

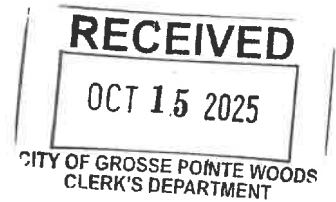
**DATE:** October 15, 2025

**FROM:** Lynne Aldrich and Christina Pitts - 2 pages

**TO:** City Clerk

**CC:** Mayor and City Council, City Administrator

**RE:** October 20 2025 Council Meeting Agenda Request - New Business



In a meeting October 13, 2025, among a resident concerned about zoning practices, and City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator and City Planner, questions were raised and discussed about the following:

1. MSHDA Grant and grant-writing process
2. Sign Code Violations issued in September 10 2025
3. Planning Commission Public Hearing scheduled for October 28, 2025.

**Item 1:** We have requested that the City be transparent about the content, intent, types of changes and progress of "redrafting the zoning ordinance." The City Administrator stated that he will consider publishing an article in the Grosse Pointe News to accommodate this request.

**Items 2 and 3:** These matters were discussed with City Administration and not satisfactorily resolved.

We request that the following be placed on the City Council Agenda as New Business at the public meeting to be held October 20, 2025:

### **New Business**

#### **(A) Lawn Sign Code Enforcement**

This is a subjective action, intentionally directed at certain residents against rezoning, resulting in discrimination and violation of 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right to free speech.

- The Law (Michigan and Federal)
  - Yard signs are protected under the First Amendment (City of Ladue v. Gilleo, 1994).
  - Content-based restrictions are barred by Reed v. Town of Gilbert (2015).
  - Time-based bans ('only up for 30 days') have been struck down by the Sixth Circuit.
- Discrimination/Violation of 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights
  - Violation letters strongly suggest that residents exercising free speech in defense of their neighborhood are being targeted by people in positions of power who favor rezoning. Targeting these signs while allowing others (realtor signs, contractor placards, student graduates, theater presentations, etc.) creates indicates biased enforcement.
  - The Code cited does not apply to miscellaneous signs placed on resident private property to share information and ideas. It is directed at signs of a commercial nature.
  - We have not been provided with any written proof that complaint(s) have been filed; we have only the word of city staff.
  - The citations were sent to a selected group of residents displaying signs.
  - This is a slap-dash maneuver, timed within 24 hours of the withdrawal of rezoning application. The citation letter referred to enforcing rights in Grosse Pointe (not Grosse Pointe Woods), which strongly suggests this letter originated in the city of Grosse Pointe and has been a cut-and-paste effort. Additionally, referenced violation 32-11-D-1 does not exist in the Code. This alone renders the violation letter inappropriate and inapplicable.

## New Business

### (B) Unlawful Notice of Public Hearing

Scheduling this public hearing for October 28 is unlawful, and the decision process to convene a public hearing violates due process and the Open Meetings Act.

**Due Process: Past Practice** On March 25, 2025, the Planning Commission held a public meeting to "Consider Rezoning Application and set a date for Public Hearing." The Public Hearing was scheduled and convened on April 22, 2025. **This practice must be replicated as a matter of due process.**

### Decision to Convene a Public Hearing

- **If this decision was made by the City Administrator, he has exceeded his authority.** Such a decision must be made by a **legislative body**. The administrator is an employee who implements policy, not a decision-maker on zoning matters. Any such decision must be made at a public meeting in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.
- **If the Administrator did not make this decision** to convene a public hearing, then **how was the decision made and involving whom?** The likely answer is that it came about via discussion among members of the Planning Commission, and City Administrator; perhaps even some Council members. This decision process is in **direct violation of the Open Meetings Act.**

We appreciate these 2 items being placed on the Council Agenda October 20 2025.

Thank you. Please advise immediately any action taken.

*Lynne Aldrich*

*Christina Pitts*