

ORDINANCE NO. 2000-02

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A 90-DAY MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR COMMERCIAL BILLBOARD ADVERTISING SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR INTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION INTO THE CODE, AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS the Hernando County Code of Ordinances provides in Appendix A thereof that off-site commercial billboard advertising signs are permitted uses in certain zoning districts; and

WHEREAS the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners wishes to consider deliberately and without the need for undue haste whether or not to amend those provisions permitting off-site commercial billboard advertising signs and has scheduled of a workshop meeting to discuss what, if any, amendments to propose for adoption; and

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that a temporary moratorium on the processing of applications and issuance of permits for the placement and installation of off-site commercial billboard advertising signs is necessary for the health, safety, and general welfare of all persons in Hernando County in order to permit the development of an appropriate level of off-site commercial billboard regulations while avoiding the simultaneous approval of an unknown number of such billboard signs during the time such regulations are developed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

SECTION 1- INTENT.

It is the intent of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners to adopt a temporary moratorium on the processing of applications and issuance of permits for off-site commercial billboard advertising signs in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons within the County by avoiding an environment that encourages visual blight and to prohibit the installation, construction, placement or erection of off-site commercial billboard advertising signs while the Board considers the adoption of permanent regulations to provide for an appropriate level of local control over such signs.

FILED
2000 JAN 24 PM 3:37
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

SECTION 2- MORATORIUM.

There is hereby imposed a temporary moratorium on the issuance of any permits by Hernando County for the installation, construction, placement or erection of off-site commercial billboard advertising signs in the unincorporated area of the County, for a period of ninety (90) days from the effective date of this ordinance, or such lesser time as may be required to develop, adopt and implement superseding permissible local regulation of installation, construction, placement or erection of commercial billboard advertising signs. The moratorium imposed herein shall be implemented as provided in Section 3 hereof.

SECTION 3- MORATORIUM IMPLEMENTED

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners hereby implements a temporary moratorium on processing of applications for, permitting of, and zoning hearings on a specific request for any off-site commercial billboard advertising signs where proper application for such was not filed with the County on or before December 7, 1999, the date upon which the Board requested the preparation of this ordinance. For purposes of this moratorium, the term "off-site commercial billboard advertising sign" as used herein shall mean and include off-site outdoor advertising signs more specifically defined as any combination of structure and message in the form of an outdoor sign, display, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, advertising structure, advertisement, logo, symbol, or other form, whether placed individually or on a V-type, back-to-back, side-to-side, stacked, or double-faced display or automatic changeable facing, designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform, any part of the advertising message or informative contents of which is visible from any place on the main-traveled way. The term does not include an official traffic control sign, official marker, or specific information panel erected, caused to be erected, or approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 4- EFFECT OF MORATORIUM ON EXISTING OFF-SITE COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING BILLBOARD SIGNS.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to prohibit

- (A) changing any existing message or messages on an existing off-site commercial billboard advertising sign,
- (B) replacing an existing off-site commercial billboard advertising sign with a new sign that is the same or a lesser size, or
- (C) issuing permits for the removal or demolition of any existing off-site commercial billboard advertising sign.

SECTION 5- SEVERABILITY.

It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that if any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6- INCLUSION IN THE CODE.

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, and it is hereby provided, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of Hernando County, Florida. To this end, the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or other appropriate designation.

SECTION 7- EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective when received by the Florida Department of State.

ADOPTED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS in Regular Session this 18th day of January, 2000.



Attest:

KAREN NICOLAI
Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

By:

PAUL H. SULLIVAN
Chairman