

#279-22



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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April 25, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

The U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that restrictions on signs expressing non-commercial speech must be quite limited as they are expressions of free speech.

Therefore, I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting amendments to sections of the Newton Zoning Ordinance that regulate signs, found in Chapter 30, Section 5.2. This amendment would address only the portion of the sign ordinance that regulates all "non-commercial" signs (i.e., election or yard sale signs).

Attached to this request is a draft redline of the proposed amendment from the Planning & Development Department team who worked with our Law Department Staff. Also attached is a memo from the Law Department regarding the legal background of the proposed amendments related to signs.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruthanne Fuller".

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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NEWTON, MA. 02459