

Flags disallowed over advertising issue

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KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) - The city didn't mind the flags placed along city streets by a real estate company for a July Fourth promotion; it was the advertising that went along with it.

City Manager Allen Johnson did not allow Coldwell Banker/Town & Country Reality this year to place the 2,500 small American flags after a competitor complained.

Cards attached to the flags carried the names of the business and staff members along with the message, "For your real estate needs, contact one of our agents and expect the best." The flags had been used in the promotion for the last eight years.

City ordinances prohibit advertising on city right of way.

Company partner Betty Warren said next year, she will remove the advertising message if it means Coldwell Banker can continue its Flag Day promotion.

"I just hope people realize it was totally a patriotic gesture," she said.

Johnson, who said he enjoyed the flags, said they should be able to return if the advertising issue can be resolved.

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