

For more information about the enforcement of signs in the right-of-way contact:

Community Development Department

Current Planning Division

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SIGNS IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY



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Signs in the Right-of-Way

Are signs allowed in the right-of-way?

No. Signs are prohibited from being placed in the right-of-way and on telephone poles, utility poles, street signs and traffic control signs.



Where is the right-of-way?

The right-of-way includes the common area between the street and the sidewalk and street medians. For city streets, this area can vary but it typically extends 11 feet inward from the curb or edge of pavement, if there are no curbs. This area varies along highways and includes the street pavement, drainage structures and traffic control signs.



Why prohibit signs in the right-of-way?

It is a City Council priority to keep Independence a safe and attractive community. The design or location of signs in the right-of-way can be distracting to drivers or block sight lines at intersections, thus reducing traffic safety. Signs haphazardly placed in the right-of-way can easily undermine an otherwise attractive area and make it appear cluttered and unkempt. Signs placed on utility poles could cause damage to the poles.

What is the City doing to address signs in the right-of-way?

The City has a Sign Removal Program that utilizes City staff and volunteers to remove signs. Signs found in violation of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) are removed and discarded.

What happens to the signs in the right-of-way?

The signs are discarded in the trash and the business and/or individual is then sent a warning letter explaining the violation. If a business or individual is found violating the UDO again, the business or individual is sent a citation for Municipal Court, which can fine up to \$500 per violation plus court cost. Each sign is considered a violation and will result in separate citations.

