



December 12, 2006

John Madigan, Director
Department of Law
One Government Center, Suite 1710
Toledo, Ohio 43604

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL & VIA FAX TO: 419/245-1090

Dear Mr. Madigan:

I write you on behalf of Toledo resident Jeffrey Nelson. Mr. Nelson recently contacted my office after receiving a document titled "Unlawful Signs – Order to Remove and/or Secure Permit" from the City of Toledo Division of Building Inspection on December 2, 2006.

That document explained Mr. Nelson is in violation of Toledo Municipal Code Section 1391.02(x), a prohibition against having more than one exterior sign on residential property. Currently, Mr. Nelson is displaying four individual signs, expressing his opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq, at his property on 2233 Robinwood Avenue. This document also instructed Mr. Nelson to remove his signs within 24 hours of receiving the Order.

The document in question goes on to explain that Mr. Nelson can appeal this action to the Administrative Board of Zoning Appeal and how he may proceed with such an appeal.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Mr. Nelson will not be formally appealing what he - and I - believe to be an ordinance that unquestionably violates his First Amendment right to free speech and expression. It is my opinion Section 1391.02(x), as applied to Mr. Nelson, is far too restrictive and stands very little chance of surviving a legal challenge in federal court.

However, it is my sincere wish to avoid prolonged and potentially expensive litigation over this matter, although my office is prepared to do just that. In the event the City of Toledo wishes to avoid such a scenario, my suggestions are as follows: 1) That the City of Toledo immediately halt all efforts to cite Mr. Nelson for his signs; 2) That the City of Toledo immediately halt all efforts to cite any other Toledo residents for similar signage and/or alleged violations of this type; and 3) That the City of Toledo City Council rescind this blatantly unconstitutional ordinance at its earliest convenience.

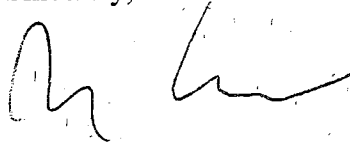
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I hope this situation can be resolved amicably and am available for further contact and discussion, if desired. Because it is my wish to resolve this matter sooner rather than later, I invite you to contact me at my office at 216/472-2220 or on my cell phone at [REDACTED].

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gamso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey M. Gamso
Legal Director

cc: James Gilmore, Chief Building Inspector, City of Toledo