



Office of Ellis County Judge Todd Little
For Immediate Release

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Corey Rogan - Public Information Officer

“County Increases Aesthetic Standards for Outdoor Business Developments”

Ellis County, TX – On October 18th, the Ellis County Commissioners’ Court approved a series of amendments to its Outdoor Business Order, which was last updated in 2006. These amendments incorporate higher aesthetic standards for outdoor businesses, which include fencing, landscaping, minimum masonry coverage for buildings, and signage, as well as a streamlined licensing process by the county’s Department of Development. Current properties that do not meet the updated standards will be grandfathered.

“Families who have lived on the same property for generations don’t want to be surrounded by new construction that diminishes the visual qualities of the home they worked so hard to build,” said County Judge Todd Little. “Our residents deserve the high quality of life that comes with these enhanced development standards.”

A major update made to the Outdoor Business Order is the new requirement that building elevations shall be composed of a minimum of 75% masonry for any portion visible from a public road. Additionally, fences surrounding such structures shall be composed of all engineered masonry wall with masonry columns; wooden, metal, or chain-link fences will no longer be allowed for new outdoor businesses. Fire lanes will also now be required to be made of concrete.

According to Alberto Mares, Director of Planning & Development for Ellis County, some aspects of the previous Outdoor Business Order needed updating to reflect the authority given to counties under state law for this particular use.

“State law requires that developers present us with a valid TCEQ certificate,” said Mares. “In addition, we wanted to ensure a quality product for these types of uses from the beginning and wanted to include detailed plans for drainage, phasing, noise mitigation, and water & electric services.”

The amended Outdoor Business Order was approved unanimously by commissioners on October 18th and went into effect immediately. To view the updated Outdoor Business Order, please visit <https://www.ellispermits.com/regs> or contact the Ellis County Department of Development at 972-825-5200.

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