



Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Judge Arthur C. McFarland
Chief Judge
Sylvia D. Skeeter
Court Administrator

City of Charleston

South Carolina Municipal Court

Associate Judges:
Judge Joseph Mendelsohn
Judge Michael A. Molony
Judge Thomas P. Morrison
Judge Veronica Small
Judge N. Steven Steinert

Re: Snipe Sign Violations – Warning Notice

Dear Business Owner and/or Staff Liaison:

Snipe signs are leaflets, handbills, posters, flyers, announcements or any other advertising and informational materials that are tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued or otherwise attached to trees, poles, stakes, fences, buildings, or other objects, and the advertising matter appearing thereon is not applicable to the present use of the premises where the snipe sign is located.

Snipe signs are illegal.

Snipe signs are unsightly and are illegal advertising and signage. The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston, Article 4 Part 2, Section 54-404 lists prohibited signs as

- a.) Snipe signs;
- c.) Off-premise signs, except billboards as provided in Section 54-420; and,
- l.) Signs painted on or *attached* to trees, rocks or other natural features, telephone or utility poles.

Snipe signs cause visual blight and produce litter in the public realm and on private property, in violation of Sec. 14-2 of the Code of the City of Charleston.

We asked in a letter sent in July 2005 that venue owners and managers of all other organizations to stop the practice of placing snipe signs on or near their venue *and* to inform promoters or others who might attempt to advertise with snipe signs to cease this practice by directly communicating with them and also consider making it a part of a contract agreement. The letter further advised that if the practices of placing snipe signs continued, we would increase our efforts to enforce the law and prosecute violators. However, the practice of hanging snipe signs is still widespread. Over the last months, the proliferation has escalated. City staff regularly receives complaints on this issue from citizens, visitors to our city and commercial sources.

Enhanced enforcement efforts will be pursued.

We will increase our enforcement of the laws applicable to this type of illegal activity and will prosecute violators of these laws. In addition to the event promoters, the entertainment venues, including educational institutions, public or private organizations and other places where such meetings, events or concerts are scheduled, the band or speaker will be held responsible for the illegal signage.

This initiative becomes effective AUGUST 18, 2006. Any snipe sign found on or after this date will be removed and a ticket issued for the violation, requiring the party charged with the violation to appear in Livability Court. If found guilty, this violation could result in a 30-day jail sentence and/or a fine of up to \$1,087.00 for each illegal sign.

Help raise awareness against this type of littering and illegal signage. Please insist and require those associated with bringing entertainment to your venues or public speakers to your organizations not to advertise using off premise snipe signs and to keep Charleston beautiful.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Dan Riccio
Livability Court Officer

Please call 805-3226 if you have questions regarding the issuance of a violation for illegal signage and/or littering.
75 CALHOUN ST, 3RD FLOOR; CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401 • PHONE (843) 805-3226 FAX (843) 724-3772