



Fredericksburg Area Association of REALTORS®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAAR Supports Passage of Stafford Sign Ordinance

Fredericksburg, VA—(January 26, 2017) The Stafford County Board of Supervisors recently passed a new sign ordinance that protects Realtors® from onerous regulations and allows homeowners to easily advertise property for sale. The Fredericksburg Area Association of Realtors® actively engaged the Board and worked on compromise language that protects property owners and Realtors® and accomplishes the County's goals.

Stafford County began to rewrite their zoning ordinance pertaining to signs over the summer in an effort to comply with a Supreme Court ruling that said it could be discriminatory to regulate signs based on the words on the sign. Ordinances regulating signs have to be content neutral, based on other factors such as size and material instead of what the sign actually says. This presented a challenge for Stafford County because they need to treat all signs equally whether they're advertising real property or not. The language they settled on would have allowed for a temporary sign for up to 60 days and anything up for longer than that would have required a sign permit.

This language was quickly brought to FAAR's attention and the Association swiftly engaged with members of Stafford County's Planning Commission to let them know that the timeframe on a temporary sign absolutely would not work for real estate. Most properties do not close within 60 days which would mean that hundreds of sign permits would be required for anyone selling property in the County. The Planning Commission voted down the sign ordinance and FAAR engaged with members of the Board of Supervisors and staff to craft a compromise that would accomplish the County's goals while also allowing Realtors® to advertise property without the burdensome need for a sign permit.

After working extensively with Aquia District Supervisor Paul Milde, Garrisonville District Supervisor Laura Sellers, and staff from the Planning and Zoning Department, FAAR was able to negotiate a provision in the new ordinance that allows for a minor sign without a permit. The minor sign category has a maximum size of six (6) square feet, which encompasses the vast majority of real estate signs. Once this compromise was reached, FAAR spoke in support of the amended sign ordinance.

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About FAAR



REALTOR® - Is a registered trademark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS.



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The Fredericksburg Area Association of REALTORS® is a trade association representing more than 1,400 REALTOR® members and 80 Affiliates. Serving the city of Fredericksburg and counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, and King George, FAAR also has members working in the surrounding counties of Westmoreland, Louisa, Orange, and Prince William.



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