

Only You Can Prevent Sign Scofflaws

By Cathy Tyson

Tired of looking at the proliferation of banners and signs along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette? It's up to residents to complain about it, if they'd like to have them removed.

At the City Council Special Meeting on June 11, new language was adopted with regard to non-commercial property, but the existing commercial sign ordinances were not changed. Always an interesting read, the Lafayette Municipal Code has page after page of rules that define signage, placement, permitting etc. Niroop Sri-

vatsa, Planning and Building Manager, said, "It's the City's policy to enforce these laws on a complaint basis." Signs in business windows are exempt, but banners, flags, pennants, sandwich boards and signs attached to trees are regulated by the Municipal code.

The City's Municipal Code is very clear. Section 6-2501(2) eliminate visual clutter and create a more attractive and healthy economic business climate. Section 6-2520 (a) it is unlawful to install, erect, move, alter, replace, paint, suspend or attach a sign (except for maintenance

purposes) without a sign permit, unless the sign is exempt from permit requirements. What makes a sign exempt? There are 24 listings in the code, from bumper stickers on cars to mailboxes to temporary realty signs and more.

"Overall we have been assured that the City will work with the Chamber (of Commerce) and local businesses on the sign ordinances, says Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "Some are too restrictive and some are too loose."



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