

City of Cincinnati



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Rules and Regulations Governing Advertising Benches

The city is currently notifying companies that place advertising benches on public property of the recently revised Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 723-20 and giving them reasonable time to provide a list of existing benches that they believe comply with the new law.

Upon review of this list, records of existing permits, and each location, the City Manager will issue new permits for those advertising benches that meet the requirements of the new law and give them thirty days to remove benches that do not comply.

Concurrently, we are working with DCI and interested community councils in their efforts to place sponsored benches where seating continues to be requested and is appropriate. For more information, call your community council president or my office at 352-3255.

In the interim, citizens are advised to contact the city's customer service hotline 591-6000 to report illegal benches. We will include that information as we work to clear public property of illegal advertising benches by the end of the year.

Important aspects of the law:

1. The advertising bench must be in a zoning district that allows off site signage: CC-M, CC-A, CG-A, MG, and ME. All of downtown, residential areas, and most business districts do not allow off site signage.
2. An advertising bench cannot be placed in a location that is served by a park bench, bus stop shelter, or other advertising bench (i.e. one advertising bench per location).
3. An advertising bench can only be placed at bus stops and within 50 feet of a bus stop, as measured in a straight line on the same side of the street as the bus when parked for unloading/loading.
4. An advertising bench has to be at least 6 feet away from any alley, crosswalk, driveway, curb ramp, or sidewalk cafe.

More importantly, the law was updated to allow for due process for benches that do not comply with CMC Section 723-20. The new law governing the placement of advertising benches can be found in full online - Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 723-20. ([CMC Section -723-20](#)).

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.