

Office of Outdoor Advertising
Public Meeting

February 14, 2019

11:00 AM

State Transportation Building

10 Park Plaza

2nd Floor

Boston, MA 02116

Present:

John Romano, Executive Director

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 JOHN ROMANO: Good morning, everyone.

4 My name is John Romano. I am the Director of Outdoor
5 Advertising for MassDOT. We are here today for the
6 February 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m. public hearing.

7 If you haven't already, there are sign-
8 in sheets on the table to my left along with today's
9 agenda and a copy of the regular session minutes from
10 the January 10, 2019 meeting.

11 This meeting is accessible to people
12 with disabilities and individuals with limited English
13 proficiency. If you filed a request with us for
14 assistive technology, sign language, alternate format
15 documents, an interpreter, translated documents, or
16 other such services to be available here today, please
17 see Lydia to my right if you have not yet received the
18 assistance you needed.

19 Lydia, I don't believe we received any
20 advance requests.

21 LYDIA QUIRK: No.

22 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. We also can have
23 amplification devices available if you may need them.
24 If you need any other similar assistance to

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 participate today, please let Lydia know. We will do
2 our best to help you. But, of course, if we know
3 about it ahead of time, we can make sure that we have
4 stuff for you. So, thank you very much.

5 So, first on the agenda is minute
6 approval from the January 10, 2019 OOA public hearing.
7 Any questions, comments, concerns?

8 (No response.)

9 JOHN ROMANO: Seeing none, we will mark
10 those approved.

11 Next on the agenda is an application
12 for a new license, Carroll Advertising, LLC, 415
13 Neponset Avenue, Boston, MA.

14 Is anybody here representing the
15 applicant?

16 JOHN CARROLL: John Carroll, Carroll
17 Advertising.

18 JOHN ROMANO: Got that?

19 STENOGRAPHER: Last name?

20 JOHN ROMANO: Say your name louder,
21 John.

22 JOHN CARROLL: It's John Carroll from
23 Carroll Advertising.

24 JOHN ROMANO: John, you submitted your

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 application. We reviewed all the paperwork. We have
2 your W9. We have your Certificate of Good Standing
3 and Tax Compliance. Everything seems to be in order.
4 We got your payment for the appropriate fee.

5 Do you have anything you'd like to add
6 to your application at this time?

7 JOHN CARROLL: No, sir.

8 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. We will take this
9 under advisement and get back to you.

10 JOHN CARROLL: Thank you.

11 JOHN ROMANO: You're welcome.

12 Next on the agenda, we have an
13 application for four permits from JNJ Media, all at
14 700 Oak Street in Brockton. We are going to do them
15 in pairs. So, 2018214 and 2018215, we will do
16 together.

17 Okay. Notice was sent by my office to
18 the mayor and the clerk on 1/7/2019.

19 Is the applicant present?

20 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Yes.

21 JOHN ROMANO: Please stand up and state
22 your name for the record, sir.

23 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Joseph Diderot from
24 JNJ Media. Joseph Diderot.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 STENOGRAPHER: Spell the last name.

2 JOSEPH DIDEROT: D-i-d-e-r-o-t.

3 JOHN ROMANO: Thank you, Joe.

4 Is there anyone here representing the
5 municipality where the sign is being proposed?

6 (No response.)

7 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Are there any
8 abutters present today?

9 (No response.)

10 JOHN ROMANO: Is anyone present from
11 the District Office, our Highway District?

12 (No response.)

13 JOHN ROMANO: No. Okay. Traffic
14 Operations have not reviewed because these are static
15 boards and so there is no review on these.

16 Mr. Diderot, was certified mail notice
17 to abutters sent out by you at least 30 days prior to
18 submitting your application to the Office of Outdoor
19 Advertising?

20 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Yes, sir.

21 JOHN ROMANO: And you did submit a copy
22 of the post office receipts to us, so we do have
23 those.

24 JOSEPH DIDEROT: I did.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 JOHN ROMANO: You also provided us with
2 a copy of the letter that you sent out. So, thank
3 you. We have that in the file as well.

4 Have you received any written comments
5 in support or opposition to these boards?

6 JOSEPH DIDEROT: I have not.

7 JOHN ROMANO: And have you provided a
8 copy of the special permit that you received from the
9 City?

10 JOSEPH DIDEROT: I did.

11 JOHN ROMANO: Yes, and we do have that
12 in the record. We did review it. And that's in the
13 file as well. So, thank you. And that was a special
14 permit, not a variance for that. Thank you.

15 At this time, I am going to have my
16 inspector, Marc Plante, give his report on these two
17 applications.

18 MARC PLANTE: Thank you, John.

19 This application is for two single
20 static signs on a monopole in Brockton, facing Route
21 24, one north and one south. The area is of business
22 character. There are two businesses within 500 feet
23 of the sign location. There are no parks,
24 playgrounds, or recreational areas within 300 feet of

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 the proposed location.

2 As to the 500-foot rule, which will
3 apply because there is another application to the
4 south of the static board, the 500-foot rule will
5 apply. It has been addressed by a professional survey
6 company with a professional engineer's stamp. And
7 they will be 500 feet from the closest edge to the
8 closest edge, which will conform to the 500-foot
9 spacing rule.

10 So, it would be, with that, it would be
11 compliant to the regulations.

12 JOHN ROMANO: And I know, Marc, that
13 you were out there with the survey team when they did
14 this, and we do have the --

15 MARC PLANTE: Yes, I was, monitoring
16 it. Yes, I was.

17 JOHN ROMANO: And we do have the
18 stamped plans.

19 MARC PLANTE: Yes, we do.

20 JOHN ROMANO: So, we're confident that
21 we don't have any spacing issues.

22 MARC PLANTE: Exactly.

23 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Anything else?

24 MARC PLANTE: No, it's fine.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Great. Thank you
2 very much.

3 Mr. Diderot, is there anything you
4 would like to add to your application at this time?

5 JOSEPH DIDEROT: No, thank you.

6 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you.

7 Are there any questions, comments, or
8 concerns from the public?

9 (No response.)

10 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Seeing none, we
11 will take this under advisement and we will get back
12 to you.

13 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Thank you.

14 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Next in line on
15 the same property, 700 Oak Street, this is Application
16 2018216 and 217. This is on the southern end of the
17 parcel, if you would, for lack of a better way to
18 describe it. Notice was also sent on January 7, 2017
19 (sic) from my office to the mayor and the clerk.

20 Again, is the applicant present?

21 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Yes, Joseph Diderot,
22 JNJ Media.

23 JOHN ROMANO: Thank you, Joe.

24 Is there anyone here representing the

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 municipality where the signs are being proposed?

2 (No response.)

3 JOHN ROMANO: No. None. Any abutters
4 present today?

5 (No response.)

6 JOHN ROMANO: Is anybody here from the
7 MassHighway District Office?

8 (No response.)

9 JOHN ROMANO: Traffic Operations,
10 again, this is a request for two static boards, so
11 that's N/A.

12 Again, Mr. Diderot, was certified mail
13 notice to abutters sent out by you at least 30 days
14 prior to submitting your application to the Office of
15 Outdoor Advertising?

16 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Yes.

17 JOHN ROMANO: And, again, I do have
18 copies of those post office receipts, so thank you for
19 submitting them. And, also, a copy of the letter was
20 also submitted to us and we have it in the file with
21 the post office receipts. So, thank you.

22 Have you received any written comments
23 in support or opposition for these two boards?

24 JOSEPH DIDEROT: I did not.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 JOHN ROMANO: And, again, in this case,
2 again, a special permit was approved by the City of
3 Brockton, and you did submit that, is that correct?

4 JOSEPH DIDEROT: That is correct.

5 JOHN ROMANO: Yes. Again, I will go to
6 my inspector, Mr. Plante, to give his field report.

7 MARC PLANTE: Thank you, John.

8 Again, this is an application for two
9 single static signs attached to a single monopole
10 facing Route 24, both north and south. The area is of
11 business character with two businesses within 500 feet
12 from the sign location. There are no parks,
13 playgrounds, or recreational areas within 300 feet.

14 To the south, there is an existing
15 digital sign. And since this is a static application,
16 the 500-foot rule is in play. It has been addressed
17 by a professional engineer stamp survey company. And
18 closest edge to closest edge will be adhering to the
19 500-foot rule. So, it will be conforming to the
20 regulations.

21 JOHN ROMANO: Great. And, again, as I
22 stated on the other two applications, you were out on
23 site with the surveyor when this happened, and we do
24 have a surveyed stamped plan to attest to the spacing

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 so we, therefore, agree that there are no spacing
2 issues.

3 MARC PLANTE: Yes. Absolutely.

4 JOHN ROMANO: Thank you. All right.
5 Great.

6 Mr. Diderot, one thing I just wanted to
7 mention. While no one is here from our Highway
8 District on all four of these, they did send us an
9 email on these and just wanted to remind you that
10 should any tree trimming or anything of the sort be
11 needed, you will need to -- you will be subject to the
12 MassDOT sign policy and you will need a highway access
13 permit before you can do any of that. And so you will
14 need to deal directly with the District Office. And,
15 you know, should you get this permit here, that does
16 not give you the authorization to enter the state
17 property and do any type of trimming on our land. You
18 will need to deal right with District 5 directly.

19 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Understood.

20 JOHN ROMANO: And, Mr. Bill Travers is
21 the person from the District that you can speak with.

22 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Yes, thank you.

23 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Yes, sir. I'm
24 sorry I forgot to mention that previously.

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 Okay. Great. Anything you would like
2 to add to your application at this time?

3 JOSEPH DIDEROT: No, thank you.

4 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Any questions,
5 comments, or concerns from the public?

6 (No response.)

7 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Seeing none, we
8 will take this under advisement and we will get back
9 to you.

10 JOSEPH DIDEROT: Thank you.

11 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. We will get back
12 to you on all four of these. Thank you.

13 Okay, next we have Motivate
14 International. These are bike kiosks. They are in
15 Somerville, MA. There is, I believe, 11 locations.
16 Eleven, right, Lydia?

17 LYDIA QUIRK: There's 11.

18 JOHN ROMANO: Yes, 11 locations. I am
19 going to do them all together as I usually do with
20 these type of applications. They are Application
21 Number 2019001 through 011.

22 Notification was sent to the City of
23 Somerville on 1/14/19.

24 Is the applicant present?

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 (No response.)

2 JOHN ROMANO: No. Okay. Is there
3 anybody here representing the municipality?

4 (No response.)

5 JOHN ROMANO: I did have a conversation
6 with Brad Rawson from the City of Somerville. They
7 are fully in support of these, have signed off on all
8 the applications and are on board with all of the
9 street furniture requirements and also the exemptions
10 that we allow for street furniture, like abutter --
11 not needing to send out abutter notifications and
12 several things along those lines as we do with all of
13 -- most of the street furniture applications as long
14 as the municipality is on board with that, and they
15 are 110 percent on board, according to Mr. Rawson.

16 JOHN ROMANO: So, are there any
17 abutters present today?

18 (No response.)

19 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Is anybody here
20 from the Highway District Office?

21 (No response.)

22 JOHN ROMANO: Traffic Operations are
23 N/A.

24 And certified mail notice to abutters

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 are not required, as I had just mentioned.

2 Special permit or variance, the mayor's
3 office signed off that these are in conformity, as
4 they are without any special permit or variance
5 needed.

6 So, at this time, Chris, you did these,
7 right? My inspector, Chris Chaves, will give his
8 inspector's report.

9 CHRISTOPHER CHAVES: Thanks, John.

10 As you mentioned, these are classified
11 as street furniture, all located on city property.
12 They are a standard bike kiosk that we have here in
13 the city as well. Since they are street furniture,
14 they are not subject to spacing. The only requirement
15 is that they serve a public service, which the
16 bicycles serve a public service. So, there are no
17 issues.

18 JOHN ROMANO: Great. Thank you very
19 much.

20 Any questions, comments, concerns, or
21 anybody from the audience?

22 (No response.)

23 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Seeing none, we
24 will take these all under advisement. Thank you very

Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

1 much.

2 Okay. Next on the agenda is Item C is
3 renewal of Outdoor Advertising licenses and permits,
4 and D, Application for renewal of unlicensed Outdoor
5 Advertising permits.

6 Any questions on those?

7 (No response.)

8 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Great. Next item
9 is Number 4, for the record, actions taken since our
10 last public hearing. Any questions on those?

11 (No response.)

12 JOHN ROMANO: Seeing none.

13 Public comment? Any additional public
14 comment, questions, concerns on anything in the agenda
15 or anything related to Outdoor Advertising?

16 (No response.)

17 JOHN ROMANO: Okay. Seeing none, we
18 are adjourned. Thank you all very much. Happy
19 Valentine's Day.

20 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded
21 on February 14, 2019 at 11:17 a.m.)

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Office of Outdoor Advertising February 14, 2019

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Judith Luciano, do hereby certify that the foregoing record is a true and accurate transcription of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter to the best of my skill and ability.

Judith Luciano

Judith Luciano

**All names not provided were spelled phonetically to the best of my ability.