



Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

(Greater Council)

PO Box 600, Manhasset, New York 11030-0600

www.manhassetcivic.org

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Executive Board & Officers 2019/20:

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North Strathmore Civic Association

Plandome Civic Association

Plandome Heights Civic Association

Shorehaven Civic Association

South Strathmore Civic Association

Strathmore Vanderbilt Civic Assoc.

Strathmore Village Civic Association

Terrace Manor Civic Association

Liaisons to Incorporated Villages:

Flower Hill

Munsey Park

North Hills

Plandome

Plandome Heights

Plandome Manor

Other Liaisons:

Chamber of Commerce

Coalition Against Substance Abuse

Coalition for Safer Manhasset

Manhasset Park District

Manhasset Preservation Society

Council Adopts "Common Sense Guidelines for "lawn signs" placed on Manhasset Public Roadways and Requests Voluntary Cooperation from Candidate Campaigns

Dear Candidate:

The favor of your reply is requested on whether you are willing to join this effort. We request you and your campaign's voluntary cooperation with the following Common Sense Guidelines addressing SAFETY FIRST - the chronic condition of signs that divert attention of drivers by being placed at heavily trafficked and pedestrian intersections or dangerous blind roadway curves, and that cause visual littering in our communities. The Council unanimously adopted these guidelines 9/13/17. Additional background of this issue is included in the following page.

SUMMARY

No signs:

- Prior to six weeks before the election day.
- On municipality owned (Public) property- which wrongly convey a municipality's endorsement of any candidate.
- Within 75 feet before any intersection with a traffic control device or crosswalk.
- Within 75 feet before any posted official yellow roadway warning sign (blind curves, pedestrian crossings, RR track).
- No more than 2 signs of the same sign within 75 feet of any other campaign sign, and
- Maintain list of locations where every sign is placed that is then used to remove every sign 10 days after the election

Please respond whether you will join this effort and comply, and if so, please circulate your campaign staff. Reply to:

info@manhassetcivic.org

Sincerely,

Rich Bentley, President

Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

Website: www.manhassetcivic.org

"A civic's job is never done"

eMail: info@manhassetcivic.org

“Common Sense Guidelines for “lawn signs” on public roadways

GOAL: to create a better and safer condition for our residents; In absence of Town actions to improved Town-wide legislative revisions to signs to reduce the visual littering of our communities during campaign seasons that improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, Greater Council has moved to adopt voluntary guidelines inthe Manhasset area.

Background/ Discussion of Issues relating to Campaign Signs:

Discussed numerous times over decades and arises every campaign season. Despite criticism of signs voiced over the years on the signs that 'visually litter' our communities and 'lawn sign' placement on public land, particularly at hazardous vehicular locations is potentially detrimental, where drivers attention is best kept on the road, immediately following every election, most signs come down and the issue falls dormant. Several of our local Inc Villages do have more restrictive ordinances that better control the matter focussed on all sign; many Inc Villages are predominantly residential with few if any true commercial properties. Thus, we all see unincorporated Town locations are more problematic. Lawmakers tout 'free speech' and apple pie, permission of the property owners, etc.. and ultimately have never entertained any Town wide local law change that would further restrict their own future campaigns. At root is fact that name recognition as an important factors to candidates in local elections, where candidate campaign funds generally can't afford TV/radio ads and thus, these signs are effectively in getting their 'name out on the streets'. Candidates DO rely on such campaign signs for their election; Local name recognition remains an important election factor. Case law suggests ordinances are appropriate only when written to address all signs, not specific to campaign signs. We understand legislative ACTION will be difficult, but not impossible, beacuse action would affect incumbent's future campaigns, and it's unlikely to any 'party' support to take action. This is a chronic issue - not just the current campaign(s), nor limited to just Town elected offices, but includes every local and special district election seasons as well, and DOES affects ALL residents.

Candidates at GC meetings include considerable discussion time ends up being spent on campaign signs. This often detracts from discussion of many other pertinent issues of each election. Past GC efforts have been sporadically successful when we contact the candidates themselves and urge they curtail signs at our most notorious 'dangerous vehicular / pedestrian intersections', and we have gotten varying stages of cooperation, but are frequently short-lived. Problem is compounded by campaign staffers (not the candidates themselves) that place the signs wherever they personally feel it has 'good' visibility. Evidently one or two signs are ineffective - if the red team puts 10 signs, the blue team needs to place 12 signs, which gets the red team to place 4 more (or vice-verse), and so on. Current Town Code refers to permits to place signs, but are either not enforced or not required to maintain any master location list to know where all signs are placed, to enable more effective removal within the 10 days following the election date as required by code. While many signs are removed (and some even recycled by the parties for the next campaign season), inevitably there are 'straggler' locations that can have signs remain for FAR longer. Signs that fall flat on ground are frequently observed to stay for MONTHS/YEARS.

Common Sense Guidelines: No change is proposed on “lawn” signs on private property with the owners approval. The Town can and should improve upon its Town code for lawn signs so that they are less visually littering within our communities several times per year, and that they reduce driving hazards that take drivers attention off the road. Town might start with an appointed bipartisan resident study to propose improved common sense guidelines, addressing SAFETY FIRST - the chronic condition of signs that divert attention of drivers by being placed at heavily trafficked and pedestrian intersections or dangerous blind roadway curves, and that cause visual littering in our communities. Absent Town action, Greater Council has advanced the following Guidelines for the unincorporated Manhasset community, and issue to all candidate campaigns before each election season for their voluntary compliance.

Restrict areas and limit qty of where lawn /banner signs can NOT be placed:

- No signs on municipality owned (Public) property- that wrongly convey municipality's endorsement of any candidate.
- 75 feet before any intersection with a traffic control device or crosswalk.
- 75 feet before any posted official yellow roadway warning sign (blind curves, pedestrian crossings, RR track).
- Maintain list of locations where every sign is placed that is then used to remove every sign 10 days after the election
- No more than 2 signs of the same sign within 75 feet of any other campaign sign.