

Private Parking – Signage to Comply with La.R.S. 32:1736

Issue Presented:

Planning and Zoning has supporting ordinances to deal with parking on public property, but the St. Charles Parish Code of Ordinances does not directly address methods to designate No Parking on private property.

An example of how this is problematic is when the Parish does enforce zoning violations on private property, it must do so through the Court system to remove vehicles on private land. Private landowners may want to remove these improperly parked vehicles themselves, but unless they are the owners of the vehicles, the legal pathway to remove these vehicles (at the vehicle owner's expense) is not clear. State law does allow for the removal of improperly parked vehicles at the property owners' expense.

State law, La. R.S. 32:1736 also provides a method to remove vehicles improperly parked at the vehicle owner's expense, but only if proper signage is posted.

Ordinance Proposed:

Other Parishes, including Jefferson Parish, have complicated and detailed rules regarding No Parking signs. I propose we discuss the parameters of allowing No Parking Signs on private property and explore a more simplistic option with the Department. The idea that Planning & Zoning would have the authority to regulate the signage locations and provide guidance to our private property owners of what the signs must contain in order to effectuate the purpose of protecting property rights without the expense of drawn-out litigation is inside the purpose statement our current signage regulations.

Section XXI. - Sign Regulations.

Policy Statement. The purpose of this section is to regulate the placement, appearance, and density of signs in order to protect and support the land use objectives set forth in other sections of this ordinance. Additionally these regulations will serve as a tool to insure the orderly appearance of the Parish, while avoiding clutter, confusion, competitive waste, and distractions for motorists on streets within the Parish.