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**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

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**TO:** Mayor & City Council

**DATE:** November 29, 2011

**FROM:** John McDonough, City Manager

**AGENDA ITEM:** A Resolution Authorizing a Temporary Moratorium on Enforcement of the Prohibition on Certain Seasonal Lights and Decorations

**MEETING DATE:** For Submission onto the December 6, 2011, City Council Regular Meeting Agenda

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** (Attach additional pages if necessary)

See attached:

Memorandum  
Resolution

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**APPROVAL BY CITY MANAGER:**  APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPROVED

**PLACED ON AGENDA FOR:** 12/6/2011

**CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL REQUIRED:** (  ) YES (  ) NO

**CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL:** 

**REMARKS:**



To: John McDonough, City Manager

From: Angela Parker, Director of Community Development 

Date: November 22, 2011 for Submission onto the December 6, 2011 City Council Regular Meeting

Subject: Resolution Authorizing a Temporary Moratorium on Enforcement of the Prohibition on Certain Seasonal Lights and Decorations

***Background:***

The Council has determined that review of the existing provisions of the Ordinance related to seasonal lights and decorations is warranted. Currently, Article 33, Signs, provides the following:

SECTION 18: PROHIBITED SIGNS AND DEVICES.

The following types of signs are prohibited in the City:

- A. Balloons, streamers or air or gas filled figures.
- B. Signs consisting in whole or in part of a series, line, or row of lights, whether supported by cables or other physical means, within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a street and visible therefrom. Notwithstanding the foregoing, holiday lights and decorations displayed not more than thirty (30) days before a holiday shall be exempted from this Section.

***Discussion:***

At the November 1, 2011 City Council Work Session, staff presented recommendations on possible amendments to this section of the sign ordinance. Based on comments received from Council at that time and the approaching holiday season, staff is recommending a temporary moratorium on enforcement of the section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow staff time to develop ordinance amendments.

***Staff Recommendation:***

Staff recommends APPROVAL of a resolution to authorize a temporary moratorium on the enforcement of the prohibition on certain seasonal lights and decorations.

cc: Wendell Willard, City Attorney  
Cecil McLendon, Assistant City Attorney

STATE OF GEORGIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-XX-XX

COUNTY OF FULTON

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA,  
AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE  
ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN SEASONAL LIGHTS AND  
DECORATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Section 33.18, Prohibited Signs, of the Sandy Springs Zoning Ordinance restricts the use of balloons, streamers, air or gas-filled figures, and lines, rows, or series of lights; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that at this time it is appropriate to review the policy in the city code related to seasonal lights and decorations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to evaluate the extent to which seasonal lights and decorations are allowed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City shall put in place a temporary moratorium during a set evaluation period to allow display of seasonal lights and decorations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City intends for this moratorium to be a short-term measure to commence with the authorization of this resolution and expiring January 15, 2012 and desires to use this specific time period to analyze the current ordinance, clarify the intent of the policy, and develop a text amendment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT SO RESOLVED BY THIS COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA, AND IT IS RESOLVED BY THE AUTHORITY OF SAID COUNCIL THAT:**

By passage of this resolution, the City of Sandy Springs Mayor and City Council authorize placing a temporary moratorium on the enforcement of the prohibition of certain seasonal lights and decorations as follows:

Stationary, anchored air or gas filled figures not exceeding fifteen (15) feet in height per lot shall be permitted. Said figures shall not be permitted on the roofs of buildings.

Series, lines, or rows of lights, whether supported by cables or other physical means shall be permitted, within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a street and visible therefrom.

**RESOLVED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

Approved:

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Eva Galambos, Mayor

Attest:

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Michael Casey, City Clerk

Seal: