

1 [Ordinance amending and adding to Section 184.78 of the Public Works Code make findings
2 regarding banners, create five categories of permitted banners, prohibit banners in residential
3 districts, restrict banners in certain neighborhood commercial and residential commercial
4 districts, provide installer name and service phone numbers on banners, provide for
administrative and inspection fees for banners, provide penalties for the violation of Section
184.78, and provide for the posting of bonds by banner installers.]

5 **Ordinance amending and adding to Section 184.78 of the Public Works Code make**
6 **findings as to the purposes served by banners, to create five categories of permitted**
7 **banners, to prohibit banners in residential districts, to restrict banners in certain**
8 **neighborhood commercial and residential commercial districts, to require installer**
9 **name and service phone numbers on all banners, to provide for processing and**
10 **inspection fees for banner permits, to provide appropriate penalties for violations of**
11 **Section 184.78, and to provide that bonds may be required to be posted prior to receipt**
12 **of a banner permit and finding that the Ordinance is exempt/excluded from**
13 **environmental review.**

14 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
15 deletions are *strikethrough italics Times New Roman*.
16 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
17 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

18 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

19 Section 1. The San Francisco Public Works Code is hereby amended by amending
20 Section 184.78, to read as follows:

21 Sec. 184.78. **BANNERS.**

22 (a) Findings: The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that:

23 (1) Banners placed on the upper portion of City-owned utility poles are an important
24 medium for providing notice to San Francisco residents, as well as those who work in and visit San

1 Francisco, about City-sponsored, City-funded, and City-wide special events, City convention facility
2 events, and the locations of the City's diverse neighborhoods.

3 (2) Because of the significant economic benefits that the City gains from tourism, San
4 Francisco has a strong interest in fostering tourism by promoting City-sponsored, City-funded and
5 City-wide special events, and in providing notice of the locations of the City's varied and distinct
6 neighborhoods.

7 (3) Because of the significant economic benefits that the City gains from the events held at
8 the City's convention facilities, San Francisco has a strong interest in fostering, promoting and
9 identifying those events conducted at the City's convention facilities.

10 (4) Increasing awareness of City-sponsored City-funded and City-wide special events, and
11 San Francisco's diverse neighborhoods also fosters civic pride.

12 (5) By adopting this section the Board does not intend to create a public forum on the upper
13 portion of City-owned utility poles, it has decided to make the upper portion of City-owned utility poles
14 available for the installation of banners that announce City-sponsored events, City-funded events, City-
15 wide special events, City convention facility events, or City neighborhoods in order to achieve its goals
16 of promoting tourism and civic pride, and providing public notice.

17 (#b) Subject to the conditions and limitations imposed by this Section, the
18 Department is authorized to adopt rules and regulations governing the posting of banners
19 consistent with the terms of this Article. In enacting such regulations, the Department shall
20 consider the need to protect the safety of pedestrians, vehicles and other property and the
21 need to promote aesthetics on the City's streets and sidewalks. With respect to City-wide
22 special event banners or City convention facility banners, the Department of Public Works shall not
23 discriminate on the basis of the viewpoint in a banner in its administration and interpretation of this
24 Section and any rules or regulations adopted under this Section.

1 (c) Only the following banners may be posted on City-owned utility poles: City-sponsored
2 banners, City-funded event banners, City-wide event banners, City convention facility banners, and
3 City neighborhood banners.

4 (1) A "city-sponsored banner" is a banner announcing an event or series of related events
5 conducted by the City or any of its departments, boards, commissions or agencies, or announcing a
6 facility operated by the City or any of its departments, boards, commissions.

7 (2) A "city-funded event banner" is a banner announcing an event or series of related
8 events which event or series of events have received funding of \$5,000 or more from the City or any of
9 its departments, boards, commissions or agencies.

10 (3) A "city-wide special event banner" is a banner announcing an event or series of related
11 events of interest to a significant portion of the residents of San Francisco and/or tourists, which is not
12 a purely commercial enterprise, and where

13 (a) the proceeds, if any, will directly benefit either a federal, state, or local government
14 agency or a charitable non-profit organization that maintains tax-exempt status under to Internal
15 Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or

16 (b) the event or series of events will take place on City-owned property and further a public
17 purpose.

18 (4) A "city convention facility banner" is a banner installed on any City-owned utility pole
19 located on streets proximate to the City's convention center facilities that announces an event currently
20 being held at any part of a City-owned convention center facility. Those streets are: Third Street
21 between Folsom and Mission (west side only), Folsom Street between Third and Fourth (north side
22 only), Howard Street between Third and Fifth (both sides), Mission Street between Third and Fourth
23 (south side only), Fourth Street between Mission and Howard (both sides), Fourth Street between
24 Howard and Folsom (east side only), and Grove Street between Polk and Larkin (both sides). A "city
25 convention facility banner" may only be installed 10 days prior an event, and may not remain posted

1 for more than 10 days after an event. The Department shall give requests for a "city convention facility
2 banner" priority over other requests for banners on City-owned utility poles directly adjacent to any
3 part of the City's convention center facilities.

4 (5) A "city neighborhood banner" is a banner demarking a neighborhood in San Francisco,
5 placed in that neighborhood, and identifying the neighborhood's name, such as, for example: the
6 Tenderloin, or Pacific Heights.

7 (6) For the purposes of this Section, an "event or series of related events of interest to a
8 significant portion of the residents of San Francisco" is any event or series of related events that take
9 place in the City and that reasonably expect an in-person attendance of 500 or more people for a single
10 event or 1000 or more people for a series of events. Expected attendance may be demonstrated by
11 attendance at that same event or series of related events in previous years, attendance at a similar
12 event or series of related events in previous years, by attendance projections for an event or series of
13 events based on sales of tickets or subscriptions to the event or series of related events or, for an event
14 or series of events that is being organized for the first time, by another reasonable measure of expected
15 in-person attendance to be determined by the Department of Public Works.

16 ~~If the Department enacts rules and regulations that are based upon the content of the~~
17 ~~message in the banner, the Department must show that the rule or regulation is necessary to serve a~~
18 ~~compelling governmental interest; is narrowly tailored to achieve that end; and is the least restrictive~~
19 ~~means to further the articulated interest. If the Department enacts rules and regulations that are not~~
20 ~~based on the content of the message in the banner, the Department must show that the rule or~~
21 ~~regulation is narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest and leaves open ample~~
22 ~~alternative channels of communication.~~

23 (d) Under the findings made in Section 184.58, no banner may be posted on the historic and
24 decorative lamp posts listed in Section 184.58.

1 (~~be~~) No banner shall be affixed to more than one structure so that it spans the area
2 between two or more structures or spans a street unless and until the party responsible for the
3 posting of such banner first obtains a permit from the Department for the purpose of enabling
4 that Department to ensure that the banner is posted in a safe manner and that the party has
5 obtained adequate insurance coverage for any risk posed by such posting, according to
6 guidelines established by the Director; and provided that, if any part of the banner is to be
7 attached to non-City property, upon filing the permit application, the party shall be notified that
8 the consent of the private owner should be obtained before posting the banner.

9 (~~ef~~) Notwithstanding anything in this Code that may be to the contrary, the Director is
10 authorized to permit the posting of banners on the historic lamp posts lining Market Street, an
11 area known as the "Path of Gold," and more fully described in Section 184.58, subject to the
12 following conditions:

13 (1) The Director may issue a permit only for a single ~~an~~ event: (A) that results in the
14 closure of all or a portion of Market Street's Path of Gold and (B) for which the event sponsor
15 has already obtained the necessary City approvals for such closure; and

16 (2) Banners shall not be posted for longer than 30 days prior to an event, nor
17 remain posted for longer than 10 days after an event.

18 (~~g~~) The following shall apply to all Banners:

19 (1) Banners identifying the name of a commercial sponsor must limit that
20 identification to a logo or business name only, located in the top or bottom portion of the banner, and
21 comprising no more than 15% of the total area of the banner.

22 (2) Banners shall not be installed for longer than 30 days prior to the event or series of
23 events, nor remain posted for longer than 10 days after the event or series of events.

24 (3) Banners shall be limited in size to 36 inches in width by 72 inches in length.

25 (4) An application for a banner permit may be submitted to the Department no

1 earlier than 90 days prior to the first day for which the banner permit is sought.

2 (h) No banners may be installed in R (residential) districts, as defined in the San Francisco
3 Planning Code, Article 2.

4 (i) Banners in NC-1 (Neighborhood Commercial Cluster), NC-2 (Small-Scale
5 Neighborhood Commercial Districts), NC-3 (Moderate-Scale Neighborhood Commercial Districts),
6 Neighborhood Commercial Individual Area Districts, and RC (Residential-Commercial Combined
7 Districts) as defined in San Francisco Planning Code, Article 2 and Article 7, shall be subject to the
8 following restrictions:

9 (1) Banners may only be installed within 50 feet of the intersection of two streets.

10 (2) No double-wide banners shall be permitted on sidewalks.

11 (j) All banners shall bear the name of the installer of the banner and a local or toll-free
12 phone number, labeled "Service Number," where citizens may contact or leave word for the installer of
13 the banner regarding maintenance or repair problems with any banner bearing the installer's service
14 phone number. This required text shall be imprinted and maintained on the face or edge of the banner
15 and shall be a minimum of 2 inches in height.

16 (k) Each applicant for a banner permit shall pay to the Department of Public Works
17 a processing fee of \$100 for the first 20 banners sought to compensate the Department for the cost of
18 processing and administering the permit. An applicant shall pay a fee of \$100 for each 20 additional
19 banners sought per application. Processing fees for banner requests under 20 banners shall be
20 prorated.

21 (l) Each applicant for a banner permit shall pay to the Department of Public Works
22 an inspection fee of \$100 for the first 20 banners approved to compensate the Department for the cost
23 of enforcing the banner permits. Applicants shall pay an inspection fee of \$100 for each 20 additional
24 banners, or fraction thereof, approved.

25 (m) Any person violating the provisions of this Section or any regulations

1 promulgated by the Department of Public Works pursuant to this Section, shall be guilty of an
2 infraction. Each banner determined to be an infraction is punishable by (1) a fine of \$100 for a first
3 violation; (2) a fine not exceeding \$200 for a second violation within one year; (3) a fine not exceeding
4 \$500 and revocation of the permittee's banner permits for a third violation within one year.

5 (n) In addition, a fee equal to the cost of the time and materials expended by the Department
6 of Public Works may be imposed by the Department of Public Works for investigation of banners being
7 maintained without or in violation of a valid permit Payment of the fees shall be directly to the
8 Department of Public Works.

9 (1) The person responsible for payment of the fee may appeal the amount of the
10 investigation fee to the Board of Appeals, subject to its filing fees and rules.

11 (2) The nonpayment of such fee or fine, or the continued existence of a condition in
12 violation of this Section, shall be grounds for the Director of Public Works to deny a permit for a
13 banner to the responsible owner or applicant until such penalty has been paid and the condition
14 corrected.

15 (o) At his or her discretion, the Director of the Department of Public Works may
16 require that a performance bond, not to exceed \$25,000 be posted before a banner permit is granted to
17 any permittee who has violated this Section, or any of the regulations promulgated by the Department
18 of Public Works pursuant to this Section, more than three times within the year proceeding the banner
19 permit request.

20
21 Section 2. Severability

22 If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or
23 circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not
24 affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the
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1 invalid or unconstitutional provision or application. To this end, the provisions of this
2 ordinance shall be deemed severable.

3

4 Section 3. California Environmental Quality Act Findings

5 The Board of Supervisors finds that on _____, the Board of Supervisors
6 received from San Francisco's Environmental Review Officer a Certification that this
7 Ordinance is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality
8 Act, General Rule Exclusion, State Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3). The Certification was
9 based on the conclusion that should this proposed ordinance be adopted, there is no
10 possibility that the activity governed by the Ordinance might have a significant effect on the
11 environment. The Board further finds that there have been no substantial changes in the
12 ordinance, and no new information of substantial importance that would change the
13 conclusions set forth in the Certificate of Exemption/Exclusion from Environmental Review
14 finding that the proposed ordinance is exempt/excluded from environmental review.

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17 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
18 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

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20 By: _____
21 Sarah Ellen Owsowitz
22 Deputy City Attorney

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