



**EMERGENCY ORDER**

**IN AND FOR THE CITY OF SEQUIM, WASHINGTON**

**No. 2020-24**

**Regarding temporary changes to enforcement of the City's sign code (SMC 18.58) during COVID-19 emergency and recovery.**

Policy/Budget  (Council)      City Clerk use only: Presented to Council 7/13/2020  
Administrative (City Manager)

On March 16, 2020, at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Sequim, the City Council issued a Proclamation of Civil Emergency due to the novel corona virus (COVID-19) outbreak that was identified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020.

The Proclamation of Civil Emergency was issued pursuant to Sequim Municipal Code 2.60, RCW 35A.38.010, and RCW 38.52.070(2) based on the public health threat posed by COVID-19, and is consistent with concurrent emergency declarations issued by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Washington.

Beginning on March 23, 2020, with Governor Inslee's issuance of Proclamation 20-25 "Stay Home Stay Healthy", state and local governments began to issue orders designed to stop the spread of the virus. The orders established shelter-in-place and social distancing guidelines, described essential activities, and closed businesses and schools. Over the ensuing weeks, new or revised emergency proclamations and orders have been issued by state and local governments, including the City of Sequim, allowing phased reopening of some businesses and facilities, and establishing programs to ameliorate the impact of the pandemic on the public.

The Sequim City Code regulates signs in the city limits of Sequim at SMC Chapter 18.58. The City will temporarily modify its enforcement of the sign code provisions as described in Section 1 below.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT:**

**Section 1. Temporary modification of enforcement of SMC 18.58.** The City will modify its enforcement of SMC 18.58 as follows:

The City will not enforce the use of temporary portable signs (SMC 18.58.066) such as A-frames displayed by all businesses authorized to operate under the applicable phase of the Governor's current COVID-19 emergency proclamation.

For purposes of this order, the following current rules will be maintained: Temporary signs must be six square feet per sign's face or less and be easily removable (e.g., A-frame signs).



Temporary signs cannot be placed in travel lanes, block sight distance at intersections, or block pedestrian movement on sidewalks.

The purpose of the emergency order is to provide downtown businesses an opportunity to effectively communicate their location to customers and provide information on their available services and how to get takeout and curbside orders.

The City wants to avoid excessive sign clutter which will reduce the effectiveness of the signage. If temporary sign rules are not followed, or too many signs are placed in the downtown area, the City reserves the right to work with the downtown community to resolve such issues or take code enforcement action (typically removing signage and storing for pickup).

**Section 2. Presentation, Ratification, Termination.** Emergency Orders issued under the March 16, 2020 Proclamation of Civil Emergency will be filed with the Legal Department and presented by the City Clerk as soon as practicable to the City Council for ratification and confirmation, modification, or rejection, if applicable.

Rejected orders will be void after the Council vote rejecting them.

Until such time as Council acts, Emergency Orders will be considered in full force and effect.

**Section 3. Duration.** Unless modified, extended, or terminated by the Sequim City Council or Sequim City Manager as applicable, this Emergency Order is effective immediately and remains in effect until such time as the applicable COVID-19 emergency orders have been lifted.

SIGNED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, at — hours.

CITY OF SEQUIM

  
Charles P. Bush, City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
Kristina Nelson-Gross, City Attorney

Attest:

  
Sara McMillon, City Clerk