



Department of Code Compliance

Illegal Roadway Signage Program Update

VA Code 33.3-1224

VA Code Ann 33.2-1224. Signs or advertising on rocks, poles, etc., within limits of highway; civil penalty. Any person who in any manner (i) paints, prints, places, puts, or affixes any sign or advertisement upon or to any rock, stone, tree, fence, stump, pole, mile-board, milestone, danger-sign, guide-sign, guidepost, highway sign, historical marker, building, or other object lawfully within the limits of any highway or (ii) erects, paints, prints, places, puts, or affixes any sign or advertisement within the limits of any highway is subject to a civil penalty of \$100.

- On March 11, 2013, the Commissioner of Highways and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement for the Board to serve as the Commissioner's agent for the sole purpose of enforcing and collecting civil penalties in accordance with VA Code 33.3-1224 Signs with limits of highways.

Sheriff's Community Labor Force

Immediately after the agreement a collection program was developed for the Community Labor Force (CLF) to collect signs on over 60 major roadways in the County. The CLF began collecting those signs effective July 1, 2013 (FY2014).

- During the first year (FY2014) approximately 19,438 signs were collected within the VDOT right of way.
- During the second year (FY2015) 33,604 signs were collected within the VDOT right of way.
- Thus far in FY(2016) approximately 27,621 signs have been collected.
- Due to volume of signage, the CLF added a second truck to the collection routes on February 12, 2016.

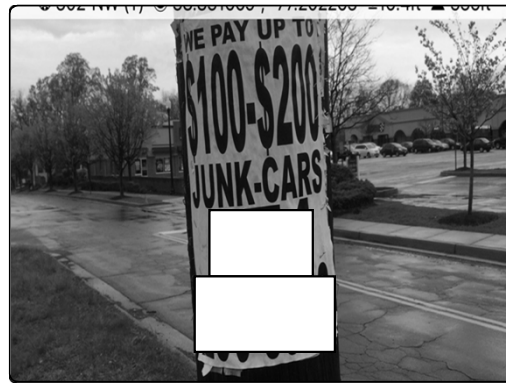
January 2016 -Present

Starting in January of 2016 the Department of Code Compliance started The Sign Removal Enforcement Pilot Program in partnership with the Sheriff's Community Labor Force (CLF). Signs located in the VDOT right of way were documented by DCC staff and collected by the CLF, weekly on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursday as described in the written agreement between VDOT and Fairfax County.

In mid-March the Sign Enforcement program started sending warning letters. Once the signs owners receive a warning letter they are provided 14 days to comply. If the sign owners continue to place signs in the ROW they will then receive an invoice.



Repeatedly Advertised Signs



Signs Affixed on Posts



Signs on Street Signs

As of May 3, 2016

- DCC staff has identified 29 sign owners who have placed signage within the VDOT Right of Way.
- DCC staff has sent 25 Warning letters to those sign owners via USPS Certified and Regular Mail.
- Conducting further research on 4 additional cases.

Invoicing Process

- Starting May 2, 2016, we began to issue invoices to sign owners who have failed to comply with VA State Code 33.3-1224.
- Invoices will include \$100 per unlawful sign.
- To date 5 sign owners have been sent invoices totaling \$6,000 in fines.
- Invoices are sent via USPS Certified and Regular Mail

Dispute Resolution Process

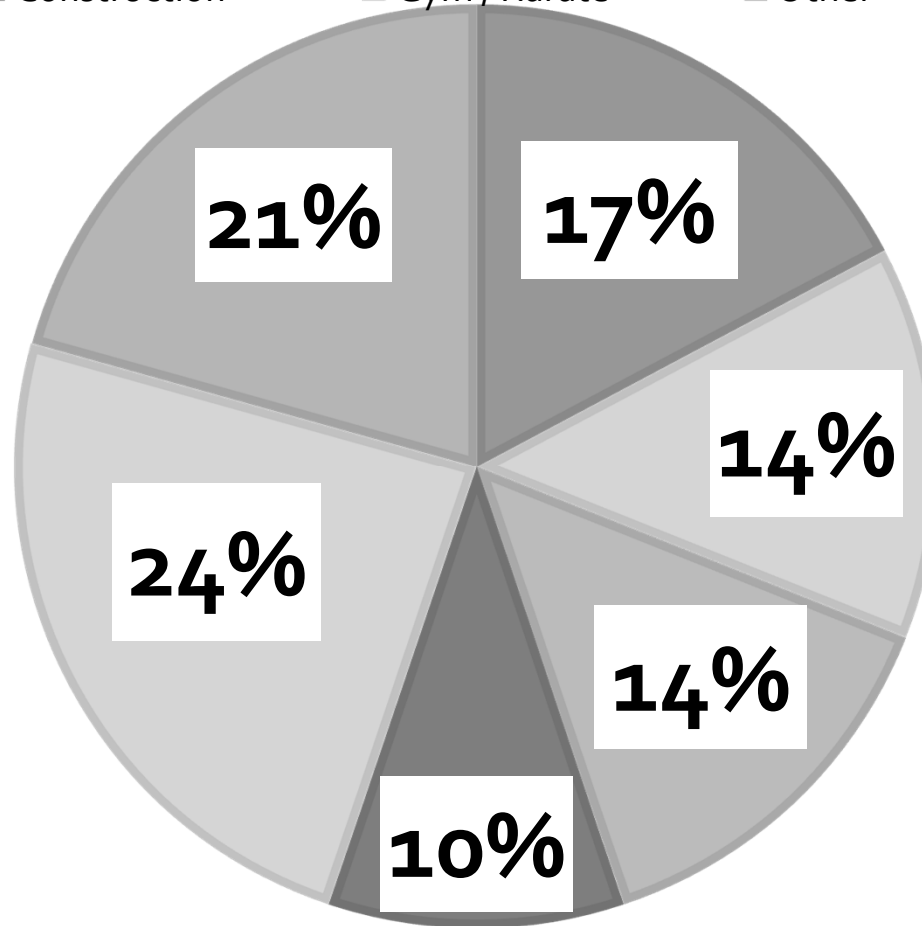
- **To dispute an invoice, responsible parties must notify the DCC Director in writing that the matter and/or the civil penalties assessed herein are disputed and the grounds for such dispute.**
- **Disputes will be resolved in accordance with all applicable laws.**

Unpaid Invoices

- **Invoices not received or disputed in writing by the due date (33 days after issuance) will be forwarded to the Fairfax County Office of the County Attorney for possible further legal action.**

SIGNS

- Realtors
- Construction
- Massage
- Gym / Karate
- Carpet / Furniture
- Other



Questions?