



City of Chicago



O2017-3215

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 4/17/2017

Sponsor(s): Solis (25)

Type: Ordinance

Title: Amendment of Municipal Code Section 13-20-680 by modifying City Council approval regarding signs, and repeal of various legislation inconsistent with or contrary to Code standards (TAD-559)

Committee(s) Assignment: Joint Committee: License and Consumer Protection; Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Certain signs of unusual size or height require, in addition to a sign permit, approval by City Council Order; and

WHEREAS, This process, mandated by Section 13-20-680 of the Municipal code, provides the Council with added ability, beyond requiring full compliance with the generally applicable sign requirements, to control the proliferation of signs for the public good; and

WHEREAS, Several recent City Council ordinances have been phrased to direct the Commissioner of Buildings to issue a permit even where the particular sign violated the Municipal Code's applicable standards; and

WHEREAS, Such a practice undermines the integrity and cohesiveness of the City of Chicago's building and zoning code; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago zoning code relies on cohesive sensible categories as well as general restrictions on the placement, size, and use of structures in order to promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, A central goal of the zoning ordinance is the maintenance of orderly and compatible land use development patterns upon which residents and businesses can rely; and

WHEREAS, Amending Section 13-20-680 to restrict City Council actions that allow signs to override the City of Chicago's zoning and building code would allow for a consistent process and a standard that promotes public health, safety, and welfare; now, therefore,

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

SECTION 1. The following ordinances are hereby repealed in their entirety:

Ordinance Number:

O2016-5664

O2016-5683

O2016-5684

O2016-5633

O2016-5653

O2016-5659

O2016-5662

O2015-5423

O2016-8431

O2016-8333

O2016- 8334

O2016-8335

O2016-8336

O2016-7503

O2016-7475

O2016-7491

O2016-7802

O2016-7292

O2016-8404

O2016-9139;

and any other ordinance or order, authorizing a sign for which a permit has not issued, in contravention of Title 17 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 2. Section 13-20-680 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by inserting the language underscored, as follows:

13-20-680 Council approval.

A city council order approving a sign shall be required in addition to the normal permit for any sign which exceeds 100 feet² (9.3 m²) in area or any roof or ground sign, structure or signboard over 24 feet (7.32 m) in height, excluding city digital signs identified in a coordinated city digital sign program agreement entered into pursuant to Section 10-28-046, or identified in an amendment to such a program agreement approved by the city council. Before the application for a permit for such sign is filed with the building commissioner, the applicant shall submit a duplicate of the application to the alderman of the ward in which the sign is to be located. At the time the duplicate is submitted to the alderman, the applicant shall (except as to such excluded city digital signs) submit to the city clerk an order for the approval or disapproval of the sign for introduction at the next regular meeting of the city council, and proof that the public notice provided for in this section has been given and a list of all persons who have been given such notice. The council order, upon being introduced to the council, shall be forwarded to the appropriate committee for hearing. Prior to filing its application, the applicant for the permit (except as to such excluded city digital signs) shall give notice to all voters registered at addresses within 250 feet (76.2 m) of the proposed sign location.

(omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance)

If the city council fails to issue an order disapproving an application for a sign within a 60-day period after the order for the sign is submitted to the city clerk, an order approving the sign shall be deemed to have been issued at the end of such period. The city clerk shall, within two business days, notify the building commissioner whenever the city council issues or is deemed to issue an order approving or disapproving a sign permit application. In any event, the building commissioner may not take final action on the application until the city council issues or is deemed to issue an order to recommend approval or disapproval of the application. The building commissioner, however, must take final action on the application no later than 75 days after the order for the sign permit was submitted to the city clerk.

Any person aggrieved by the final decision of the building commissioner disapproving an application may seek judicial review of the decision in the manner provided by law.

As used in this section, "legal voter" means a person who has registered to vote and whose name appears on a pole sheet from the last preceding election regardless of whether primary or general.

No member of the City Council or other municipal officer shall introduce, and no Committee of the City Council shall consider or recommend, any ordinance or order that is contrary in any way to any of the requirements of this section or Title 17 of the Code. No member of the City Council shall propose, and no Committee of the City Council shall consider, any amendment to an ordinance which, if passed, would render the ordinance contrary to any of the requirements of this section or Title 17 of the Code. No officer or employee of the City shall enforce any ordinance or order that is contrary to any of the requirements of this section or Title 17 of the Code. No member of the City Council may recommend action on, and no Committee of the City Council shall consider, any ordinance or order that authorizes the approval of a sign that does not comply with all applicable provisions of this section, Title 17 of the Code, and all other applicable Code provisions governing the construction and maintenance of outdoor signs, signboards, and structures.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect following passage and approval.

Daniel Solis
Alderman, 25th Ward