

Ms. Rosemary Humkey
2460 Old Nazareth Rd.
Bardstown, Ky. 40004

June 25, 2014

Dear Ms. Humkey,

The Joint City-County Planning Commission of Nelson County (Planning Commission) is in receipt of your complaint to the Bardstown City Council and Nelson County Fiscal Court regarding the handling of your violation of the city sign ordinance.

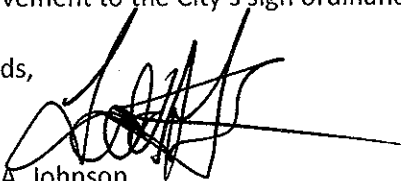
First, we would like to provide some background. At the request of the City of Bardstown, the Planning Commission is charged with administering the City's sign ordinance. Administration includes approval of all sign proposals and enforcement of the sign ordinance. Ms. Johnston-Crowe, as the Planning Commission Director and an employee of the Planning Commission, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the ordinance. Your business, being located in the City of Bardstown, is subject to the City's ordinance.

After some investigation, our understanding of the incidents described in your complaint lead us to believe that there exists some level of misunderstanding /misinterpretation of the events. On Saturday, June 7, Ms. Johnston-Crowe made an attempt to provide you advance notice of violation that could have afforded you an opportunity to avoid the more formal violation proceeding. It is now apparent to all involved that the attempt may have been a poor one. Ms. Johnston-Crowe is rather matter-of-fact in her nature and is clear in her understanding of the local ordinances with which she is charged to administer, to the point of a fault at times, when others are not so familiar with said ordinances. The incident was further clouded when you sought advice from your Magistrate and the County Judge. The violation is with the City of Bardstown's ordinance, not the County's. It is our understanding that you were advised by your Magistrate, using his understanding of the County's ordinance, which added confusion. Furthermore, your description of the events during your visit to the Planning office on June 12 cannot be confirmed. Ms. Johnston-Crowe's recollection of the event is merely a matter of fact discussion of the violation and the steps of remedy in the case of your continued disagreement. Her recollection is secondarily confirmed by administrative staff in the office that did not note any heated exchange and noted your demeanor as ordinary both coming and going from the office.

The above noted, the Planning Commission has advised Ms. Johnston-Crowe to conduct the Commission's business only in the more formal manner. In your case, that would have meant no informal stop by your business, but only a formal letter of violation and notification sent to the City's Code Enforcement Officer. Furthermore, your letter and attachments shall be placed in Ms. Johnston-Crowe's personnel file.

If your appeal of the violation to the City somehow brings better language, additional clarification, or other improvement to the City's sign ordinance, then we are all the better for it.

Regards,


Todd A. Johnson
Chairman, Nelson County Planning Commission

CC: The Honorable Bill Sheckles, Mayor of the City of Bardstown
The Honorable Dean Watts, Nelson County Judge Executive
Ms. Jan Johnston-Crowe, Planning Commission Director
Nelson County Planning Commission Executive Committee and file