforcement Responsibilities

- Right of Way Issues
  - Illegal Signs on the ROW
  - Vehicles Obstructing the ROW
  - Commercial Vehicles parked on the ROW
- Zoning Ordinance Violations
- Alcohol/Business License Enforcement
  - Non-Renewals
  - Excise Taxes
  - Short Term Vacation Rentals

# Code Enforcement Responsibilities

- All complaints received and ordinance violations witnessed by Code Enforcement are addressed.
- Current staffing levels do not allow for immediate response to all issues. Priority is given to issues impacting the health and safety of the public.

# Signs on the Right of Way

- Each Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for collecting signs on the Right of Way in their district.
  - Quality Control Team also collects signs on the weekend
  - Over 300+ signs are collected weekly
- Citations for violations are typically not issued due to the challenges with issuing citations.
  - Most signs are placed on nights/weekends and do not contain any identifying information except a phone number.
  - Time to track down and find violator would result in backlog of other cases.

# Next Steps

- Review potential ordinance changes to make enforcement more efficient and/or penalties more deterrent
  - May include possibility of imposing additional fees to businesses that violate the ordinance.
- Hand out flyer when a new business obtains a Certificate of Occupancy explaining signage requirements.
- Mail out information to all current business license holders.
- Partner with Keep Columbus Beautiful on an informational campaign.

Questions?