

ORDINANCE NO. 14,935

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, and amended by Ordinance No. 14,095 passed June 3, 2002, and by Ordinance No. 14,174 passed December 16, 2002, by amending Sections 102-410, 102-415, 102-416, 102-422, 102-423, 102-424, 102-425, 102-426, 102-427 and 102-430, relating to fees, locations, design and maintenance for bus benches.

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa:

Section 1. That the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, and amended by Ordinance No. 14,095 passed June 3, 2002, and by Ordinance No. 14,174 passed December 16, 2002, is hereby amended by amending Sections 102-410, 102-415, 102-416, 102-422, 102-423, 102-424, 102-425, 102-426, 102-427 and 102-430, relating to fees, locations, design and maintenance for bus benches, as follows:

Sec. 102-410. License and permit required.

No person shall install, construct, use or maintain in or upon the surface of any public street in the city any bench unless and until a written license or agreement to engage in the business of maintaining benches and a separate permit for each bench location is obtained from the city council.

Sec. 102-415. License and permit fees.

Upon the approval by the city council of an application for a license to engage in the business of maintaining benches in accordance with this article, the city treasurer shall collect a license fee in the amount set in the schedule of fees adopted by the city council by resolution, payable in advance, in lieu of all other license fees. Upon approval by the city council of an application to place any bench in accordance with this article, unless an annual lump sum payment is due to the City pursuant to an agreement between the City and a third-party bus bench provider, the city treasurer shall also collect, in advance, for each bench an encroachment or areaway fee as set forth in section 102-618 of this chapter payable annually on or before April 1 of each year. No refund of any fee shall be made except as provided in sections 102-420 and 102-426.

Sec. 102-416. Permitted bench locations.

- (a) A permit shall not be issued for any bench unless the location satisfies each of the following requirements:
- (1) No bus bench may be placed at any location other than a posted bus stop at which a bus regularly stops and for which the Metropolitan Transit Authority has made a written request for a bench.
 - (2) Benches shall be located at least two (2) feet from the curb and shall be placed so as not to obstruct pedestrian traffic flow or the cleaning of snow, ice, or debris from sidewalks.
 - (3) Benches shall be placed as close as possible to the posted bus stop, provided that no bus bench shall be placed more than twenty (20) feet away from the posted bus stop.
 - (4) All benches shall be placed facing the street on which the bus stop is located and shall be placed parallel to the curb to the greatest degree practical. If the placement meets all the other conditions, a bench may be placed at an angle facing traffic not to exceed thirty-five (35) degrees from parallel.
 - (5) No bench shall be positioned in such a manner that it creates a negative traffic impact.
 - (6) No bench shall be placed at any bus stop where a permanent bus shelter is also located.
 - (7) No location shall have more than one (1) bus bench.
- (b) Whenever a location ceases to be a posted bus stop or a location at which a bus regularly stops, then the licensee shall remove the bench within thirty (30) days of written notification from the City Engineer.
- (c) If an existing bench is removed, such bench shall not be replaced or relocated to another location unless the new bench and location meets all of the requirements of this code.

Sec. 102-422. Specifications for design, construction and installation.

No permit for the installation, construction, use or maintenance of any bench shall be granted by the city council unless the bench shall be designed to discourage vandalism and overturning. All benches shall be constructed in a manner so that no sharp edges, protrusions or corners will snag or in any way damage the clothing of or cause injury to anyone using or brushing up against the bench.

Any bench installed under the provisions of this article, or under a contract, shall conform to the following requirements:

- (a) The bench shall be a minimum of six (6) feet and a maximum of eight (8) feet in length, shall not exceed forty-two (42)

inches in height or thirty (30) inches in depth, and shall have a minimum seat height of sixteen (16) inches.

- (b) The bench shall be of durable construction, using materials satisfactory to and approved by the city engineer, and shall be firmly mounted on a paved surface in a secure manner that will prevent overturning or other movement of the bench.
- (c) The bench shall be placed on a paved surface, consisting of paving bricks, paving block, concrete, or other durable material approved by the city engineer, such paved surface to extend a minimum of two (2) feet in front of the bench along the full length of the bench.
- (d) The area between the bench and the bus loading area shall be paved with durable material and shall be wheelchair accessible in a manner approved by the city engineer.

Sec. 102-423. Maintenance of bench and surrounding area; administrative penalties for failure to maintain.

- (a) All surfaces of all benches shall be kept free of splinters, sharp edges or protrusions and shall be kept in a smooth and well-maintained condition at all times. The licensee or contractor shall inspect all benches on a regular basis, and shall promptly repair any damage or deterioration.
- (b) The licensee or contractor shall remove accumulated snow and ice from the surface of the bench, an area a minimum of two (2) feet wide immediately in front of the bench, and an area a minimum of three (3) feet wide from the bench to the street curb, within a reasonable time but in no case more than 48 hours following posting at <http://www.dmgov.org> that the snow ordinance is no longer in effect; provided, however, that in extraordinary weather circumstances the city engineer or the engineer's designee may provide additional time for removal under this section. Such snow or ice shall not be deposited upon the traveled portion of any public right-of-way, street, avenue, alley, public square or other city property within the city, but may be deposited in the public border area between the sidewalk and street.
- (c) The licensee shall keep the bench and the paved surface surrounding the bench free of trash and debris, clean and free of graffiti.
- (d) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (c) of this section shall subject the licensee or contractor to an administrative penalty as provided in the scheduled administrative penalties adopted by the city council by resolution.
- (e) Penalties shall be paid in full within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the notice.
- (f) Notice of violation, with the applicable penalty for such violation noted thereon, shall be issued to the violator by the city engineer, the engineer's designee or any police

officer. Service of the notice may be by regular mail or delivery in person. Such notice shall include:

- (1) a statement that the violator has a right to an administrative hearing regarding the violation;
- (2) a statement that the violator may file a written request for hearing as set forth in section 102-126.07. The request of hearing shall stay payment of the administrative penalty until the hearing is decided. If issuance of the notice of violation is upheld, the violator shall have 30 days from issuance of the hearing decision to pay the administrative penalty.

Sec. 102-424. Advertising.

Only such advertising matter shall be placed on benches that is ordinarily displayed in other advertising mediums. No bench shall display obscene statements, words or pictures. No beer, wine, alcoholic beverages, nightclubs, taverns or adult entertainment businesses as defined in chapter 134 of this code shall be advertised. No signs or words which shall confuse or distract traffic shall be placed on any bench. Advertising shall only be placed on the backrest of the bench, facing the street, and not on the ends of the bench nor the property side of the backrest.

Sec. 102-425. Objection of abutting property owner or neighborhood association.

If the owner of the frontage upon the street within a radius of two hundred fifty (250) feet from the location of any bench files a written objection with the city clerk stating that the business will be or is adversely affected by such bench, or if any recognized neighborhood association files a written objection with the city clerk for any bench located within or adjacent to the neighborhood association boundaries, the city council may, after notice and public hearing as provided in Sec. 102-426, in its discretion, revoke the permit for the bench and order the licensee or contractor to remove the bench within thirty (30) days. If the licensee or contractor fails to remove the bench within the 30-day period, the bench shall be removed in accordance with section 102-427 of this article.

Sec. 102-426. Order to remove.

- (a) The city council may in its discretion after notice and public hearing order the removal of any bench from any location whenever the bench is in violation of any ordinance or regulation of any of the sections of this Code or any other law or ordinance or for any other reason in the public interest; provided, however, that the city council shall give the licensee or contractor a period of thirty (30) days in which to complete the removal.

- (b) At least ten (10) days prior to the hearing required under this section, the city engineer shall send by certified mail with return receipt a written notice to the address of the responsible person designated in the application for the license. The notice shall state the address and telephone number of the city engineer; the basis for the proposed permit revocation; and the date, time and place of the hearing.
- (c) The paved surface that the bench is mounted on shall be considered part of the bench installation, and removal of the bench for any reason shall also require the licensee or contractor to remove the paved surface and to restore the border area to a condition that matches the surrounding border area, unless the city engineer directs that the paved surface should remain.
- (d) Any licensee whose permit for a bench location is revoked prior to the termination of the one-year period for which a permit fee is paid in accordance with section 102-415 of this article shall be entitled to a refund computed on the basis of 1/12 of the annual fees for the permit, multiplied by the number of unexpired months of the year.

Sec. 102-427. Failure to remove.

Upon the failure of the licensee or contractor to remove any bench upon expiration or revocation of the permit for such bench pursuant to this article, the city engineer may remove such bench and charge to the licensee or contractor the cost of removal and storage. Upon the failure of the licensee or contractor to pay the costs of removal and storage within thirty (30) days of billing, the city engineer may sell the bench and apply the proceeds to the cost of sale, storage and removal and shall return the balance, if any, to the licensee.

Sec. 102-430. Notification of claims against licensee or contractor.

The city shall, as promptly as possible, notify the licensee or contractor under this article of any claim filed against him or her which is alleged to have arisen from the installation or maintenance of any public bench of the licensee.

Sec. 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

FORM APPROVED:

Michael F. Kelley, Assistant City Attorney

T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor

Attest:

I, Laura Baumgartner, Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance (Roll Call No. 10-831), passed by the City Council of said City at a meeting held May 24, 2010 signed by the Mayor on May 24, 2010 and published as provided by law in the Business Record on June 7, 2010. Authorized by Publication Order No. 6896.

Laura Baumgartner, Chief Deputy City Clerk