

Signs are prohibited in the “Right of Way”

The Borough of Chambersburg wants to make the public aware of a local ordinance which prohibits the placement of signs in the public right-of-way, on trees or on poles. Effective immediately, Borough employees will begin strict enforcement of the ordinance in an effort to ensure that public safety continues to be a priority.

§ 286-80 of the Borough’s local laws states: *“No signs shall be erected on Borough property or within any public right-of-way except by governmental authorities in the discharge of a governmental function or pursuant to a license to occupy the Borough property or the public right-of-way. Any sign erected in violation of this provision shall be deemed a public nuisance and shall be subject to immediate abatement.”*

§ 226-8 states: *“It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association or corporation to nail, staple, tie, paste or in any way attach any placard, sign, banner, advertising material, or printed or written material of any kind, or to permit others to do so in his or its behalf, upon any utility poles owned by the Borough, any light standards, trees or refuse receptacles erected or located on any of the streets, sidewalks or public grounds of the Borough...”*

Signs placed in the public right of way can obstruct sight distance and be dangerous.

WHERE ARE SIGNS GENERALLY PROHIBITED?

Essentially, the space between the building-side edge of the sidewalk and the curb **OR** about four to six feet from the street surface is considered the Right of Way. While the Right of Way may not be the same from street to street, it is generally the area near the street including grass areas along the street. Absolutely no signs are authorized in this area including (but not necessarily limited to) real estate signs, yard sale signs, political signs, lost animal signs, etc.

Additionally, signs are strictly prohibited on street lights, traffic sign poles, and telephone poles and garbage cans (all of which are almost always inside the right of way).

Signs are permitted on private property outside the right of way although the size, illumination, and placement of those signs may also be regulated by zoning laws. When in doubt, please contact the Borough at (717) 261-3232.

When a Borough employee sees a sign posted illegally, they will confiscate the sign immediately. If your sign is confiscated, you may call the Service Center at (717) 263-4111.

Thank you for making the Borough of Chambersburg a great place to live!