



Take the Snipe out of Signs

Where do you post your Neighborhood Meeting Announcements?

Snipe signs are the advertisements stuck in the ground or hanging from utility poles that clutter up our community, distract motorists from their driving, and deteriorate into trash and a serious eyesore. Snipe signs are prohibited (Chapter 16, Land Development Regulations, Section 16.40.120.3.3) in St. Petersburg. So why do we see so many? Because people persist in using this method to advertise.

Neighbors can help their community by reporting snipe signs to the City's Sanitation department for pick-up by calling (727) 893-7398.

Everyone can also help by considering that advertisers take their cue to illegally post snipe signs wherever other snipe signs gather. So, we must all stop violating the code. The seasonal baseball and soccer league advertisements and the neighborhood association meeting signs in the rights of way have the same impact as the "We Buy Houses For Cash" signs. The City code does not differentiate either, **they are all illegal.**

In the code, a snipe sign is defined as a sign which is attached to trees, poles, or to other objects, with a message appearing on it that does not apply to the present use of the premises or structure upon which the sign is located. This means anything in the City's right-of-way is a snipe sign, (unless a minor easement and permit has been issued by the City.)

A better idea for the neighborhood meeting signs is to obtain permission from a private residential property owner to place one information sign in the front yard on the private property. These signs can enjoy an exemption as a free speech sign, as long as they meet the following conditions:

One sign protecting residents' First Amendment right to free speech which expresses any lawful non-commercial message is allowed on a lot with a primary residential use as long as the sign is located on private property, is not in the right-of-way, and is not in the visibility triangle. A free speech sign must not exceed twelve (12) square feet, and must not be higher than six (6) feet.

For more information about this part of the City code, or about other Codes Compliance matters, call the Codes Compliance Assistance Department at (727) 893-7373.



Municipal Services Center Building – 3rd Floor
One 4th Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33701
To report a violation in St. Petersburg: 727-893-7373

This article is provided for informational purposes only. Readers should consult the complete City Code before taking any action affecting property in St. Petersburg.

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