Chapter 10.16

TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

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Section 10.16.010 Authority to install traffic control devices.

A. The City Traffic Engineer shall have the power and duty to place and maintain or cause to be placed and maintained official traffic control devices when and as required to make effective the provisions of this title.

B. Whenever the Vehicle Code requires for the effectiveness of any provision thereof that traffic control devices be installed to give notice to the public of the application of such law the City Traffic Engineer is hereby authorized to install or cause to be installed the necessary devices subject to any limitations or restrictions set forth in the law applicable thereto.

C. The City Traffic Engineer may also place and maintain or cause to be placed or maintained such additional traffic control devices as he may deem necessary or proper to regulate traffic or to guide or warn traffic, but he shall make such determination only upon the basis of traffic engineering principles and traffic investigations and in accordance with such standards, limitations, and rules as may be set forth in this title or as may be determined by ordinance or resolution of the Council. (Ord. 2940 § 4.1, 1961)

Section 10.16.020 Traffic signs required for enforcement purposes.

No provision of the Vehicle Code or of this title for which signs are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator unless appropriate legible signs are in place giving notice of such provisions of the traffic laws. (Ord. 2940 § 4.2, 1961)

Section 10.16.030 Obedience to traffic control devices.

The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device placed in accordance with this title, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle when responding to emergency calls. Whenever a particular section does not state that signs are required, such section shall be effective even though no signs are erected or in place. (Ord. 2940 § 4.3, 1961)
Section 10.16.040 Unauthorized signs, lights and signals prohibited in public street right-of-way.

A. No person shall place or maintain nor shall any public authority permit upon any public street right-of-way any sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising or any other sign, light or signal which is not an official traffic control device, an approved public safety or identification sign, an approved subdivision directional sign, an approved street light banner, an approved interpretive historic sign, as defined in Section 19.620.140, providing historic or interpretive information located in or adjacent to the right-of-way of a designated historic district or designated historic street, or an approved monument or directional sign within the Riverside Auto Center Assessment District, or an approved pedestrian mall sidewalk sign as permitted by Chapter 19.620 and/or Chapter 19.625 of the Riverside Municipal Code, and has obtained an encroachment permit.

B. The City Council may approve the placement on the public street right-of-way of public safety signs, including neighborhood watch signs, community identification signs, subdivision directional signs subject to terms of a licensing agreement with the City, approved street light banners along designated streets subject to the terms of a license agreement with the City, business or facility identification signs which do not identify a specific business or facility by name, an approved, interpretive historic sign, as defined in Section 19.620.140, providing historic or interpretive information located in or adjacent to the right-of-way of a designated historic district or designated historic street, or an approved monument or directional sign within the Riverside Auto Center Assessment District. All signs placed in the public street right-of-way require an encroachment permit and shall meet the specifications of Chapters 19.620 and/or Chapter 19.625, or if not specified in the aforementioned Chapters, the Public Works Director for size, format, color, material, location and manner of placement and attachment. Signs posted in violation of Chapters 19.620 and/or Chapter 19.625 are subject to removal, costs for removal, and any other enforcement or punishment prescribed by law.

C. Every sign, light or signal prohibited by this section is a public nuisance and the City Traffic Engineer or other authority having jurisdiction over the public street right-of-way is empowered to remove the same or cause it to be removed without notice.

D. The cost of removal of any sign, light or signal which is a nuisance under subsection C of this section shall be borne by the person who placed it in the public right-of-way or the person, business, company or entity benefited by the sign. Whenever a sign, light or signal is found in the public right-of-way, the same shall constitute prima facie evidence that the person, business, company or entity benefited by the sign placed or authorized the placement of the sign. The costs of removal of signs, light or signal under this section shall be the actual cost or the standard cost pursuant to a fee schedule set by resolution of the City Council.

After removal of any sign, light or signal pursuant to this section, the person, business, company or entity who placed it or who benefited from it shall be served with a statement of costs. Notice shall be given that the determination stated in the statement of costs can be appealed by filing a written appeal with the City Manager and paying an appeal fee in such amount as set by resolution of the City Council within ten days of the receipt of the statement of costs or within fifteen days of the mailing of the statement of costs, whichever is earlier. Such written appeal shall include appellant's name, address and telephone number and a complete statement of the basis for the objection to the statement of costs.

If no appeal is timely filed, the costs shall become a civil debt to the City. An action may be commenced in the name of the City in any court of competent jurisdiction for the amount specified in the statement of costs.

If the appeal is filed, the City Manager shall then appoint a hearing officer to hear the appeal. The hearing officer must hear the appeal within sixty days following the filing of the appeal, or such later date as may be agreed upon by the appellant. Notice of the date and time of the hearing shall be given in writing, and shall be no sooner than five days from the date the
notice of hearing is given to the appellant. At the hearing, the charged party and City staff will be given an opportunity to present evidence about the statement of costs. The hearing officer shall rule on the appeal and if the costs are determined to be properly imposed (as to amount and responsible party) the costs or the costs as modified shall become a civil debt to the City. The decision of the hearing officer shall be final. (Ord. 7229 § 14, 2013; Ord. 6591 § 1, 2001; Ord. 6527 § 6, 2000; Ord. 6495 § 1, 1999; Ord. 6487 § 1, 1999; Ord. 6306 §§ 1, 2, 1996; Ord. 6024 § 2, 1992; Ord. 5968 § 1, 1991; Ord. 5877 § 1, 1990; Ord. 5109 § 1, 1983; Ord. 4827 § 1, 1980; Ord. 3919 § 1, 1972; Ord. 2940 § 4.4, 1961)

(Manual, Amended, 08/28/2000)

Section 10.16.050 Lane marking.

The City Traffic Engineer is authorized to mark centerlines and lane lines upon the surface of the roadway to indicate the course to be traveled by vehicles and may place signs temporarily designating lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction, regardless of the centerline of the highway. (Ord. 2940 § 4.5, 1961)

Section 10.16.060 Distinctive roadway markings.

The City Traffic Engineer is authorized to place and maintain distinctive roadway markings as described in the Vehicle Code on those streets or parts of streets where the volume of traffic or the vertical or other curvature of the roadway renders it hazardous to drive on the left side of such marking or signs and markings. Such marking or signs and marking shall have the same effect as similar markings placed by the State Department of Public Works pursuant to provisions of the Vehicle Code. (Ord. 2940 § 4.6, 1961)

Section 10.16.070 Authority to remove, relocate or discontinue traffic control devices.

The City Traffic Engineer is authorized to remove, relocate or discontinue the operation of any traffic control device not specifically required by the Vehicle Code or this title whenever he determines in any particular case that the conditions which warranted or required the installation no longer exist. (Ord. 2940 § 4.7, 1961)

Section 10.16.080 Hours of operation for traffic control devices.

The City Traffic Engineer shall determine the hours and days during which any traffic control device shall be in operation or be in effect, except in those cases where such hours or days are specified in this Title. (Ord. 2940 § 4.8, 1961)

Section 10.16.090 Detours and construction.

A. No street shall be closed or partially obstructed, or detours established, without approval of the City Traffic Engineer.
B. Barriers and signs shall be erected as directed by the City Traffic Engineer and shall be of a type approved by the City Traffic Engineer.
C. In case of emergency, a public utility or department of the City shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.
D. The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any barricades or devices placed under the provisions of this section. (Prior code § 4.9; Ord. 2940 § 4.9, 1961)

Section 10.16.100 Painting of curbs.

No person, unless authorized by the City Traffic Engineer, shall paint any street or curb surface, except as provided in Chapter 10.17 of this Code. (Ord. 7137 § 1, 2011; Ord. 2940 § 4.12, 1961)