



City Attorney's Office

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October 8, 2008

The Honorable Ann Campbell, Mayor,
and Members of the City Council
of the City of Ames, Iowa

Re: Signs Posted on Fences at Baseball and Softball Diamonds

Dear Mayor Campbell and Council Members:

At the July 8 meeting of the City Council, you asked me to draft an ordinance that would permit the posting of signs on fences at baseball and softball diamonds within the Airport/Government District, but only within the season during which games are played on those premises.

Baseball and softball diamonds are located within the Airport/Government District at Hunziker Youth Sports Complex, Ames High School, North and South River Valley Parks, and Brookside Park. Currently the Ames Municipal Code prohibits placement of any signs on fences within the City. Additionally, the Code prohibits placement of any off premises signs within three hundred feet of any other off premises sign.

The attached ordinance would allow placement of non-electrical temporary signs on the fences at ball diamonds, but only during the seasons when scheduled games are played on the premises. Temporary signs are exempt from permit requirements applicable to other types of signs. Temporary signs may not be larger than thirty-two square feet (or one hundred square feet for banners).

Yours truly,

Douglas R. Marek
City Attorney

Attachment

c: Diane Voss

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY ENACTING NEW SUBSECTION 5.733 THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING SIGNS POSTED ON FENCES OF SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL DIAMONDS; REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by enacting new Subsection 5.733 as follows:

"Sec. 5.733. SIGNS POSTED ON FENCES AT BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL DIAMONDS.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Division, non-electrical temporary signs, including off-premises signs, are permitted on fences surrounding baseball and softball diamonds in a Government/Airport (S-GA) District, but only during the season during which scheduled games are played on those premises."

Section Two. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of \$500 for a first violation and \$750 for each repeat violation.

Section Three. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Four. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this _____ day of _____, _____.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk
00994

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor