



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF MISSING SIGNAGE

(Westport, CT) – Numerous claims of missing lawn signs have been reported over the past few weeks by local nonprofits. Some of these signs were displayed on private property or were authorized to be placed on public property.

A group calling itself “The Committee” has written to at least one local nonprofit organization stating that if they fail to remove lawn signs, “The Committee” will take down their signs “at first sight.” The individual or individuals behind “The Committee” have not identified themselves, however this incident has been officially reported to police and is under investigation.

Residents are advised against taking it upon themselves to remove signs that do not belong to them, from either public or private property. The enforcement of the town’s rules is the responsibility of the town of Westport, not private citizens. The removal of signs from public or private property by someone not authorized to do so by the town, or by the owner of the sign, may constitute theft. Entering onto private property to remove signs may constitute trespassing. Both of these acts can result in arrest.

Anyone with information about the recent rash of missing signs is asked to call the Westport Police Department at (203) 341-6000. Charities that have had signs removed from authorized public or private locations are also encouraged to file a formal police report.

Nonprofits are reminded that signs advertising charitable events must be reviewed and approved by the town before the signs can be placed on town property or in the town right-of-way. An electronic copy of the Temporary Sign Request form is available on the town’s website. Paper copies of this document can also be obtained in person from the First Selectman’s Office. A copy of this form has also been attached to this release. For each event, only fifteen signs are allowed on town property and in the town right-of-way. These signs cannot be placed out more than two weeks before the event, and they must be removed within two days after the event in order to be in compliance with town regulations.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11.20.2019

Lieutenant Anthony Prezioso

(203) 341-6009



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

James S. Marpe
First Selectman

Policy for Temporary Signs on Town Property for Advertising Charitable Events and for Political Purposes

Modified and Adopted by the Board of Selectmen
January 9, 2002, **revised January 29, 2004, January 7, 2005,**
March 23, 2005; minor revision May 26, 2005, revised February, 2015

The following policy has been established by Westport Town Officials in order to provide coordination for the placement of temporary signs by Westport non-profit organizations wishing to advertise one-time-only charitable events.

General Guidelines for ALL Temporary Signs

- Town property includes traffic islands and road rights of way.
- The Town may not approve, nor is it responsible for, any signs erected on State of Connecticut property. It is not advisable to place signs on State of Connecticut property (including rights of way and islands along Routes 1, 136, 57, 33, and the Sherwood Island Connector, nor on the exit or entrance ramps of I-95 or the Merritt Parkway) as the State may remove them. (see attached list for State property)
- No sign may be placed on any school property without the prior permission of the Superintendent's Office.
- No sign may be placed within the interior of Compo Beach or Longshore Club Park.
- No sign may be placed on Town Hall property.
- No sign may be placed on trees or utility poles.
- No sign may interfere with traffic visibility.
- Signs on private property require property owner approval. Signs on private property shall not extend beyond the property line or into the Town right-of-way and is suggested they be removed within 2 days after the publicized event or election.

Temporary Signs for Advertising Charitable Events

The placement and locations of temporary signs on Town property for the purpose of advertising a charitable event requires review and approval by the Westport Police Chief, Director of Planning and Zoning, and Director of Parks & Recreation, or their designated representatives. Qualifying organizations (i.e. local non-profits) may send the attached request, including proposed locations, for the placement of temporary signs to: Selectman's Office, Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880 or selectman@westportct.gov.

The following conditions will apply:

- A maximum of 15 signs are allowed for each such event. This includes directional signs.
- The signs may be erected not more than 2 weeks before the event and must be removed within 2 days after the publicized event.
- The size of the sign cannot exceed 2 feet by 3 feet.
- Non-compliance may result in the removal of signs.

Temporary Signs for Political Purposes

Political signs are considered an expression of free speech and are allowed on public property. The General Guidelines noted above apply to temporary signs for political purposes.

TEMPORARY SIGN REQUEST

Name of Non-Profit Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____ Event: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Event Date: _____ Requested Dates: _____

State Roads - No Authorization	State Roads - No Authorization
Bridge Street	Kings Highway North (Partial)
Canal Street	Main Street (Partial 57)
Charles Street	Merritt Parkway (RT 15)
Compo Road North (RT 136)	Interstate 95
Compo Road South (RT 136)	Post Road East (US RT 1)
Easton Road (RT 136)	Post Road West (US RT 1)
Exit 17 (I-95)	Riverside Avenue (RT 33)
Exit 18 (I-95)	Saugatuck Avenue
Exit 41 (RT 15)	Sherwood Island Connector
Exit 42 (RT 15)	Sherwood Island Lane
<i>Interior of Compo Beach</i>	Sherwood Island State Park
<i>Interior of Longshore Club Park</i>	Weston Road (RT 57)
Town Hall property	Wilton Road (RT 33)

Requested Locations (Please Do Not Request Roads/Areas Listed Above):

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ | |

Your signature below indicates that you have read and agree to abide by the terms of the Policy for Temporary Signs on Town Property for Advertising Charitable Events and for Political purposes.

Signature Date