

**ORDINANCE NO. 25-1308**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 18.52 OF THE LAKE FOREST PARK MUNICIPAL CODE, SIGNAGE, TO BRING THE SIGN CODE INTO COMPLIANCE WITH RECENT LEGAL DECISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

---

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Forest Park (“City”) has enacted sign regulations in order to promote and protect the public health, welfare and safety; to protect and promote property values; to protect and promote an aesthetically pleasing physical appearance of the City; to provide for more open space; to protect and promote an attractive business climate in the City; to provide uniformity of appearance in signage where appropriate; to reduce sign and advertising obstructions and distractions that may contribute to traffic accidents; to reduce visual clutter; and to curb the deterioration of natural beauty and community environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2015 decision *Reed v. Gilbert* held that a local government’s sign code that treats various categories of signs differently based on the information they convey violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court’s decision in *Reed* as well as subsequent lower courts’ interpretations of the decision have prompted most local governments to review their sign codes and amend content-based regulations in their sign codes; and

**WHEREAS**, staff and the Planning Commission reviewed the City’s existing sign regulations in Chapter 18.52 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code (LFPMP) to identify how best to respond to *Reed* and lower court decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission held public meetings to consider possible amendments to Chapter 18.52 LFPMP, completed a review and draft amendments to the city’s adopted sign code, held a public hearing, received input from the community, and forwarded a recommendation in 2023 to the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the requirements set forth in RCW 36.70A.106, the City provided the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) notice of the City’s intent to adopt the proposed amendments on October 18, 2024, and received notice that the Department had granted expedited review on October 22, 2024, and no comments were received by Commerce for City review; and

**WHEREAS**, an Environmental Checklist for a non-project action was prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21C RCW, pursuant to Chapter 197-11 WAC, and a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued by the City's SEPA Responsible Official on February 6, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, no appeal was timely filed for the February 6, 2025, threshold determination (DNS) and no public comments were received by the City specific to environmental review; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held public meetings to review amendments to Chapter 18.52 LFPMC on December 24, 2023, April 22 and June 13, 2024, and March 27, April 21, May 22, and June XX, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held a public hearing on May 22, 2025, regarding the proposed ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. AMENDMENT. The City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park hereby amends Chapter 18.52 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code, Signage, as provided in **Exhibit A** attached hereto.

Section 2. SEVERABILITY. Should any portion of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 3. CORRECTIONS. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after passage and publication.

**APPROVED BY A MAJORITY** the Lake Forest Park City Council this XXX day of XXX, 2025.

APPROVED:

---

Tom French

Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

---

Matthew McLean  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

---

Kim Adams Pratt  
City Attorney

Introduced:  
Adopted:  
Posted:  
Published:  
Effective: