

ITEM MOT 2015-6058

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting
2/3/2015

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to permit electronic message board signs in the INP-2 Districts	Stanley J.Popovich, AICP Planning Manager

SYNOPSIS

A motion has been prepared directing staff to draft a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would permit electronic message board signs in the INP-2, Campus-scale Institutional and Public District.

If the Council approves the motion, a text amendment would be considered by the Plan Commission at a public hearing and then considered formally by the Village Council at a future meeting. If the Council does not approve the motion, no further action would be taken. School District 99 would proceed with a rezoning petition that would not include electronic message board signs.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2011-2018 include *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a

RECOMMENDATION

Action at the discretion of the Village Council.

BACKGROUNDIntroduction

The Zoning Ordinance prohibits electronic message board signs in all zoning districts. School District 99 has requested the Village Council to direct Village staff to draft a text amendment that would permit electronic message board signs for properties that are zoned INP-2, Campus-Scale Institutional and Public District. The School District desires to place a single electronic message board sign at Downers Grove North High School and at Downers Grove South High School. Currently, both properties are zoned residential. The school district has been working with Village staff to begin the application process to rezone these properties to INP-2.

History

In 2008, School District 99 submitted a similar request for electronic message board signs to the Village (http://www.downers.us/public/docs/agendas/2008/06-10-2008/Active_d.pdf). The 2008 proposed amendments would have permitted electronic message center signs as special uses on property that is zoned residential, greater than 18 acres in area and located on an arterial street. The key concepts were:

- The specific signs would be special uses and subject to additional Plan Commission and Village Council review. As such, conditions such as hours of operation could be included as conditions of approval.
- Only facilities located in the residential zoning districts on a property larger than 18 acres would be eligible for the special use.
- The facility would have to have frontage on an arterial road, and the sign would have to be located on this frontage.
- Only one (1) electronic message center sign would be permitted for each facility. This sign would be in lieu of any other permitted free-standing signage for the facility.
- The signs would be no larger than 50 square feet (including the electronic changeable copy) and no taller than six (6) feet. This size and height is consistent with the existing monument sign on Main Street for Downers Grove North High School.
- Electronic messages would have to be displayed for a minimum of two (2) seconds and would not be able to move or flash. These regulations would make the signs less distracting to drivers.

The Village Council denied the requested text amendment at their June 17, 2008 meeting.

(<http://www.downers.us/minutes/2008/2008/06/17/june-17-2008>).

INP-2 Zoning District Discussion

The INP-2 zoning district is intended to accommodate development and expansion of large public, civic and institutional uses, while minimizing the potential for adverse impacts on surrounding areas. INP-2 zoned properties must be larger than 4 acres in size. Currently, only the Good Samaritan Hospital Campus is zoned INP-2. Other properties which could be eligible for an INP-2 zoning designation would be:

- School District 99 Properties
- School District 58 Properties
- Park District Properties
- Forest Preserve Properties
- Good Samaritan Hospital Campus
- Midwestern University Campus
- Village Properties

Compliance with the Sign Ordinance

As of January 28, 2015, the Village has achieved the following compliance with the Sign Ordinance:

	Number	Percentage
Properties Complying	2,181	97%
Properties Not Complying		
With Approved Sign Permits, Sign Not Yet Installed	49	
Sign Permit Application Pending	11	
No Attempt to Comply with Regulations	10	
Active Citations	8	
Sub-Total	70	3%
Total Number of Properties with Signs	2,250	100%

Next Steps

Should the Village Council direct staff to draft a text amendment, staff will review current practices related to electronic message board signs and develop a text amendment. The text amendment will be forwarded for consideration to the Plan Commission and formal consideration by the Village Council at a later date.

ATTACHMENTS

n/a