

# Appleton Police Department

Signs in the Public Right-of-Way



## *Public Notice*

Effective June 15, 2012, the City of Appleton will be handling unauthorized signs/flyers placed in the public right-of-way accordingly:

- City of Appleton Ordinance 23-505 (h) prohibits signs, handbills, posters, notices or similar attention gathering devices posted or affixed on traffic control boxes, traffic signs, utility poles, traffic control support structures **or otherwise in the public right-of way.** Violations are subject to forfeiture amounts up to \$326.50 per sign.
- Any unauthorized sign observed in the public right-of-way **shall** be removed by A.P.D. patrol personnel during non-committed time. Other City of Appleton employees will also be removing these signs when they are on-duty and uncommitted (DPW, Health, Fire, etc.).
- For a sign to be authorized and placed in the public right-of-way, a permit/license must first be obtained through the City of Appleton City Clerk's office. **Permits are not available for rummage/garage sale type signs.**
- City of Appleton Ordinance 23-507. *Signs in the right-of-way*, states:
  - (a) No signs shall be placed upon any street right-of-way except for the following:
    - (1) Permanent signs including public signs erected by, or on behalf of, a governmental unit to post legal notices, identify public property, a direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
    - (2) Temporary construction or street repair signs.
    - (3) Bus stop signs erected by a public transit company.
    - (4) Informational signs of public utility regarding its poles, lines, pipes, or facilities.
    - (5) Banners, signs, or decorations as permitted by the Common Council.
- The most frequently dealt with unauthorized signs are rummage/garage sale signs, 1-800 signs, event signs, and "Going out of Business" type signs.
- All removed signs will be disposed of in a garbage receptacle without notice being provided to the person who placed the sign in the public right-of-way.
- Signs in the public right-of-way are considered abandoned property, which the "owner" relinquished rights to when placing on public property in violation of city ordinance.
- Please help your neighbors by not placing signs on public property. Experience shows when one sign is placed on a corner, others also follow, detracting from the neighborhood's overall character
- Please do your part and refrain from placing signs in the public right-of-way. Public education is an important step in changing behavior, please tell your neighbors about our new procedure.

*If you have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Appleton Police Department. A District Commander or other patrol supervisor would be happy to discuss this issue with you.*