



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 5, 2015

TO: Ordinance Committee

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Ordinance For Prohibition Of Unauthorized Traffic Signs

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Ordinance Committee forward to Council for introduction An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Chapter 10.12 of the Municipal Code by Amending Section 10.12.170, Displaying of Unauthorized Signs Prohibited – Nuisance.

DISCUSSION:

Section 10.12.170 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) prohibits the display of certain unauthorized (nuisance) traffic signs. Those certain signs include official warning or directional signs or signals intended to direct *the movement of traffic or acts of operators*. Recently, however, the display of parking control signs from private property for the purpose of regulating *parking* in the public right of way is becoming more common (Attachment 1). As such, staff is recommending that the current ordinance be amended to include a prohibition for the display of signs attempting to regulate parking within the public right of way.

Additionally, as presently codified under Section 10.12.170 of the SBMC, the City's ability to remedy the display of unauthorized (nuisance) traffic signs is limited to authorizing the Chief of Police to remove, or cause to be removed, the offending sign. Staff recommends amending the existing section to include the City's ability to address nuisance sign violations with administrative citations, rather than by Police action, when appropriate. Signs that create a traffic hazard could be dealt with immediately by the Police Department, but signs that do not create an immediate traffic hazard, like parking signs, could be more appropriately dealt with by the Public Works Department through administrative citations.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Example of Unauthorized (Nuisance) Parking Sign
2. Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.12 of the Municipal Code

PREPARED BY: Derrick Bailey, Supervising Transportation Engineer/mj

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

Typical Parking Sign on Private Property Facing Street
Example of Unauthorized (Nuisance) Parking Sign



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION DRAFT 05/05/15
SHOWING CHANGES FROM CURRENT CODE
NEW PROVISIONS SHOWN IN UNDERLINE
DELETIONS SHOWN IN ~~STRIKETHROUGH~~

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AMENDING
CHAPTER 10.12 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
BY AMENDING SECTION 10.12.170,
DISPLAYING OF UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS
PROHIBITED – NUISANCE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DOES ORDAIN AS
FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 10.12.170 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code is amended to
read as follows:

10.12.170 Displaying of Unauthorized Signs Prohibited - Nuisance.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or maintain or display any device, other than an official warning or directional sign, or sign erected under competent authority, upon or in view of a street, which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official warning or directional sign or signal or which attempts to direct or regulate movement of traffic, parking, or the acts of operators. Any such device shall be a public nuisance and subject to penalty under Chapter 1.25 and 1.28 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code, and the ~~the~~ The Chief of Police may remove it or cause it to be removed any display, sign, or device deemed to be an immediate traffic hazard without notice. (Ord. 2713 §1(part), 1959; prior Code §31.34.)