

Chapter 693, Signs, Article II, Election Signs – Additional Amendments

Date:	August 20, 2014
To:	City Council
From:	Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster B\MLS\CC14020

SUMMARY

At its meeting of August 18, 2014, the Licensing and Standards Committee directed staff to report to City Council on opportunities to amend the current prohibitions regarding the placement of election signs on properties at corners and opportunities to permit them where there are large boulevard rights-of-way with sidewalks. This report proposes additional amendments to clarify where election signs may be erected or displayed on public property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that:

1. City Council approve amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 693, Signs, Article II, Election Signs, Section 693-7. Election signs on public property, by replacing the new subsection B(1) (b) and (c) with the following:

§ 693-7. Election signs on public property.

B. Regulations for signs on highways.

- (1) Election signs may be erected or displayed on highways, except highways upon which pedestrians are prohibited, if:

[...]

- (b) The signs are not located within 1.5 metres of the curb or the edge of pavement;
- (c) On highways with sidewalks, the signs are not located within 0.6 metres of either side of the sidewalk;

Financial Impact

There is no additional financial impact beyond what has already been identified in the report headed "Amendments to Chapter 693, Signs, Article II, Election Signs" (August 1, 2014) from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of August 18, 2014, the Licensing and Standards Committee requested the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to report directly to City Council on corners and right-of-way issues.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.LS30.1>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting of August 18, 2014, the Licensing and Standards Committee amended the report headed "Amendments to Chapter 693, Signs, Article II, Election Signs" (August 1, 2014) from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards.

The report proposed amendments to the time period for which election signs may be erected or displayed; where election signs may be placed; fees, removal and storage of election signs; the waiver of fees/affidavits process; and the acceptable methods of payment for amounts owed to the City for election sign-related charges.

COMMENTS

Chapter 693, Signs, sets out where election signs are permitted and not permitted to be erected or displayed, with guidelines respecting private and public property. Restrictions on the placement of election signs are imposed to ensure that they do not interfere with the safe operation of motor vehicular traffic, cyclists, and with the safety of pedestrians, nor obstruct visibility or block sightlines.

On public property, election signs must be erected or displayed with the consent of the owner or occupant of the abutting property, and are prohibited: within 1.5 metres of a curb or the edge of pavement on highways without sidewalks, between the curb and sidewalk on highways with sidewalks, within 15 metres of an intersection or pedestrian crossover, on a median or island installed on a highway, adjacent to a voting place, City park or facility.

Through feedback received at the August 18th meeting of the Licensing and Standards Committee, there was a common concern that it is difficult to interpret and apply the current by-law provisions respecting the placement of election signs— particularly on

public property. Additionally, it was raised that provisions ought to be made for areas where there are large boulevards with sidewalks, and conversely, provisions for properties that have very small private property space and/or are on corners.

As such, staff are proposing that election signs will continue to not be permitted within 1.5 metres of the curb or edge of the pavement, however, this will now apply irrespective of whether there is a sidewalk. On highways with sidewalks, election signs will not be permitted within 0.6 metres of either side of the sidewalk. These amendments will enable the erection or display of election signs on larger boulevards where they can be accommodated and also ensure that there is sufficient passable space on sidewalks for public safety.

Staff are not recommending changes to the prohibition of election signs within 15 metres of an intersection or pedestrian crossover at this time. Any change in this regard requires a more detailed review, as the safety and visibility of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians is the primary concern. Restrictions on the placement of election signs are imposed so as to not obstruct visibility or block sightlines.

Attachment 1 contains a diagram showing locations where election signs can be placed, including on fences, provided that they are erected or displayed with the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.

CONTACT

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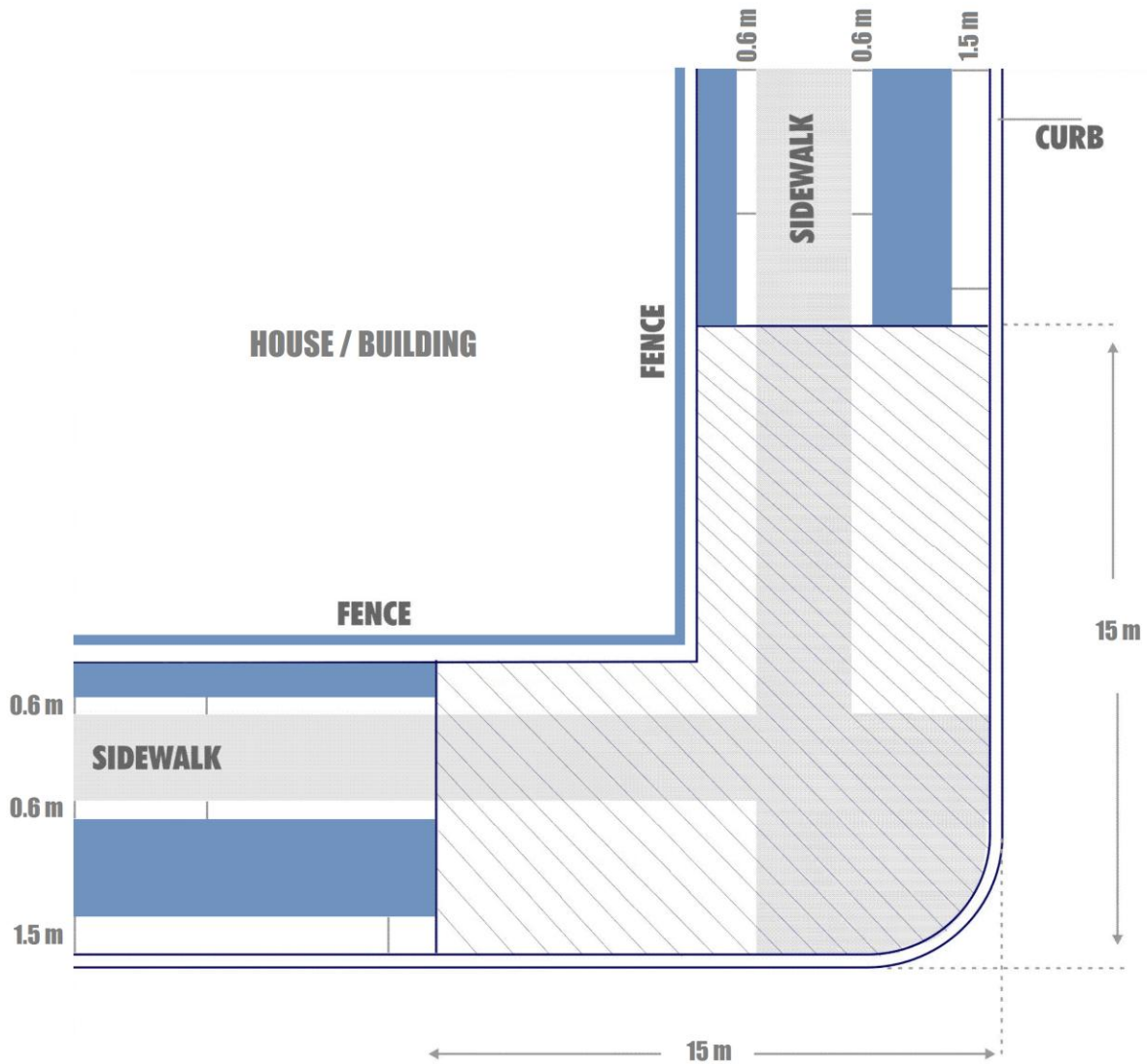
SIGNATURE


Tracey Cook, Executive Director
Municipal Licensing and Standards

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Diagram Showing Location Where Election Signs Can Be Placed

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Legend:
 Location where election signs can be placed

** Diagram not to scale*