

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA PLATA**  
**Emergency Ordinance 08-25**

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**Introduced By:** Mayor Roy G. Hale  
**Date Introduced:** December 16, 2008  
**Date Adopted:** December 16, 2008  
**Date Effective:** December 16, 2008

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1 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning

2  
3 **Temporary Moratorium on Enforcement of Certain Sign and Fee Regulations**

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5 **FOR** the purpose of imposing temporary moratoria, for a certain duration of time, upon the  
6 enforcement of certain regulations regarding the placement, location and duration of certain  
7 temporary signs in the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts, and upon the payment of certain  
8 fees for the issuance of certain sign permits; providing for the effective date of this Ordinance  
9 and the termination of the moratoria established by this Ordinance; and all matters generally  
10 related to the imposition of a temporary moratorium upon the enforcement of certain  
11 regulations relating to certain temporary signs in the Town of La Plata.

12  
13 \* \* \* \* \*

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, after giving consideration to the adverse effects of the economic downturn on  
16 businesses in the Town of La Plata, and to give the Town Council time to evaluate the efficacy of  
17 certain Town regulations relating to certain temporary signs, the Town Council wishes to assist Town  
18 businesses during and after the holiday season by imposing a temporary moratorium upon the  
19 enforcement of certain Town regulations relating to the placement of, location of, duration of, and  
20 payment of fees for the issuance of permits for, certain temporary signs in the CB, CBT and CH  
21 zoning districts in the Town of La Plata; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Town Council to suspend enforcement of certain  
24 provisions of Town Code as they pertain to “banners,” off-site “banners” and off-site sandwich board  
25 signs in the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts, and to any associated applicable permit fee, for a  
26 period to end on or before March 31, 2009; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Town Council to temporarily extend the time that  
29 “banners” are allowed be displayed in the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts to a duration coterminous  
30 with the moratorium established by this Ordinance or three (3) months, whichever first occurs; and  
31

32           **WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Town Council to allow “banners” and sandwich board  
33 signs to be displayed on off-site property in the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts, subject to the  
34 permission of the owner of such off-site property. Now, therefore:  
35

36           **SECTION 1: BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF**  
37 **LA PLATA** as follows:  
38

39           1.       As used in this ordinance a “banner” is a temporary sign defined in Section 191-61 of  
40 the La Plata Town Code and that has an area of not more than 32 square feet, and a “sandwich  
41 board” is a type of sign defined in Section 191-61 of the La Plata Town Code.  
42

43           2.       The moratoria established by this Ordinance apply to banners and sandwich board  
44 signs located or to be located on properties within the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts.  
45

46           3.       There is hereby imposed a moratorium upon the enforcement of the provisions of  
47 Chapter 191 of the La Plata Town Code so that the following will not be deemed to be a violation for  
48 the duration of this moratorium:  
49

50                   a.       The display of banner signs in the same location for a period of up to March  
51 31, 2009.  
52

53                   b.       The display of banner signs and sandwich board signs on property within the  
54 CB, CBT and CH zoning districts other than the property on which the business being advertised by  
55 the sign is located, provided any such off-site sign has received the permission of the owner of the  
56 property on which sign will be located.  
57

58                   c.       The inclusion of the area or number of banner signs in the maximum allowable  
59 area or number of temporary signs otherwise allowed on the property where the banner signs will be  
60 located, or that otherwise may be issued to any one business for the same site in any calendar year.  
61

62           4.       All provisions of the La Plata Town Code, including permit requirements, shall  
63 continue to apply to temporary signs and sandwich board signs in the CB, CBT and CH zoning  
64 districts except as expressly provided in Paragraph 3 above or except to the extent irreconcilably in  
65 conflict with the intent of Paragraph 3 above.  
66

67           5.       There is hereby imposed a moratorium upon the collection of a fee otherwise payable  
68 under Section 101-1.E. for the issuance of a permit for any temporary sign that is included within the  
69 moratorium established by this Ordinance.  
70

71           **SECTION 2: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE**  
 72 **TOWN OF LA PLATA** that the moratoria established by Section 1 of this Ordinance shall expire on  
 73 March 31, 2009, unless sooner terminated by further ordinance of the Town Council.  
 74

75           **SECTION 3: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE**  
 76 **TOWN OF LA PLATA** that, at least a majority of the entire Council having determined that an  
 77 emergency exists, this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the Council.  
 78

79           **ADOPTED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

**SEAL:**

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA PLATA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Roy G. Hale, Mayor**

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**James Goldsmith, Councilman**

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**Scot D. Lucas, Councilman**

**ATTEST:**

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**Paretta D. Mudd, Councilwoman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Vic E. Newman, Councilman**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_