

Guidelines to Regulate Newsrack Placement, Appearance in Irving

The safety and visual appeal of Irving sidewalks, bike paths and streets is expected to increase with the adoption of newsrack guidelines. The new standards will bring enhanced regulation to the placement, appearance and size of newsracks. Prior to the city's adoption of this ordinance—effective Jan. 1—newsracks have gone unregulated, blocking sidewalks and bike paths, and also have been reported as a source of litter.

The ordinance prohibits the placement of newsracks within 5 feet of any curb face or pavement edge of public streets. In addition, newsrack locations cannot interfere with public safety, pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

“The newsrack guidelines preserve the freedom of the press to distribute periodicals and newspapers while making Irving neighborhoods and streets more bike and pedestrian friendly,” said Guy Henry, code enforcement director.

The ordinance also addresses size, placement and appearance. Newsracks in Irving must remain free of graffiti and advertising, and must be painted or covered with protective coating. Noncompliant newsracks will be subject to impoundment and/or fines up to \$500.

To be in compliance with the ordinance, newsrack owners must complete an application and secure a permit with the city. Newsrack locations must be approved and verified prior to issuance of the permit, which must be renewed every two years. Owners may appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustments if permits are denied or revoked. The application fee is \$200.