



## CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 4, 2010

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### **Place That Sign With Care**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, August 4, 2010 – With the campaign season heating up and summer events underway, signs are popping up on roadsides across the island. The City’s Municipal Code (Chapter 15.08) regulates the placement of signs to protect public safety and preserve the natural character of the community.

“Signs are placed to attract maximum attention, so it’s not surprising that they appear at main intersections and along key thoroughfares,” said City Code Enforcement Officer Meghan McKnight. “Inappropriately placed signs cause visual distractions and can present safety hazards for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Regulating signs can take a lot of staff time, taking resources away from more crucial enforcement activities.”

McKnight advises that, under the Municipal Code, signs may not be placed:

- In such a way as to interfere with sight distances or create a vehicular or pedestrian traffic obstruction or hazard
- In medians or roundabouts, due to their potential impact on sight lines and traffic safety
- Near crosswalks where they may distract drivers from the presence of pedestrians
- On utility poles, traffic control lights, trees, shrubs or any public building or structure

In addition, signs are regulated as follows:

- Political signs may be posted within the public right-of-way *only with the permission of the abutting property owner*, and must be removed within ten days following the relevant election date
- A city permit is required to post signs for special events or tours
- Real estate signs are limited to one sign on-site at the subject property
- Business sandwich board signage is limited to one board on-site with appropriate permit.

If you are concerned about a sign which you believe presents a hazard to public safety or is otherwise inappropriately placed, please contact the City’s Code Enforcement office at 780-3769. The City may remove and dispose of any sign that is a hazard to public safety.

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