

Sign removal policy is too heavy-handed

LOUISE OLSON; Gig Harbor

Published: March 30th, 2008 01:00 AM

Re: Realtor Steve Fortson's letter trivializing the controversy between Realtors and Pierce County over signage (TNT, 3-27).

Fortson's characterization of the controversy as "a spat" between the county enforcing the law and agents "trying to find buyers for houses" is clever, but inaccurate. The real issue concerns the law itself and the methods employed to enforce it.

The T-posts that hold up the signs are not purchased and installed by agents. Local people who run small businesses are making, installing and removing the posts. Agents pay these businesses for this service. These T-posts are the "inventory" of these small businesses. Without notice and without recourse, at least \$13,000 worth of this inventory was collected and sent to the dump. The county authorized \$165,000 of our tax dollars to implement this punitive tactic in an effort to emphasize that it means business when it comes to the newly minted sign law.

As a Realtor, homeowner, taxpayer and voter, I resent this heavy-handed approach, and I resent my tax money being used for this purpose and in this way.

Additionally, I believe the law is wrong and needs to be changed. I appreciate the County Council's efforts to clean up messy signage, but this law goes too far and is not representative of the kind of power the council should be able to exercise. Council members work for us; we don't work for them.

READERS COMMENTS:

Go Stacy - Submitted by [ldozy1](#) on March 31, 2008 - 1:59am.

As usual- an excellent presentation. Will be interested in seeing if the County will begin enacting the fines so that tax payers are not continuing to bear the price of illegal signs.

PS- It would be nice if they got ride of the new ones that appeared on hwy167 near the green bridge. All three are blocking the emergency shoulder since whomever placed them bent them out to be more visible

Who is to blame, and who should pay to fix it?

Submitted by [S_Emerson](#) on March 31, 2008 - 12:01pm.

~~[deleted from this document due to the post being a repeat post from "Save us all money by calling posters of illegal signs" article]~~

illegal signage - Submitted by [Olemag](#) on March 30, 2008 - 3:57pm.

If the county and cities got their act together they could make BIG BUCKS removing "A" Boards and fining owners. There are 21 illegal "A" Boards on 38th Street between South Pine and South Tacoma Way. And that is only on the north side of the street! Sixth Avenue is another mess of illegal street signs. Do we really need these traffic distractions, sidewalk blockers, eyesores?

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Ellida if I were you - Submitted by [witchiwoman](#) on March 30, 2008 - 4:39pm.

I would edit your comment and remove the personal information. This is not a letter to the editor, and for your own safety's sake I would not advertise where you live or your email address.

Disagree - Submitted by [ldozy1](#) on March 30, 2008 - 10:15am.

As in any business, following laws, codes and regulations is the responsibility of the business. This isn't a trivial controversy but an ignored fact

Public roads belong to all and should be enjoyed by all. Signage placed haphazardly not only is unsightly but blocks walking and riding pathways.

I understand the upset by the wasted dollars but to spin it differently, the neglect of businesses to be responsible for THEIR actions cost residents a bunch of money to clean up these code violations.. It also added a ton of avoidable garbage to the landfill because of their failure to follow regulations. While we hear the cost to residents, those who caused this problem should be thankful that the tens of thousands in fines this could have incurred were not yet charged.

One poster on the Open House blog said it best. "We (realtors) caused this problem and have no one to blame but ourselves"