

ORDINANCE NO. 2414

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIAL USE EXCEPTION APPLICATIONS FOR OFF-PREMISES SIGNS

WHEREAS, Sussex County Code (“County Code”) currently allows off-premises signs to be approved for a special use exception by the Sussex County Board of Adjustment in certain zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, an off-premises sign is defined in the County Code, Chapter 115 as a “sign directing attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered elsewhere than upon the premises where the sign is maintained”; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County Council views the placement of off-premises signs as an important public safety issue in Sussex County and believes that the recent proliferation of off-premises signs has a detrimental effect on the safety and welfare of the citizens of Sussex County; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County Council believes that the current County Code provisions do not sufficiently address the safety issues and its other concerns with off-premises signs and that the continued approval of off-premises signs under the current County Code provisions will exacerbate the issues associated with these signs; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County is in the process of engaging a consultant to study land use planning issues, including off-premises signs; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid exacerbating the issues with the off-premises signs and to allow Sussex County a reasonable time period for the review and study of off-premises signs, the preparation of proposed legislation to address resultant issues, and the consideration of said legislation, Sussex County Council desires to establish a moratorium upon the acceptance of any special use exception application for an off-premises sign for a period of six (6) months from the date of adoption of this Ordinance, unless otherwise extended, modified or terminated by a majority vote of County Council.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That a moratorium upon the acceptance of any special use exception application for off-premises signs be hereby imposed for a period of six (6) months after the date of adoption of this Ordinance, unless extended, modified, or terminated in accordance with this Ordinance. During the period of said moratorium, the office of the Sussex County Planning and Zoning Director is hereby directed to decline to accept all special use exception applications for an off-premises sign. The meaning of “off-

premises sign” shall be as defined in Sussex County Code, Section 115-157(B).

Section 2. This Ordinance may be extended, modified, or terminated at any time by a majority vote of all members of the County Council of Sussex County.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2414 ADOPTED BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE 15TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2015.



**ROBIN A. GRIFFITH
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**