

JAN 21 2008

ORDINANCE NO. 2626

**AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A SIGN VARIANCE TO THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS TO ALLOW THE  
CHURCH TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A MONUMENT  
SIGN AT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY LOCATED ON CHERRY  
STREET IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS WHICH  
SIGN EXCEEDS THE SIGN AREA ALLOWANCE  
PRESCRIBED BY THE CITY'S SIGN CODE**

WHEREAS, Sub-Section (I), of Section 15.44.170 (Permitted Street Graphics) of the City of Columbia, Illinois (the "City") Sign Code restricts the total area of institutional signs which a religious institution in the City is permitted to display on the premises of the institution to not to exceed twenty-four (24) square feet;

WHEREAS, the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church of Columbia, Illinois (the "Church") has requested a variance from the City's City Council to allow the Church to display a institutional monument sign at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church Cemetery on Cherry Street in the City, which will have a total sign area of fifty-two (52) square feet;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirement of Section 15.44.380 of the City's Sign Code, a public hearing with regard to the variance request was held before the Street Graphics Committee of the City on December 13, 2007 at the Columbia City Hall and the members of the Street Graphics Committee in attendance at the public hearing unanimously recommended to the City's City Council that the variance be granted;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Section 15.44.380 of the City's Sign Code, the City's City Council has found and determined and does hereby declare, based upon the evidence presented, that special circumstances involving the size, shape, topography, location and surroundings of the property involved in the sign variance request will result in an unreasonable or unnecessary hardship if the variance is not granted, including the following:

- (1) The open land and natural topography at the location of the proposed new monument sign will easily accommodate the proposed sign in a natural setting which will have an open and uncluttered appearance after the installation of the sign;
- (2) The sign will be an enhancement to the appearance of the cemetery and the neighborhood and will be a welcome property improvement;
- (3) The sign will be located fifteen feet (15') from the nearest right of way of Cherry Street and will not obstruct the vision of motorist; will not cause injury to the value of property in the vicinity of the sign; nor be

*Wiley J. Jaffee*  
City Clerk

detrimental to the public safety or welfare and the neighborhood in which it is located in.

(4) No resident of the neighborhood or any other person or party has appeared at the public hearing or filed in the transcript of the hearing any objection or protest to the granting of the requested sign variance.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate that the City Council of the City enact this ordinance to grant the sign variance requested by the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church involved herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1.** The recitals contained above in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby incorporated herein by reference, the same as if set forth in this Section of this Ordinance verbatim, as findings of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois.

**Section 2.** The Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church of Columbia, Illinois is hereby granted a variance or special exception to allow the Church to install and maintain an institutional monument sign to be located at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church Cemetery on Cherry Street in the City of Columbia, Illinois; which sign will have display surface area of approximately 52 square feet in accordance with the "Request for Sign Variance Application" filed with the City Clerk by Reverend Carl Scherrer, which said sign is more particularly described and depicted in said "Request for Sign Variance Application".

**Section 3.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval, as provided by law.

Alderman Oberfell moved the adoption of the above and foregoing Ordinance; the motion was seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, and the roll call vote was as follows:

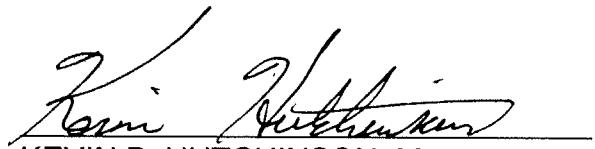
YEAS: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberfell, Stumpf and Mayor Hutchinson.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 21st day of January, 2008.



KEVIN B. HUTCHINSON, Mayor

ATTEST:



WESLEY J. HOEPFKEN, City Clerk

(SEAL)