

LAW DEPARTMENT



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FROM: Andrew S. Lee, Assistant City Solicitor
TO: Newton Zoning and Planning Committee
DATE: April 25, 2022
RE: Sign Ordinance Amendments

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that under the First Amendment of U.S. Constitution, content-based restrictions of signs expressing non-commercial speech are subject to the most stringent scrutiny. The proposed amendments to **Section 5.2** of the City Zoning Ordinance seek to appropriately permit free speech by creating a new definition for “noncommercial signs”, subject to certain dimensional and location controls.