



# TOWN OF AMHERST

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

5583 MAIN STREET  
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

THOMAS C. KETCHUM, P.E.  
Commissioner of Building

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## **TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, SCHOOL BOARDS, POLITICAL AND SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:**

This notice serves to inform you of the regulations and policy regarding the posting of signs as defined in the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance including but not limited to signs regarding political issues, school board issues, political or school board candidates.

Sections 7-8-2 and 7-8-3 of the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance contain the following prohibitions and regulations:

- Section 7-8-3(B.) – Political Sign – Definition: A temporary sign that supports or opposes any political candidate, political issue, political referendum or political party.  
Standards: (1) Political signs shall be placed only on private property. (2) Such signs shall not block any intersection clear sight triangle. (3) Such signs shall be removed within seven days after an election.  
*(Note: For information regarding the clear sight triangle, see the back page of this notice.)*
- Section 7-8-2(I.) – Prohibited Signs – Signs that encroach into the clear sight triangle as described in Section 2-5-1.
- Section 7-8-2(J.) – Prohibited Signs - Signs in the public right-of-way or on other public property.

For your further information, there are potential penalties for each violation of the zoning ordinance. Those penalties are as follows:

Section 8-16-1. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION. Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance or any regulation adopted hereunder is guilty of an offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$350 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 6 months, or both; for conviction of a second offense both of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than \$350 nor more than \$700 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 6 months, or both; and upon a conviction for a third or subsequent offense all of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than \$700 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both. Each week's continued violation shall constitute a separate violation.

Upon consultation with the Town Attorney, I have been informed that it is permissible for the employees of the Building Department to remove and discard illegal signs from any street right-of-way, public property or the clear vision triangle on a corner lot. This department will exercise that option as deemed appropriate.

On behalf of the Town of Amherst and in the interest of public safety, I ask for your cooperation in complying with the policies and regulations contained herein.

Thomas C. Ketchum, P.E.  
Commissioner of Building

November 15, 2006

## Clear Vision Triangle

A clear vision triangle is the triangle formed on corner lots between points on the front, side or rear lot lines 35 feet from the intersection of the right-of-way lines. Within that area no fence, wall, ornamental gate or portal, bushes, shrubbery or stored material shall be permitted higher than two feet above the average finished grade of the lot. Trees shall be permitted within the area only if maintained and trimmed so that no branches or foliage are less than eight feet above the average finished grade of the lot. No building shall be located within the areas, except that this restriction shall not apply above the bottom of the second floor nor to columns of a size required to carry the weight of upper stories.

