



## City of Punta Gorda, Florida

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June 6, 2016

Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Board of Realtors  
3320 Loveland Blvd  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Re: Open House off-premises signs – City of Punta Gorda

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2008, City Council adopted ordinances to allow off-premises open house signs due to the decline in the real estate market at that time. The ordinance was set to sunset two years from the date of adoption. In 2010, it was determined that the real estate market had not yet recovered, and the ordinance was extended until November 2012.

In February 2013, City Council discussed the off-premises open house real estate signs and decided due to the number of illegal signs being put out in the right-of-way, that the ordinance would not be renewed.

In March 2013, City Council reconsidered and directed staff to bring an ordinance back for consideration. Ordinance 1760-13 was adopted allowing the continued use of off-premises open house real estate signs to help the sale of existing homes as the decline in the real estate market had not yet recovered. This ordinance will sunset on July 3, 2016.

At the June 1, 2016 City Council meeting, discussion ensued regarding another extension of the ordinance. The City Attorney opined that the City should not renew this ordinance because it could be in conflict with federal sign regulations of content based signage. Based on the City Attorney's opinion, GPS technology and the economic upturn, City Council decided that ordinance 1760-13 would ***not*** be renewed. Therefore, beginning July 4, 2016, off-premises open house real estate signs will no longer be permitted within the City limits of the City of Punta Gorda.

We trust this action will not deter from the ability of the real estate community to sustain its viability within the City.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

*Respectfully,*  
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