

# WASHINGTON SIGNS LLC

3286 M ST, NW #300  
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

December 14, 2012

By Hand Delivery  
and  
By Email to [policy.ddot@dc.gov](mailto:policy.ddot@dc.gov)

Alice Kelly  
Manager  
Policy Branch,  
Policy, Planning and Sustainability Administration  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Kelly,

Please find attached comments and suggested revisions to Chapter 9 of Title 13, entitled Special Signs in the *NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING* published by the Office of the Mayor on August 16, 2012.

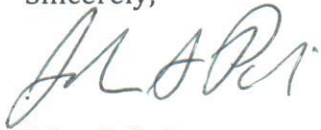
Washington Signs LLC is the owner of Special Signs permits authorized under the laws of the District of Columbia. Washington Sign's comments speak to our practical and working knowledge of the procedures governing Special Signs and process for transfer and artwork permits. For ease of review, Washington Signs is providing its comments in the form of a clean copy and a redline copy. Attachment A deals only with proposed Rulemaking for Chapter 9, Special Signs. Attachment B contains our proposed revisions to the other sections of the proposed rule. Attachment C address the issue of nonconforming vs. illegal signs that has been discussed in numerous meetings. Further, in the presentations made by the Working Group, we were advised to provide section-by-section review of the proposed Rulemaking and we have also included specific comments as appropriate.

Our understanding is that in order to respond to concerns of the Federal Highway Administration regarding the District of Columbia's sign regulations, the Working Group is proposing a consolidated Title to govern all signs in the District of Columbia. In this regard, all regulations would be set forth in Title 13 and the agencies and officers administering the different sections of the sign regulations would be clearly identified. We support this clarification.

Given this background, we noted in the Proposed Rulemaking that many sections were simply lifted in totality from current regulations even though certain portions of those current regulations are no longer applicable or in force. For example, in Chapter 9 governing Special Signs, the Proposed Rulemaking defines a Special Sign at 900.1 "as one of the thirty-two (32) Special Signs approved by the Director of DCRA". At section 902.4 of the Proposed Rulemaking, it states "No new Special Sign permits shall be issued after November 9, 2000." In complete contradiction to these limitations, the Proposed Rulemaking then sets forth a process for applying for NEW permits in section 903. In other sections of the , Proposed Rulemaking, there is no recognition of the procedures that are in place that function extremely well in the process for the approval of transfers and artwork. Thus, in addition to the deletion of the inapplicable portions of the Proposed Rulemaking, we have reorganized sections to align them with these current practices and procedures. We believe it is not the intent of the Proposed Rulemaking to create a new system of procedures but to clarify current policy.

Washington Signs' comments on Chapter 9 are submitted as Attachment A-1 (clean copy) and Attachment A-2 (red lined) . Washington Signs' comments on the remaining sections of the proposed rule are submitted as Attachment B-1 (clean copy) and Attachment B-2 (red lined). If you wish to discuss Washington Signs' comments, please contact Claude Bailey 202-344-8057 and/or [cebailey@venable.com](mailto:cebailey@venable.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Polis", written in a cursive style.

John G. Polis  
Manager  
Washington Signs LLC