

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Briefing Regarding the Regulation of Newsracks

DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development **DIVISION:** Planning Division

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Agenda Date : <u>4/8/03</u> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Work Session <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing – 1:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

This is a briefing to provide information to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on the need to regulate newsracks and to receive specific direction relative to its implementation.

BACKGROUND:

On August 23, 2002, staff briefed the BCC regarding the regulation of newsracks within the unincorporated areas of Seminole County. After researching these areas of potential regulation, staff requests further direction for the following areas prior to writing draft regulations.

1. Location of newsracks
2. Securing of the newsracks
3. Identify a specific design for free standing newsracks
4. Utilizing the multiple publication or modular style of newsracks adjacent to store fronts and building entrances
5. Identify the number of newsracks allowed to be grouped together
6. Identify the distance between groupings of newsracks
7. Permitting procedures for locating newsracks

Location of Newsracks

The location of newsracks adjacent to and within the public right of way should be regulated to ensure safe vehicular movement, safe mobility for pedestrians and disabled persons and to promote aesthetic uniformity. Regulations regarding the location of newsracks should, at least, include

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the maintenance of clear sight distance triangles and a specified amount of space needed to locate newsracks.

Securing of Newsracks

Newsracks should be secured to a concrete pad to eliminate them from being blown or knocked onto sidewalks, streets and roadways, and to reduce theft and vandalism. Securing the units to the ground would require bolting them onto a concrete pad as the City of Boynton Beach requires. Staff wishes to draft regulations prohibiting newsracks from being chained to one another or to adjacent structures such as light poles. For placement in the right of way, regulations should specify that newsracks may be allowed in the right of way where there is adequate space to safely place them on a concrete pad. Newsracks should not be located on public sidewalks without adequate space to maintain safety.

Style and Color

To maintain uniformity for newsracks that are freestanding and not internal to a shopping center or office complex, staff suggests utilizing the same unit specifications and the same color as the City of Sanford. Their newsrack ordinance lists the standards and specifications of those units referred to as the Sho Rack Model TK 80 or K 80 or equivalent, to be the units used in the historic downtown district in the uniform color of black. (See Exhibit A) Newsracks internal to a shopping center or office complex should utilize a modular newsrack that is able to hold multiple publications. (See Exhibit B) Colors for these units would not be dictated as to allow for a specific color theme as chosen by the development to prevail.

Grouping of Newsracks

The number of free standing units in a group should be addressed. The City of Sanford and the City of Winter Park allow three freestanding newsracks to be anchored to one another but no more than two groups of three in one location. Singularly, the cities prohibit more than six free standing newsracks at any location.

Distance Between Groups

Both cities require individual newsracks or groups of up to three newsracks to be spaced at least 125 feet apart on the same block and that clusters of four to six units to be placed at least 250 feet apart. The City of Clearwater maintains a 100 foot radius separation between newsracks with the provision that two metal units can be located side by side. In Seminole County, the current location of individual newsracks is, predominately, at bus stops along roadways in the right of way, not on sidewalks in a downtown setting. Other municipalities limit the number of the same publication within a certain distance of each other. Staff suggests continuing to allow the placement of newsracks near a bus stop but no closer than 0.5 miles to another newsrack. Also, the placement of newsracks at bus shelters should not occur directly across the street from another newsrack.

Permits

Finally, many municipalities require a permit be obtained and fees paid to locate a newsrack within their jurisdiction. The City of Sanford has an application with a \$30.00 fee to obtain a newsrack permit which also requires an occupational license within the city. The City of Boynton Beach institutes an application fee plus a charge per newsrack. These permits allow review of proposed locations of the newsracks to ensure adherence to the ordinance. We suggest that a permit process be instituted to regulate location inside of or outside of the right of way, number of units in a group, distance between groups, and the securing of the newsrack.

In closing, staff seeks direction regarding newsracks from the BCC in the following areas:

1. Location of newsracks
2. Securing of the newsracks
3. Identify a specific type of newsrack to be used for free standing newsracks
4. Utilizing the multiple publication or modular style of newsracks adjacent to store fronts and building entrances
5. Identify the number of newsracks allowed to be grouped together
6. Identify the distance between groupings of newsracks
7. Permitting procedures for locating newsracks

After receiving direction from the BCC, staff will draft regulations and provide them to representatives of the industry for review and comment prior to bringing them back to the Board for adoption.

(Attachments)



EXHIBIT "A"
City of Sanford Sho Rack Model TK 80 or K 80

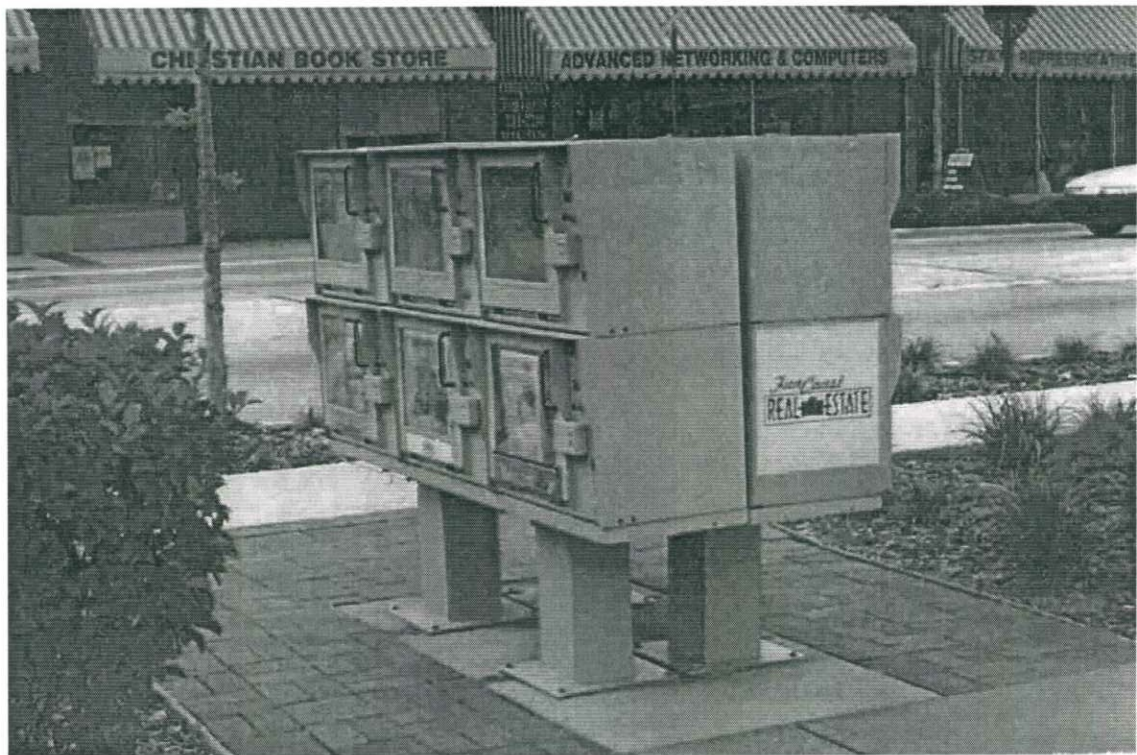


EXHIBIT "B"
Example of Modular Newsrack