



125 SW "E" Street, Madras, OR 97741 Telephone (541)475-2622 - Fax (541)475-1038

Madras Resident:

The Madras City Council recently adopted Ordinance No. 855, which took effect on April 24, 2013. This ordinance outlines the requirements for holding garage sales within the City of Madras.

The intent of this ordinance is to keep residents accountable for their garage sale merchandise, to maintain merchandise on private property, and to prevent advertisement/sign abandonment within the City's downtown corridor.

**Q: Why do we need to have an ordinance that regulates garages sales in Madras?**

A: A typical garage sale season (April to September), costs taxpayers approximately \$5,000.00 for City crews to collect abandoned garage sale signs around town. In addition, these signs are posted within public right-of-way, on regulatory signs, and on utility poles owned by utility companies. Other signs are left on sidewalks and intersections where they pose a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians. Without a regulating ordinance, staff is unable to keep people accountable for their sales and sale advertisement.

**Q: Does the ordinance regulate where and how residents can advertise for their garage sales?**

A: Yes, all garage sale advertising shall be displayed on the property of the residence where the sale is being conducted. No signs shall be placed within the public right-of-way, including (but not limited to) utility poles, regulatory signs, posts and/or décor (i.e. flower pots).

**Q: How many garage sales can residents have in a year? Why is the City stipulating this?**

A: Each residence can have up to five (5) garage sales in one (1) calendar year. Per the City's business license requirements, any residence that conducts more than five garage sales in a calendar year is subject to a business license. In addition, this limitation prevents residence from having "on-going," perpetual garage sales lasting weeks and/or months at a time.

**Q: Are residents allowed to display their merchandise on City property?**

A: No, all merchandise must be displayed on the private property from which the sale is taking place. No merchandise can be displayed in any public right-of-way including (but not limited to) sidewalks, alleys, and/or streets.

**Q: My neighbor's garage sales are noisy, annoying and excessive. How does this ordinance address this problem?**

A: Ordinance 855, Section 3.2 states that "*all garage sales will be conducted in a manner so as to cause no significant inconvenience, disturbance and/or annoyance to residents of neighboring property and/or the neighborhood in which the residence is situated. Garage sales will be conducted without the creation of excessive noise, air, water pollution, and/or unsightly conditions.*" This section also addresses residents' inability to impede the safe and orderly passage of traffic on any road or street in the area of the residence as a result of their garage sale.

**Q: How does the City intend to enforce this ordinance? What are the consequences of not following this ordinance?**

A: Violators may be served with a written warning and will receive a copy of the ordinance; however, the City has the right to fine violators up to \$100.00 for each such violation.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-475-2344 or email me at [spuddy@ci.madras.or.us](mailto:spuddy@ci.madras.or.us).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Puddy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" being more prominent than the last name "Puddy".

Sara Puddy,  
*Assistant to the City Administrator*

Enclosure: copy of Ordinance No. 855