

Planning Commission Staff Report

Date:

July 14, 2010

Case No.:

SI 10-053 Appeal

Type:

Appeal of Director's Decision on Sign Permit

Applicant:

Integrated Sign Associates

Location:

5001 East Ramon Road

APN:

680-170-044

General Plan:

RC (Regional Commercial)

Zone:

W-M-1 (Service / Manufacturing with Watercourse Overlay)

From:

Craig A. Ewing, AICP, Director of Planning Services

Project Planner: David A. Newell, Associate Planner

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Mr. Aaron Clippinger of Integrated Sign Associates, on behalf of Go Wireless, filed an appeal of the Planning Director's decision of July 1, 2010. The Director denied a sign permit request to allow main signage on three elevations of the northernmost pad building at the Gene Autry Plaza located at 5001 East Ramon Road. Specifically, the signage included:

- 1. North Elevation: Two main signs totaling 37.9 sq. ft. in size
- 2. East Elevation: Two main signs totaling 69.5 sq. ft. in size
- 3. South Elevation: Two main signs totaling 40.2 sq. ft. in size

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning Commission uphold the decision of the Planning Director denying proposed main signage for GoWireless at 5001 East Ramon Road.

Alternatively, the Commission may determine that the proposed verbiage constitutes one sign, subject to the remaining provisions of the approved Sign Program.

BACKGROUND:

On June 8, 2010, a sign application was filed by the applicant to install main signage on three building elevations of the northernmost pad building located within the Gene Autry Plaza at 5001 East Ramon Road.

On June 24, 2010, the applicant submitted a revised sign package request with reduced sign area of all three building elevations.

On July 1, 2010, the Director of Planning denied the sign permit request in writing (see attached letter). The applicant was informed of his right to appeal this decision to the Planning Commission.

On July 7, 2010, the applicant filed a request to appeal the Director's decision to the Planning Commission (copy attached).

SETTING:

The site, known as the Gene Autry Plaza, is an approximately 6.54-acre parcel located at the southeast corner of Gene Autry Trail and Ramon Road. The overall site consists of two major retail structures, two building multi-tenanted pad buildings, landscaping and parking. Surrounding land uses, Zoning, and General Plan designations are detailed below:

Table 1: Surrounding General Plan, Zones and Land Uses

	General Plan	Zone	Land Use
North	Regional Commercial	W-M-1-P	Shopping Center (The Springs)
South	Regional Commercial	W-M-1 (I.L.)	Vacant
East	Regional Commercial	W-M-1 (I.L.)	Home Improvement Store (Lowe's)
West	Industrial	W-M-1	Gas Service Station and Vacant

ANALYSIS:

The applicant submitted a sign package proposal for east tenant space in the northernmost pad building located at the Gene Autry Plaza, 5001 East Ramon Road. The signage included two main signs, a corporate name (Verizon Wireless) and a franchise name (GoWireless | Premium Retailer), on the north, east and south elevations of the building.

Based on the approved sign program, the tenant may have only one main sign per building elevation; therefore, the request to have two main signs, a corporate name and a franchisee name, is not permitted.

Additionally, the subject tenant space is allowed the following sign area for main signs based on the site plan provided:

Building Elevation	Lineal Frontage	Sign Area ¹ Permitted	Sign Area Proposed
North	30 feet	30 sq. ft.	37.9 sq. ft.
East	66 feet	66 sq. ft.	69.5 sq. ft.
South	30 feet	30 sq. ft.	40.2 sq. ft.

The proposed sign area exceeds the maximum permitted sign area on all three elevations.

Based on the aforementioned analysis, staff denied the applicant's sign permit request for Case SI 10-053.

APPEAL:

On July 7, 2010, the applicant filed an appeal of staff's decision. The applicant / appellant has provided three reasons why his appeal should be granted. Staff has listed those below with an analysis following:

1. The company in question has over 300 locations operating and doing business in the state of California including your neighboring cities, Palm Desert, Yucca and Blythe. All of these locations display the signage as requested here.

The Verizon company has had at least one phone store in the City of Palm Springs in the past but the approved signage did not include a franchise name that staff has found. Staff is unaware of any previous signage permits granted for Go Wireless within the City of Palm Springs, and unable to speak on policy for the signage permitted in other cities.

2. Verizon corporation requires the signage to be displayed just as shown on design # 15519-10r2. These signage guidelines are regulations in order to be a franchisee of Verizon.

The Zoning Code and approved sign program for the Gene Autry Plaza only allow a business to display one main sign. Two main signs are not permitted to be displayed.

3. With the economy the way it is, I am sure the city of Palm Springs would welcome economic growth, and a tax paying company with a 5 year lease.

The City welcomes new businesses and economic growth, however new requests must be treated consistently based on the City of Palm Springs Zoning Code and law.

¹ Sign Area: The area of a sign without a border placed on the wall of a building shall be computed by enclosing the entire sign within sets of parallel lines touching the outer limits of the sign message and computing thus enclosed... (Approved sign program, Gene Autry Plaza).

CONCLUSION:

Considering all the information contained herein, staff recommends that the Planning Commission uphold the decision of the Planning Director to deny Case No. SI 10-053, to allow the installation of two main signs, which exceed the maximum sign area permitted, on three elevations of the northernmost pad building at 5001 East Ramon Road.

If the Commission determines that the proposed verbiage, "Verizon Wireless GoWireless Premium Store" constitutes one sign, staff recommends that it be subject to the remaining provisions of the Sign Program for the Gene Autry Plaza center. This would require a reduction in area of the proposed signs, as indicated on the above chart.

David A. Newell
Associate Planner

Graig A. Ewing, MCP Director of Planning Services

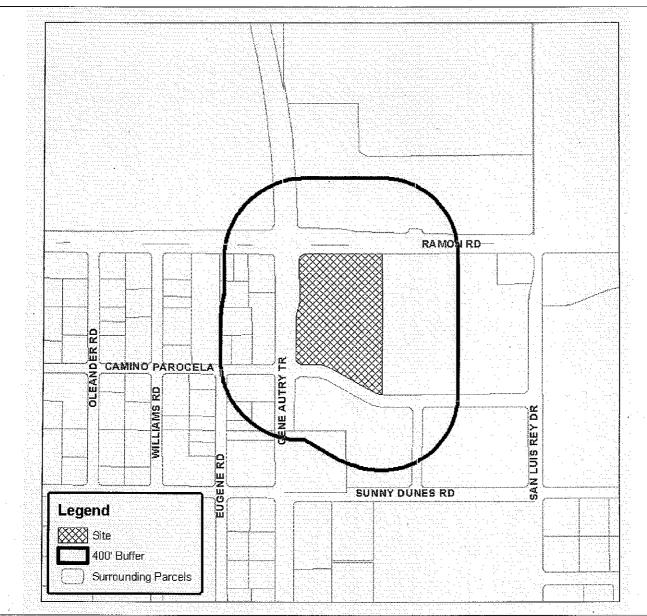
ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. 400' Vicinity Map
- 2. Staff Denial Letter
- 3. Draft Resolution of Denial
- 4. Appeal Letter
- 5. Proposed Plans



Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map





CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

CASE:

SI 10-053

APPLICANT: Integrated Sign

Associates

DESCRIPTION: An appeal of the Director of Planning Services' decision to deny main signage for Go Wireless proposed to be located at 5001 East Ramon Road, W-M-1, Section 20.



City of Palm Springs

Department of Planning Services

3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, California 92262 Tel: (760) 323-8245 • Fax: (760) 322-8360 • Web: www.palmsprings-ca.gov

July 1, 2010

Mr. Aaron Clippinger Integrated Sign Associates 1160 Pioneer Way, Suite M El Cajon, California 92020-1944

RE: Case No. SI 10-053; 5001 Ramon Road

Verizon Wireless | Go Wireless Signage Permit

Mr. Clippinger,

On June 8, 2010, the City received your application for new signage for the property located at the above address. Staff also received your revised request on June 24, 2010. Specifically, you have requested to install signage on three elevations of the northernmost pad building as follows:

- 1. North Elevation: Two main signs totaling 37.9 sq. ft. in size
- 2. East Elevation: Two main signs totaling 69.5 sq. ft. in size
- 3. South Elevation: Two main signs totaling 40.2 sq. ft. in size

Staff has reviewed the request in accordance with the approved sign program, and determined that the business may have only one main sign per building elevation. The request includes two main signs (Verizon Wireless and GoWireless | Premium Retailer) on all three building elevations.

Additionally, the signs program allows one square foot of sign area per lineal foot of building frontage. The subject tenant space is permitted the following main signage based on the site plan provided:

Building Elevation	Lineal Frontage	Sign Area ¹ Permitted	Sign Area Proposed
North	30 feet	30 sq. ft.	37.9 sq. ft.
East	66 feet	66 sq. ft.	69.5 sq. ft.
South	30 feet	30 sq. ft.	40.2 sq. ft.

The proposed sign area exceeds the maximum permitted sign area on all three elevations.

¹ Sign Area: The area of a sign without a border placed on the wall of a building shall be computed by enclosing the entire sign within sets of parallel lines touching the outer limits of the sign message and computing thus enclosed... (Approved sign program, Gene Autry Plaza).

From this analysis, your request is **DENIED**.

Please note that you may appeal this decision to the Planning Commission within 10 working days of the date of this letter. Your appeal must be filed in writing no later than July 21, 2010, and include any applicable filing fee.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact David A. Newell at (760) 323-8245.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Ewing, AICP

Director of Planning Services

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA DENYING AN APPEAL BY INTEGRATED SIGN ASSOCIATES AND UPHOLDING THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING SERVICES TO DENY CASE NO. SI 10-053, TO INSTALL MAIN SIGNAGE FOR GO WIRELESS AT 5001 EAST RAMON ROAD.

WHEREAS, Integrated Sign Associates ("Applicant") filed a sign application with the City pursuant to Section 94.04.00(E) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code to install main signage on three elevations of the northernmost pad building within the Gene Autry Plaza located at 5001 East Ramon Road (APN: 680-170-044), Zone W-M-1, Section 20; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2010, the Director of Planning Services denied the request to install the main signage as follows:

- 1. North Elevation: Two main signs totaling 37.9 sq. ft. in size;
- 2. East Elevation: Two main signs totaling 69.5 sq. ft. in size;
- 3. South Elevation: Two main signs totaling 40.2 sq. ft. in size;

and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2010, Integrated Sign Associates ("Appellant") filed an appeal of the decision of the Director of Planning Services to deny the request for main signage; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2010, the Planning Commission held a public meeting on the appeal, at which meeting the Commission considered the staff report, related materials and exhibits, and public testimony on the matter.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEREBY FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Section 1:</u> That the decision by the Director of Planning Services to deny the sign permit request was justified based on the following:

- 1. Based on the approved sign program, the tenant may have only one main sign per building elevation; therefore, the request to have two main signs, a corporate name and a franchisee name, is not permitted.
- 2. Additionally, the subject tenant space is permitted the following sign area for main signs based on the site plan provided:

Building Elevation	Lineal Frontage	Sign Area ¹ Permitted	Sign Area Proposed
North	30 feet	30 sq. ft.	37.9 sq. ft.
East	66 feet	66 sq. ft.	69.5 sq. ft.
South	30 feet	30 sq. ft.	40.2 sq. ft.

The proposed sign area exceeds the maximum permitted sign area on all three elevations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing, the Planning Commission hereby rejects the appeal and upholds the decision of the Director of Planning Services to deny Case No. SI 10-053 to install the aforementioned main signage at 5001 East Ramon Road.

ADOPTED this 14th day of July, 2010.

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services

¹ Sign Area: The area of a sign without a border placed on the wall of a building shall be computed by enclosing the entire sign within sets of parallel lines touching the outer limits of the sign message and computing thus enclosed... (Approved sign program, Gene Autry Plaza).



1160 Pioneer Way, Suite M, El Cajon, California 92020-1944 www.isasign.com | 619.579.2229 fax 619.579.7651

MECEWED

July 7th, 2010

David A. Newell City of Palm Springs 3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way Palm Springs CA 92263-2743 JUL 0 8 2010

PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Regarding Case # SI 10-053 5001 Ramon Road

Dear David:

I have received your letter for denial and I would like to have this appealed to the committee hearing on July 14th. This appeal is on the following grounds:

- The company in question has over 300 locations operating and doing business in the state of California including your neighboring cities, Palm Desert, Yucca and Blythe. All of these locations display the signage as requested here.

- Verizon corporation requires the signage to be displayed/just as shown on design# 15519-10r2.

- With the economy the way it is, I am sure the city of Palm Springs would welcome economic growth, and a tax paying company with a 5 year lease.

I have also enclosed in this email the new design with the correct square footage requirements to meet the square footage requirements to meet the square footage restrictions as mentioned in the denial letter. Thank you were the square footage requirements to meet the square footage requirements and the square footage requirements the square footage requirements the square footage requirements and the square footage requirements are square footage.

Sincerely,

Aaron Clippinger Vice President

Integrated Sign Associates

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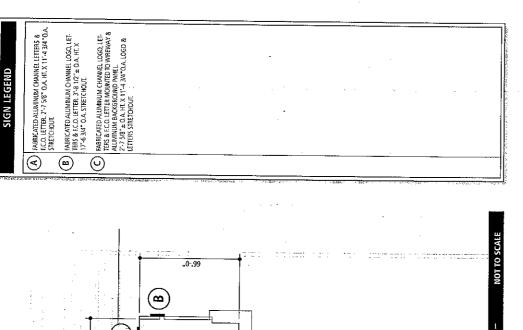
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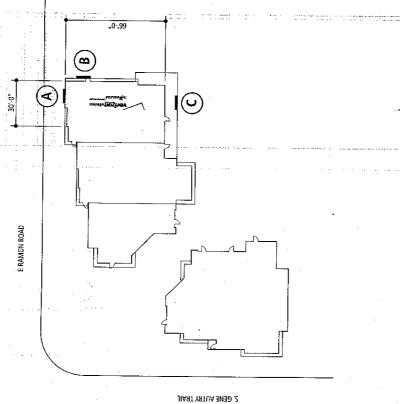
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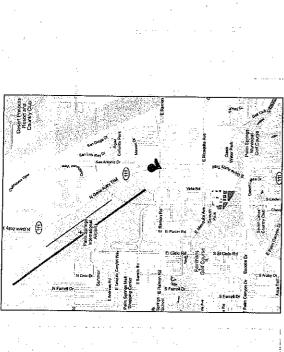


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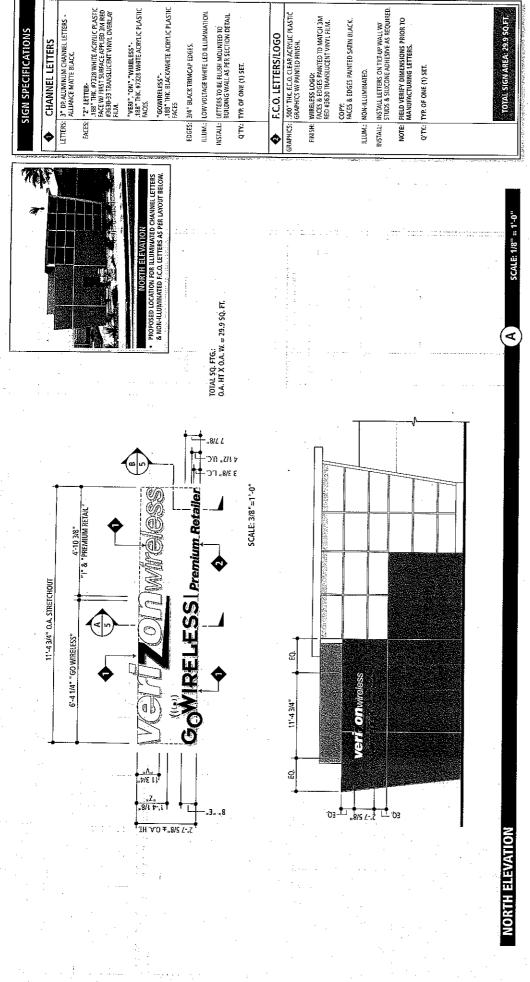




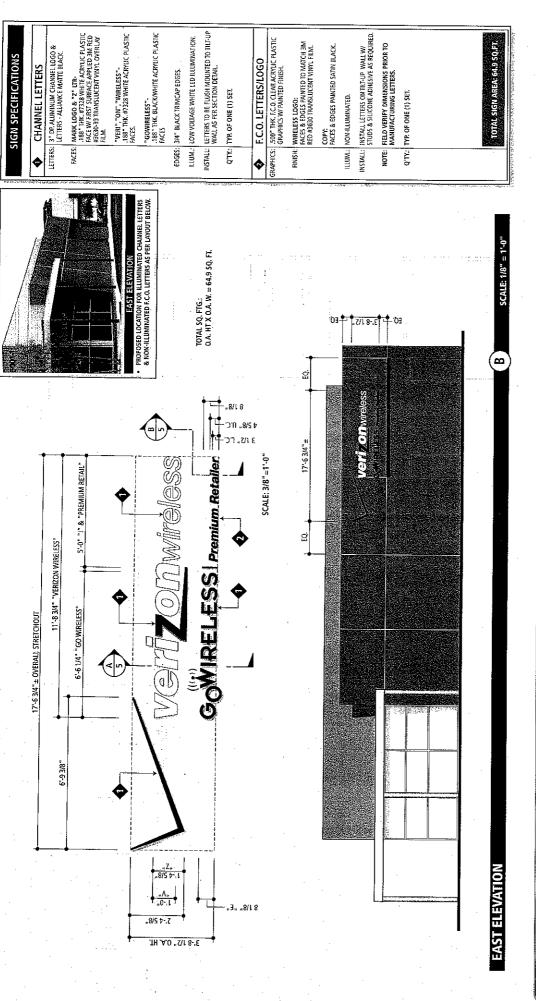


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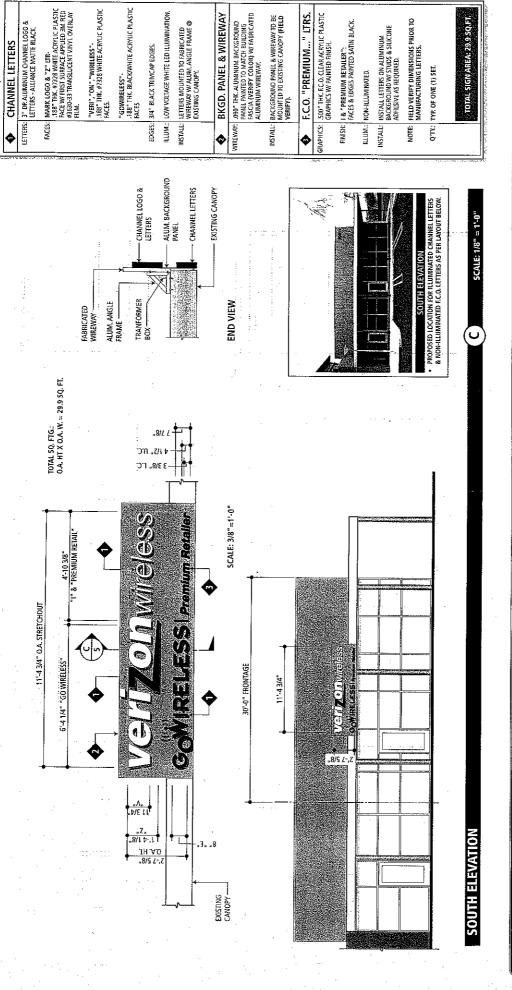
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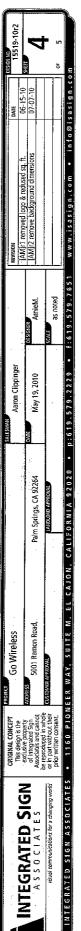
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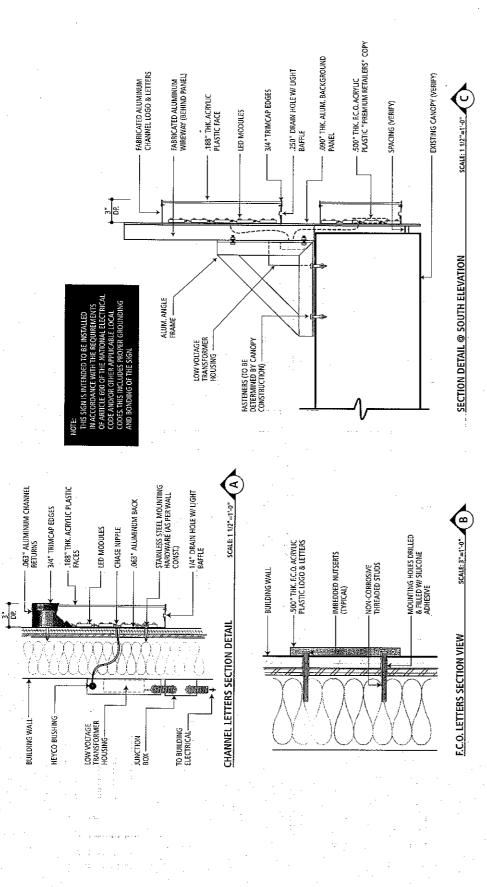






SIGN SPECIFICATIONS





SIGN CONSTRUCTION DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS

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