



CITY OF SELAH

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CITY OF SELAH PROCLAMATION #2022-03

PUBLIC PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF SELAH REGARDING TEMPORARY SIGNS ALONG ROADWAYS

WHEREAS, the federal Constitution and state constitution guarantee, among other things, the fundamental right of freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, one method for expressing speech is to use temporary signs that display words and/or images; and

WHEREAS, the City-owned grass strips along the streets of Jim Clements Way, North Wenas Avenue, North First Street and South First Street have been deemed by a federal court to be the City's equivalent of a public square for purposes of speech; and

WHEREAS, the City recently updated its Sign Code – specifically Selah Municipal Code chapter 10.38 – so as to expressly allow temporary signs of specified size to be installed on those grass strips; and

WHEREAS, members of the public have been installing, and likely will continue to install, temporary signs on the grass strips as expressly allowed by the City's Sign Code, including but not limited to traditional campaign signs during political seasons and also other advocacy signs both during and outside of political seasons; and

WHEREAS, controversies arose in the past as to the placement and content of temporary signs that had been installed on the grass strips, with some members of the public believing that no signs should be installed on the grass strips irrespective of content, with other members of the public believing that certain signs should not be installed on the grass strips due to specific content, and with some members of the public taking it upon themselves to remove signs that they felt were inappropriate or that contained content that they disagreed with; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to resolve such controversies and prevent their reoccurrence, I am issuing this Public Proclamation;

NOW THEREFORE, as Mayor I hereby publicly proclaim, and instruct and forewarn all members of the public, as follows:



1. Residents, property owners, property users and visitors to Selah must not tamper with or remove anyone else's temporary signs on or from the grass strips, because everyone has an equal legal right to install temporary signs on the grass strips so long as those signs comply with the other provisions of the City's Sign Code. City staff has the exclusive authority to enforce the City's Sign Code, including but not limited to permanently removing any signs from the grass strips that violate any aspect of the City's Sign Code and briefly removing temporary signs from the grass strips when necessary for maintenance of the grass or performance of other necessary City work; and

2. You may face criminal prosecution if you tamper with or remove anyone else's temporary signs on or from the grass strips. You do not have any legal right to tamper with or remove anyone else's temporary signs on or from the grass strips. You must leave other people's temporary signs alone when they are installed on the grass strips; and

3. Selah welcomes and serves all persons regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, creed, beliefs, political opinions, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, actual or perceived disability, economic status, or other diverse backgrounds.

ISSUED this 23rd day of August, 2022.

Sherry Raymond
Sherry Raymond, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski
Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

R.A.C
Rob Case, City Attorney