Resolution No.: 15-1001
Introduced: April 5, 2005
Adopted: May 19, 2005

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: District Council at the request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Increase in the Fee Schedule for the Administration and Enforcement of Sign Permits and Licenses and Revision to Index Fees to Labor Cost Increases

Background

1. Section 59-F-10.1(b)(3) of the County Code states: "the Director must establish a schedule of fees for licenses and permits which reflect the cost of administration and enforcement of this Article. The schedule of fees must be approved by Council Resolution."

2. On July 28, 1998, the County Council approved Resolution 13-1385 establishing a fee schedule for the administration and enforcement of sign permits and licenses.

3. The Department of Permitting Services has evaluated the fees charged for sign permits and licenses in relation to the costs of administering and enforcing Article 59-F., "Signs" of the County Zoning law.

4. The Department finds that current fees need to be increased for signs and sign installer licenses.

5. Resolution No. 15-241 stated the following: The Director of Permitting Services must adjust each fee set in or under this section on July 1 of each year by the annual average increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan area, or any successor index, for the most recent calendar year. The Director must calculate the revised fee to the nearest five dollars. The director must publish the amount of this adjustment not later than July 1 of each year.

6. On July 1, 2004, the fee schedule for the administration and enforcement of signs permits and licenses was increased 2.8% as directed by background item #5 of this resolution.

7. The Department of Permitting Services was established as a fee-supported enterprise within the Executive Branch of Montgomery County in 1996. Revenues that support the Department are established by Method 2 or Method 3 Executive Regulations and by County Council resolution. The Department of Permitting Services may raise this fee annually by regulation by a percentage that does not exceed the rate of the increase (if any) in the department's approved personnel costs for the then-current fiscal year compared to the approved personnel costs for the preceding fiscal year. These cost increases reflect negotiated labor agreements, employee-benefit cost adjustments, proficiency advancements, and other personnel cost factors. Where possible, productivity enhancements will be made to minimize fee increases.

8. This resolution increases fees for the administration and enforcement of sign permits and licenses by 6.4%.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

1. The following schedule of fees is approved for licenses and permits issued under Article 59-F., Signs".

   a. Sign Permit Fees - The fee for:

i.	a permanent sign is	$215.00
ii.	a limited duration sign is	$ 27.00
iii.	bulk limited duration signs (only available to licensed limited duration sign installers) is	$ 0.00
iv.	a sign concept plan is	$ 96.00
v.	a request for a sign review board variance per sign or sign concept plan is	$365.00

   b. Sign Installer License – The fee for:

i.	a sign installer license is	$310.00
ii.	a limited duration sign installer license is	$185.00

2. All fees must be paid at the time of application.

3. The Director of Permitting Services must adjust each fee set in or under this regulation on July 1 of each year. The Department of Permitting Services may raise this fee annually by regulation by a percentage that does not exceed the rate of the increase (if any) in the department's approved personnel costs for the then-current fiscal year compared to the approved personnel costs for the preceding fiscal year. For fees of $100 or more, the Director must calculate the revised fee to the nearest five dollars. For fees under $100, the Director must calculate the revised fee to the nearest dollar. The Director must publish the amount of this adjustment not later than July 1 of each year.

4. This resolution becomes effective July 1, 2005 and supercedes Council Resolution 15-241.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council