

Authority: Licensing and Standards Committee Item 11.3,  
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on February 6 and 7, 2012  
Enacted by Council: February 7, 2012

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 163-2012**

**To amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 693, Signs, Article III, Temporary Signs with respect to regulations concerning the erection and display of Ground-mounted signs, and New development signs.**

WHEREAS Council may pass by-laws to regulate signs and other advertising devices under subsection 8(2) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, as amended (the "Act") subject to the additional powers and rules in section 110 of the Act; and

WHEREAS the City provides regulation of temporary signage to the citizens of Toronto as a necessary and desirable service; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend Article III, Temporary Signs, of Chapter 693, Signs, of The City of Toronto Municipal Code with respect to the regulations concerning temporary signage in the City, particularly Ground-mounted signs and New development signs; and

WHEREAS notice of the intention to enact this by-law has been provided in accordance with the Act and The City of Toronto Municipal Code;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. Chapter 693, Signs, Article III, Temporary Signs of The City of Toronto Municipal Code is amended as follows:

- A. By deleting the definition of "Ground-mounted sign" provided in § 693-16.
- B. By deleting the definition of "New development sign" provided in § 693-16.
- C. By deleting the definition of "Open House Directional Sign" provided in § 693-16 and substituting the following:

OPEN HOUSE DIRECTIONAL SIGN — A rigid free-standing moveable sign not fastened by any means to the ground or any structure or building, utilized for the sole purpose of directing traffic to a residential premises or residential property for sale or lease.

- D. By deleting the definition of "Real Estate Sign" provided in § 693-16 and substituting the following:

REAL ESTATE SIGN — A sign that is not permanently installed or affixed to the ground, or any structure or building, utilized for the sole purpose of advertising the sale, rent or lease of the premises, in whole or in part, upon which the sign is located.

- E. By deleting the definition of "Temporary Sign" provided in § 693-16 and substituting the following:

TEMPORARY SIGN — A sign that is not permanently installed or affixed to the ground, or any structure or building, and:

- A. Includes:

- (1) A mobile sign;
- (2) A portable sign;
- (3) An A-frame sign;
- (4) A real estate sign;
- (5) An open house directional sign;
- (6) A garage sale sign; and
- (7) A construction hoarding sign.

- B. Does not include a poster.

- F. By deleting § 693-17B(1) and substituting the following:

- B. Temporary sign permit.

- (1) No person shall display, place, alter or erect or cause to be displayed, placed, altered or erected, any temporary sign on public or privately owned lands, without obtaining a permit, except in the case of the following temporary signs:
  - (a) An official sign required by or erected under a federal or provincial statute or a by-law;
  - (b) A real estate sign, if:
    - [1] the sign is on the lot being advertised for real estate purposes; and
    - [2] the sign is removed within 30 days after the property is no longer for sale or lease;
  - (c) An open house directional sign;
  - (d) A portable sign promoting citizen participation in civic, charitable or non-profit activities and events or an A-Frame

sign promoting citizen participation in civic, charitable or non-profit activities and events, if:

[1] The sign are located at the site where the activity or event is taking place and where there is no existing signage; and

[2] The sign are erected no more than one week prior to the event taking place and removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the activity or event;

(e) Temporary signs promoting citizen participation in civic, charitable or non-profit activities and events, or advertising festivals and community events as permitted by § 693-25;

(f) A garage sale sign; and

(g) Election signs, as permitted in Article II of this chapter.

G. By deleting the phrase "§ 693-17B(1)(a) to (f) inclusive," where it appears in § 693-18A(1) and substituting the phrase "§ 693-17B(1)(a) to (g) inclusive," therefore.

H. By deleting § 693-18C and substituting the following:

C. Specific requirements for portable signs.

(1) No more than one portable sign shall be displayed or erected for each business location.

(2) Every portable sign relating to a business may only be displayed during the hours that that business is open and operating.

(3) All portable signs shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) Each portable sign shall only display first party content and no other message;

(b) Each portable sign shall not contain more than two sign faces;

(c) Each portable sign shall not exceed a maximum height of 1.0 metre, nor be less than a minimum height of 0.5 metre;

(d) Each portable sign shall not exceed a maximum width of 0.6 metre;

- (e) A portable sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any vehicular access point;
- (f) A portable sign shall not be animated, contain any video display elements, be illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sound or have electronic device to create or simulate motion, nor have any attachments adding to its height or width.

I. By deleting § 693-20.

J. By deleting § 693-21 and substituting the following:

**§ 693-21. Real estate signs.**

A. Specific Requirements, Number, Location.

- (1) All real estate signs shall comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) Each real estate sign shall not contain more than two sign faces;
  - (b) Each real estate sign shall only display content relating to the sale, rent or lease of the premises, in whole or in part, upon which the sign is located and no other message;
  - (c) Each real estate sign shall have a maximum sign face area of:
    - [1] one square metre, if erected on a residential property; or
    - [2] four square metres, if erected on a property not zoned residential;
  - (d) No more than one real estate sign advertising the sale or lease of a property, or unit of a building or condominium shall be permitted to be located facing each street line of the premises to which the real estate sign relates;
  - (e) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(d), no more than 4 real estate signs may be displayed on a premises;
  - (f) A real estate sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any vehicular access point;

- (g) A real estate sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any parking or traffic control sign, signal or device;
  - (h) A real estate sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any intersection; and
  - (i) A real estate sign shall not be animated, contain any video display elements, be illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sound or have electronic device to create or simulate motion, nor have any attachments adding to its height or width.
- (2) Real estate signs may be located on public property, if:
- (a) The real estate sign is placed entirely upon public property which constitutes the specific premises being advertised for real estate purposes;
  - (b) The real estate sign is not be affixed to a utility pole, tree, official sign, or other similar public property;
  - (c) The real estate sign, is removed within 30 days after the premises is no longer for sale, rent, or lease; and
  - (d) The real estate sign is positioned to prevent damage to underground services.
- (3) Real estate signs may be located on private property, if:
- (a) The real estate sign is placed entirely upon private property which constitutes the specific premises being advertised for real estate purposes;
  - (b) The real estate sign is not be affixed to a utility pole, tree, official sign, or other similar public property;
  - (c) The real estate sign, is removed within 30 days after the premises is no longer for sale, rent, or lease;
  - (d) The real estate sign is positioned to prevent damage to underground services; and
  - (e) The real estate sign is not located within less than 0.3 metre of the pedestrian sidewalk, or where there is no sidewalk within less than 0.3 metre of the vehicular travelled portion of the road.

K. By deleting § 693-22 and substituting the following:

**§ 693-22. Open house directional signs.**

A. Specific Requirements, Location.

- (1) All open house directional signs shall comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) Each open house directional sign shall only display content directing traffic to a residential premises or residential property for sale or lease and no other message;
  - (b) Each open house directional sign shall include the address of the property for sale or lease and the date of the open house to which the open house directional sign relates;
  - (c) Each open house directional sign shall not contain more than two sign faces;
  - (d) Each open house directional sign shall not exceed a maximum height of 1.0 metre, nor be less than a minimum height of 0.5 metre;
  - (e) Each open house directional sign shall not exceed a maximum width of 0.6 metre;
  - (f) Notwithstanding anything else in this article, each open house directional sign shall have a maximum sign face area of 0.5 square metre;
  - (g) An open house directional sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any vehicular access point;
  - (h) An open house directional sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any parking or traffic control sign, signal or device;
  - (i) An open house directional sign shall not be erected or displayed in such a manner as to impede a pedestrian's or driver's view of any intersection; and
  - (j) An open house directional sign shall not be animated, contain any video display elements, be illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sound or have electronic device to

create or simulate motion, nor have any attachments adding to its height or width.

- (2) An open house directional sign may only be displayed during the hours that the open house to which the sign relates is open and operating;
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection A(2), an open house directional sign may only be displayed during the period between sunset and sunrise;
- (4) Open house directional signs may be located on public property, if:
  - (a) The open house directional sign is placed on the public road allowance, but not any centre median, traffic island or centre boulevard within the road allowance;
  - (b) The open house directional sign is not be affixed to a utility pole, tree, official sign, or other similar public property;
  - (c) The placement of the open house directional sign shall allow for an unobstructed pedestrian clearway, of a minimum width of 2.1 metres at all points;
  - (d) The open house directional sign is not located within less than 0.3 metre of the pedestrian sidewalk; and
  - (e) The open house directional sign is not located within less than 0.3 metre of the vehicular travelled portion of the road.
- (5) Open house directional signs may be located on private property, if:
  - (a) The open house directional sign is placed on private property with the prior written consent of the owner of the premises;
  - (b) The open house directional sign is not be affixed to a utility pole, tree, official sign, or other similar public property; and,
  - (c) The open house directional sign is not located within less than 0.3 metre of the pedestrian sidewalk and where there is no sidewalk within less than 0.3 metre of the vehicular travelled portion of the road.

L. By deleting § 693-24.

M. By deleting § 693-25 and substituting the following:

**§ 693-25. Charity; religious institution; community organization; school.**

- A. A charity, religious institution, community organization and school may erect, display, place or maintain temporary signs promoting citizen participation in religious, civic, charitable or non-profit activities and events, or advertising festivals and community events if:
- (a) the temporary signs are located on land which is primarily used for the operations or activities of the charity, religious institution, community organization or school; or
  - (b) the signs are located at the site where the activity or event is taking place; and
    - [1] There is no existing signage at the site where the activity or event;
    - [2] The signs are erected no more than one week prior to the event taking place; and
    - [3] The signs are removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the activity or event.
- B. The physical criteria in this article that is applicable to the type of temporary signs being utilised shall apply to signs erected, displayed, placed or maintained by charities, religious institutions, community organizations and schools.
- C. Despite Subsection A, no more than one mobile sign may be erected, displayed, placed or maintained on land which are primarily used for the operation or activities of a charity, religious institution, community organization or school, or at the site where the activity or event is taking place.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 7th day of February, A.D. 2012.

FRANCES NUNZIATA,  
Speaker

ULLI S. WATKISS,  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)