



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: March 16, 2026
From: Kelly O'Neill Jr., Development Services Director
Josh Soper, City Attorney
Subject: Follow Up Discussion: Sign Code Modifications

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Hold a follow up discussion on the proposed sign code modifications to [Chapter 15.32](#) of the Sandy Municipal Code. Staff recommend the City Council review the proposed code modifications and provide direction prior to holding a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2026-02.

APPLICABLE COUNCIL GOAL:

- **Goal 6.10:** Continue to improve and refine code language, policies, and practices related to code enforcement.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

This staff report is an update to the work session that was held by the City Council on [February 17, 2026](#), to discuss modifications to the sign code in Chapter 15.32. As a reminder, staff's goals with these proposed amendments include ensuring compliance with constitutional requirements (e.g. first amendment issues), making code enforcement processes clearer, removing burdensome code provisions, and modifying the code for easier comprehension and implementation. Staff worked with attorneys at Beery, Elsner, and Hammond (BEH) to identify potential constitutional issues and modify the code based on past court decisions.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

Based on the input and direction from the City Council on February 17, 2026, staff and the City Attorney made the following amendments to Chapter 15.32:

- Section 15.32.020.G.: **Staff modified the code provisions to allow signs to occupy all four wall surfaces of a food cart as directed by the City Council.**
- Section 15.32.030.E.6.: **Staff modified the code provisions for freestanding signs for a commercial or institutional use within a residential zone to require a 24-inch-high stone/rock base as directed by the City Council.**

- Section 15.32.170.A.: **The City Attorney modified the code provision that temporary signs have to come into compliance within 10 days of the written notice being received or refused.**
- Section 15.32.190.: **Staff modified the code provisions to state that a violation of Chapter 15.32 is a Class C infraction (\$250) as directed by the City Council.**
- Section 15.32.020.H.: Staff propose reducing what is considered a temporary sign from 180 days total in a calendar year to 120 days in a calendar year. This is also reflected in Section 15.32.032.A.5. **The City Council advised staff that more discussion was needed around temporary sign duration.**

Temporary signs research:

- Canby – 120 days per calendar year (Chapter 16.42)
- Estacada – 180 days per calendar year (Chapter 16.72)
- Fairview – 180 days per calendar year (Chapter 19.170)
- Happy Valley – 120 days per calendar year (Chapter 16.45)
- Oregon City – could not find regulations (Chapter 15.28)
- Sherwood – 30 days for banner signs with a \$150 processing fee (Chapter 16.102) *Note: Could not find time limitations on temporary signs that are not banner signs.*
- Troutdale – States the temporary sign has to be removed within 14 days of the event or lease/sale (Chapter 10.00). *Note: This would require reading the content of the sign and this code provision also has no time limitation associated with when the sign can be posted prior to the event.*
- West Linn – 60 days per calendar year (Chapter 52)

BUDGET IMPACT:

Staff and City Attorney expenses that have already been incurred.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the City Council review the proposed code modifications and provide direction prior to holding a public hearing. Since this chapter is outside Title 17 of the Sandy Municipal Code, the Planning Commission will not hold a public hearing.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Draft Ordinance No. 2026-02
 - Exhibit A. Sign Code markup