



**CITY OF HAMMOND
ORDINANCE No. _____**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY 180 DAY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF PERMITS FOR OFF-PREMISES SIGNS AND BILLBOARDS WITHIN THE CITY OF HAMMOND, PROVIDING FOR VARIANCES AND PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

WHEREAS, Article 13.1.9 of the City of Hammond Unified Development Code sets forth the City's off-premises sign requirements; and

WHEREAS, there has been a recent increase in off-premises signs and billboard permits, there is concern among the public of increased density of off-premises signs and billboards and the City of Hammond finds the existing requirements as set forth in the UDC to be lacking;

WHEREAS, the City of Hammond wants to insure the orderly administration of new off-premises signs and billboards within the City; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City to have adequate and reasonable time to review, evaluate and revise the City's off-premises and billboard ordinances, as appropriate, and to consider the impact of the ordinances upon future growth, public health and safety, development, the environment, the character of the City's streetscape and places of importance and significance within the City, the City wishes to implement a moratorium period of 180 days, during which no applications for off-premises signs and billboards will be accepted, reviewed or approved; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of prohibiting applications and approvals for off-premises and billboards permits during this study period include, within limitation, preserving the status quo during the planning process, eliminating incentives for hasty applications, facilitating thoughtful and consistent planning, avoiding exploitation of the delays inherent in the municipal legislative process, and preventing applications from undermining the effectiveness of the revised ordinances by applying for permits and/or approvals in order to avoid the application of new, possibly more restrictive, development ordinances; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the appropriateness of off-premise signs and billboards and/or approvals to the community, the City desires to implement this moratorium for a stated and fixed time period, and to include a variance provision for cases of necessity and undue hardship.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

1. Except as provided below, no applications for off-premises signs and/or billboards will be accepted for filing or processed and no such permits or approvals will be issued by the City until (a) 180 days after final adoption of this ordinance, or (b) termination of this ordinance by the City Council, whichever is sooner.
2. If the City Council determines that this 180 day period is insufficient for the City to fully complete the process of developing and adopting ordinances to address concerns regarding increased density to off-premises signs and/or billboards, this ordinance may be renewed for an additional period of time, not to exceed 180 days, by resolution upon a majority vote of the City Council.
3. An owner of property within the City may request a variance from the requirements of this ordinance under the following conditions:
 - (a) special circumstances or conditions exist imposing an undue hardship on the property owner: or
 - (b) where an off-premises signs and/or billboards is in the public interest for that particular area and will not disturb the character of the neighborhood; or
 - (c) there is a previously existing legal right to proceed;
4. A written application setting forth the basis for the requested variance must be submitted to the City Planning and Zoning Commission for its recommendation and final approval by the City Council by resolution upon a majority vote of the City Council. A variance may be granted by the City Council if it finds that special circumstances or conditions affecting the property in question justify the variance, and that the adverse effect on the accomplishment of the goals of the moratorium established by this ordinance. Any request for a variance must be submitted to the City Council at least seven (7) days prior in the date of the City Council meeting at which the request is to be considered.
5. In the case of any conflict between the other provisions of this ordinance and any existing ordinance of the City, the provisions of this ordinance will control.
6. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, that invalidity or the unenforceability will not affect any other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.
7. This ordinance shall be effective as of the date of final adoption.

The above and foregoing ordinance having being duly submitted to the Hammond City Council in writing; introduced at a public meeting on _____, **2025** of the Hammond City Council and discussed at a public meeting held on _____, **2025**; after motion and second was submitted to the official vote of the Hammond City Council.

On motion by Councilman _____ and Second by Councilman _____ the foregoing ordinance was hereby declared adopted on _____, **202** by the following roll call vote:

Votes: Councilman Wells (), Councilman DiVittorio (), Councilman Andrews (), Councilwoman Gonzales (), Councilman Andrews ().

WHEREFORE the above and foregoing ordinance was declared duly adopted on the ____ **day** of _____, **2025**, at Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

Kip Andrews
President, Hammond City Council

Honorable Pete Panepinto
Mayor, City of Hammond

Lisa Cockerham, Clerk
Hammond City Council