

City Council

July 5, 2011



- •On February 15, 2011, City Council referred the Neighborhood Sign Marker Placement policy to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee and to bring back the drafting policy to City Council for review
- •On June 7, 2011, the draft policy was presented to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee for their review and approval. The Committee unanimously approved the draft policy
- •This item is now presented to City Council for consideration and direction



- •The City of Long Beach identifies itself through its slogan:
- "Many Unique Neighborhoods, One Great City"
- •Our unique neighborhoods would benefit from the installation of marker signs recognizing their neighborhood boundaries
- •City staff have crafted a draft policy proscribing the process to fabricate and install Neighborhood Sign Markers



- 1. Neighborhood organizations seeking the placement of official signs mounted on City traffic or utility poles designating the boundaries of their territory may submit their request to the City Traffic Engineer, Department of Public Works. At this time, such requests may be routed through Teresa Dennis, at 562-570-6331 or Teresa Dennis @longbeach.gov.
- 2. The Department of Public Works will consult with the Neighborhood Services Bureau of the Department of Development Services to insure that the neighborhood organization is eligible for signage. The criteria for eligibility includes:
 - a. The organization should be currently active and have regular meetings.
 - b. There must be a group president or other representative/spokesperson.
 - c. The group must have an established boundary.

City Council recognition of the community organization may be required in order to place community organization identification at a freeway exit (see below).

- 3. Signage shall be of the type shown on the attached exhibit. Signage can be manufactured by the neighborhood organization or by the City of Long Beach. If manufactured by the City of Long Beach, the actual cost of production of the sign(s) must be paid by the neighborhood organization. If the signage will be manufactured by private sign company, insure that a sign plan has been approved by the City Traffic Engineer before purchasing.
- 4. All community identification signage to be placed on street lights or traffic signal poles will be installed by the City of Long Beach. The actual cost of mounting the signage must be paid by the neighborhood organization.



- 5. Desired locations for this signage should be identified by the neighborhood organization, but note that signage will typically be approved only at entrances to the identified neighborhood along major streets or highways. Signage will be single sided, facing the traffic entering the neighborhood.
- 6. It may be possible to obtain pole-mounted community identification signage on State highways or at freeway exits. The City Traffic Engineer will coordinate approval of such signage with Caltrans. Generally, the following conditions apply:
 - a. The name of the community is culturally unique and historically significant.
 - b. Signs are consistent with Caltrans standards and requirements. Caltrans does not provide funding for installing or maintaining this type of signage.
 - c. The geographical boundary of the neighborhood is within three miles of the state highway or freeway exit.
- 7. The Department of Public Works reserves the right to reject community identification signage proposals that do not appear to meet the above requirements. If the neighborhood organization is unsatisfied with a decision to reject a signage proposal, they may appeal this decision to the City Council.
- 8. The Department of Public Works shall encourage appropriate community identification signage by preparing a brochure identifying the various community identification sign types and their approval processes. This brochure shall be available on the City of Long Beach Website.

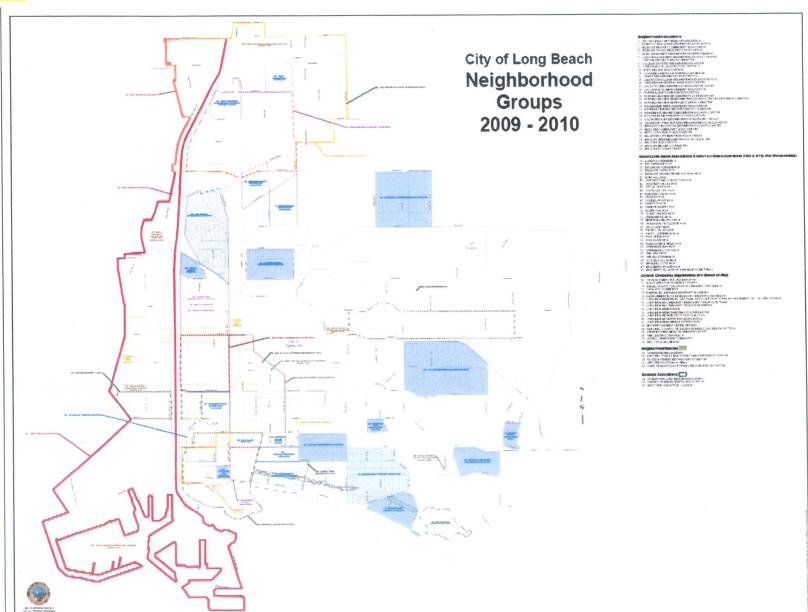


A Community Building Guide

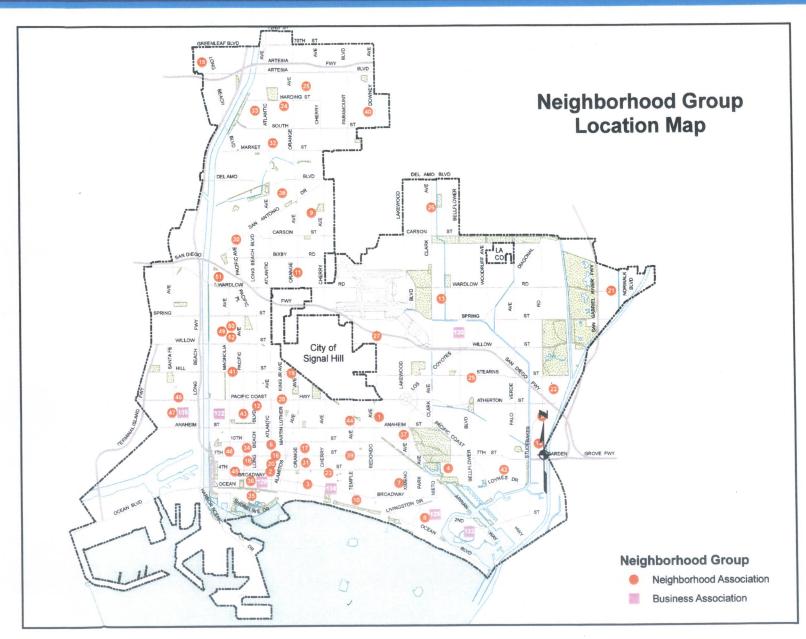


Community
Identification
Sign
in Your Neighborhood
or Business District

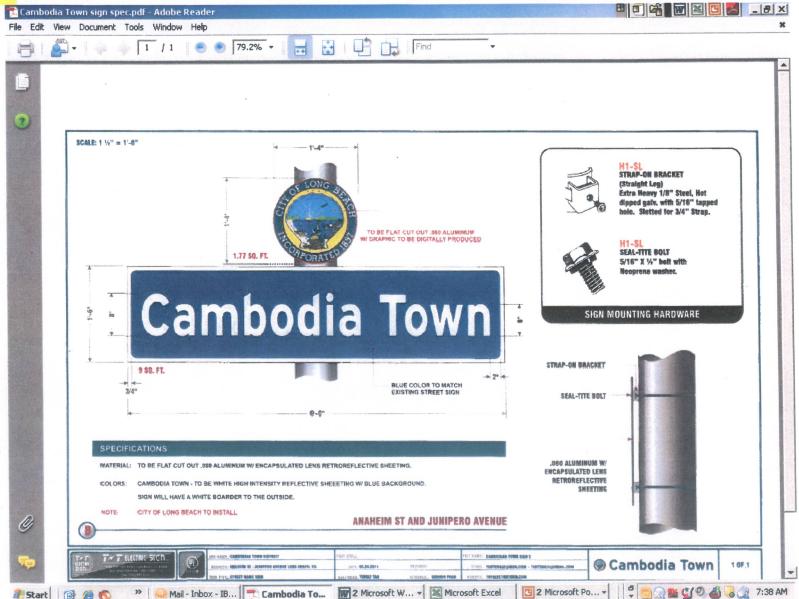














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The City's design guidelines for monument type signs specifies a height limit of 4 feet and a length limit of 9 feet Acceptable sign materials include wood, stone, and concrete. No internally lit box-type signs will be allowed. The sign must indicate that the community is a part of the City of Long Beach.

Contact:

562-570-6996
City of Long Beach
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Engineering
333 West Ocean Blvd, 10th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

This information is available in an alternative format by request. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 562-570-6634.

A Community Building Guide



How to install a

Community

Identification

Sign

in Your Neighborhood

or Business District

The City of Long Beach Municipal Code provides that communities with active associations and commercial districts may identify their area with signage placed in the public right-of-way within the parkway or a street median. Community groups and commercial districts are responsible for the design, installation and maintenance of their signs, as well as funding their signage project.

The signage type, materials and size are described in Chapter 21.44.105/.106 of the Municipal Code. Community identification signs are typically of monument form, while commercial district signage may be either monument form or freestanding (typically, pole mounted).

Planning and permitting for such a sign involves the bureaus of two City departments – both the Planning Bureau of the Department of Development Services and the Engineering Bureau of the Department of Public Works.

Design and neighborhood boundary issues are overseen by the Planning Bureau, while the Engineering Bureau addresses placement issues unique to public street right-of-way, including traffic lines of sight, maintaining an adequate path for pedestrians and wheelchair users, avoiding damage to underground pipes, and the structural adequacy of the sign foundation.

An installation and maintenance agreement with the Department of Public Works describes the conditions under which such signs are maintained. The principal provisions of the agreement are:

- The permission to install a sign is revocable in nature. If street improvements or other considerations require the removal of the sign, the City can terminate the agreement.
- The sign shall be maintained at the sole cost and expense of the community group or the commercial district.
- The community group or commercial district shall indemnify the City against any property damage or personal injury liability for the sign.
- A sketch showing the precise location and design of the sign(s) is attached.

As with any construction within the public right-of-way, a permit must be issued by the Construction Services Bureau to the licensed individual or firm carrying out the installation. Upon approval of the sign design and location by the Planning Bureau, and completion of the installation and maintenance agreement with the Engineering Bureau, the installation permit can be issued.

To begin the process of installing Community or Commercial District signage, please contact both the Planning Bureau at 562-570-6194 AND the Construction Services Bureau at: 562-570-6996, or Sue.Castillo@longbeach.gov.

An alternative to a monument type community identification sign is a location marker sign on a pole designed and installed by the City's Traffic Engineering Bureau. These standardized sign types can be installed directly by City forces at less cost than a monument-type sign, although private funding is still required. No installation and maintenance agreement is needed; this type of sign does not provide for the customized design of monument type design.

Placement of such signs on Caltrans (freeway) right-of-way indicating that the next exit leads to your community can also be arranged by the City's Traffic Engineering Bureau. Caltrans' specifications for such signs must be followed, and private funding provided.

If you wish to consider this type of signage, please contact Teresa Dennis at (562) 570-6331, or,

Teresa.Dennis@longbeach.gov.