

SECTION 9 - SIGNS

9.1 Purpose.

A. The purpose of this article is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property, property values and public welfare by regulating and controlling the quality of materials, construction, installation and maintenance of signs, in addition to the number, size, sign type, and type of illumination of all on-site signs and off-site signs and sign structures located on private property.

B. The ban of all signs on utility poles, governmental signs, public rights-of-way and other public property is necessary to protect the safety of workmen who must scale utility poles, to eliminate traffic hazards, and to preserve the aesthetic appeal of the city by eliminating clutter and visual blight.

9.2 Definitions.

APPROVED COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL: Wood, or materials not more combustible than wood, and approved combustible plastics.

APPROVED COMBUSTIBLE PLASTICS: Those plastics which, when tested in accordance with American Society for Testing Materials standard methods for test for flammability of plastics over 0.050 inch in thickness (D635-44), burn no faster than 2.5 inches per minute in sheets of 0.060 inch thickness.

ATTENTION ATTRACTING DEVICE: Any flasher, blinker, animation, banner, clock or other object designed or intended to attract the attention of the public to an establishment or to a sign.

DETACHED SIGN: Any sign not attached to a building.

ILLUMINATED SIGNS:

Semi-Illuminated Sign - Any sign which is uniformly illuminated internally over its entire area, including the area of the sign, by use of electricity or other artificial light.

Indirectly Illuminated Sign - Any sign which is partially or completely illuminated at any time by an external light source which is so shielded as to not be visible at eye level.

Fully Illuminated Sign - Any sign which is illuminated by an external or internal light source which is visible.

INCIDENTAL SIGN: A sign which guides or directs pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or a sign in conjunction with a drive-through window, which may be mounted on the ground on a building or in connection with a detached sign.

MARQUEE SIGN: Any sign attached flat against the marquee or permanent sidewalk canopy

of a building and not extending above the roof line.

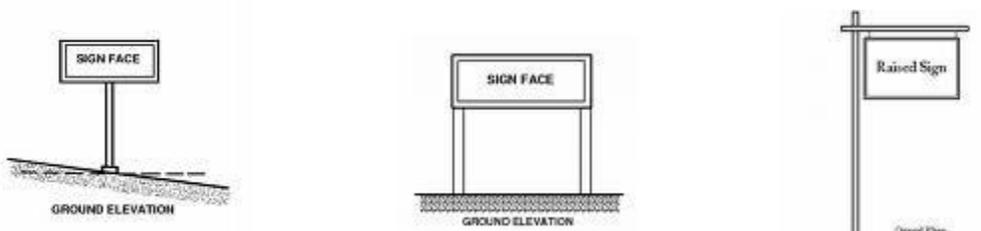
MONUMENT SIGN: An identification sign which rises from the ground, and general has no clearance under it.

OFF-PREMISE SIGN: A sign, including billboards and poster panels, which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, activity or product sold, conducted or offered off the premises where such sign is located.

ON-PREMISE SIGN: A sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, activity or product sold, conducted or offered on the premises where such sign is located.

POLE SIGN (SINGLE POLE): Any Detached Sign which is mounted on a freestanding (i.e. independent of any structure or building) and supported by, from, or on top of one vertical pole or beam.

POLE SIGN (DOUBLE POLE): Any Detached Sign which is mounted on a freestanding (i.e. independent of any structure or building) and supported by, from, or on top of two vertical poles or beams. The exterior finish of the vertical poles or beams of any Pole Sign (Double Pole) must be of the following materials: stone, brick or masonry.



PORTABLE SIGN: A sign that is not permanently affixed to one location and has the capability of being moved from one site to the next.

PROJECTING SIGN: Any sign extending more than one foot from the face of the building to which it is attached, or which extends more than one foot above the roof line.

ROOF SIGN: A sign, which extends above a roof or parapet wall of a building and which is wholly or partially supported by said roof.

SIGN: Any words, letters, numerals, figures, devices, designs, or trademarks by which information is made known to the public.

SIGN AREA: The area of a sign set out in these regulations shall mean the area encompassed by the perimeter of the sign.

The area of the sign shall be computed from the area enclosed by the perimeter upon which the letters, logo, etc. are placed. Except that when individual letters, logo, etc. are mounted individually and directly upon a building surface without change in the color or appearance of

the surface background, the area of the sign shall be deemed to be the rectangle or other geometric form that encompasses the letters, logo, etc.

SNIPE SIGN: Any sign of a material such as cardboard, paper, pressed wood, plastic or metal which is attached to a fence, tree, utility pole or temporary structure, or any sign which is not securely fastened to a building or firmly anchored to the ground.

SUBDIVISION AMENITY SIGN: A sign directing traffic to amenities such as clubhouse or swimming pool within the subdivision.

SUBDIVISION ENTRANCE MARKER: A detached sign identifying the subdivision, located at one or more of the subdivision entrances.

TEMPORARY SIGN: A sign of cloth or other combustible material, with or without a frame, which is usually attached to the outside of a building on a wall or store front, for a limited period of time, such as a banner, or a sign which is not permanently attached to the ground, building or other load bearing structure, such as a portable sign, balloon, or animation.

UNDER CANOPY SIGN: A display attached to the underside of a marquee or canopy and protruding over public or private sidewalks or right-of-way.

WALL SIGN: A sign attached to or erected against an exterior wall of a building or structure, which projects not more than twelve inches (12") from a wall and presents only one face with advertising copy to the public and does not extend above the roof line.

(Ordinance No. 329, § 9; 11-20-07).

9.3 Sign Types Permitted: Zone Restrictions.

Permitted signs in each zoning district are as follows:

A. District A

1. One un-illuminated sign not larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in area and not to exceed twenty (20) feet in height, pertaining to the sale, lease or identification of the premises upon which it is located, or to the sale of products raised thereon.
2. One un-illuminated sign not to exceed six (6) square feet in area which advertises an authorized home occupation. If a detached sign is used, it shall not exceed three (3) feet in height and must be set back at least ten (10) feet from the front property line and five (5) feet from side or rear property lines.
3. Not more than two (2) on-premise, un-illuminated or indirectly-illuminated subdivision entrance markers per street, with a maximum sign area of thirty-two (32) square feet and a maximum sign height of four (4) feet. When a structure is used to support a sign, total area and height of the structure shall not exceed forty-eight (48) square feet and six (6) feet, respectively. The structure of

a subdivision entrance marker forms the outside shape and includes any frame, border, or base that forms an integral part of the display.

4. One (1) un-illuminated subdivision amenity sign shall be allowed within the subdivision; it shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area, and shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.

5. Churches and other institutional uses may display one (1) un-illuminated, semi-illuminated or indirectly-illuminated detached sign showing names, activities and services therein. The sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet in area and shall have a setback of ten (10) feet from any property line.

B. Districts RR thru DR, inclusive

Signs as permitted in A.3 thru A.5 of District A, provided that District RR may also be permitted a sign as permitted in A.2.

C. Districts CN and CH

Unless otherwise provided, signs in these districts may be un-illuminated, semi-illuminated or indirectly illuminated.

1. Each business or commercial establishment shall be permitted not more than three (3) wall or marquee signs provided the total area of signs on a facade shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total area of that facade.

2. In lieu of one of the above wall or marquee signs, one projecting sign or under canopy sign shall be permitted.

3. In lieu of one of the above attached signs, one (1) detached sign shall be permitted for each free-standing commercial building. It shall be set back not less than five (5) feet from the front property line and shall be set back from side property lines a distance not less than the height of the sign. The maximum height of the detached sign shall be twenty-five (25) feet.

4. In lieu of one detached sign, one (1) un-illuminated, semi-illuminated or indirectly illuminated roof sign shall be permitted. A roof sign shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet above the roof and in no case shall the total height of the building and sign exceed the maximum allowable height for the zoning district.

5. A shopping center designed as one unified entity and consisting of one or several buildings, either attached or freestanding, shall be permitted one (1) detached sign identifying the entire center. All other signs in the center shall consist of wall, projecting, under canopy or marquee signs. The maximum height of the shopping center detached sign shall be twenty-five (25) feet.

6. Incidental signs are subject to the approval of the Zoning Officer and shall not exceed nine (9) square feet in area.

7. Off-Premise signs. See Section 5.1.
8. Signs in excess of seventy-two (72) square feet. See Section 5.1.
9. Not more than two (2) on-premise, un-illuminated or indirectly-illuminated subdivision entrance markers per street, with a maximum sign area of forty-eight (48) square feet and a maximum sign height of six (6) feet. When a structure is used to support a sign, total area and height of the structure shall not exceed seventy-two (72) square feet and nine (9) feet, respectively. The structure of a subdivision entrance marker forms the outside shape and includes any frame, border, or base that forms an integral part of the display.

9.4 Permits and Fees.

A. Permits Required. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, move or convert any sign in the City, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a sign permit from the City.

B. Exceptions. Permits are not required under the following circumstances:

1. Replacing or altering changeable copy on theater marquees, billboards and similar signs.
2. Painting, repairing, cleaning or maintaining of a sign shall not be considered an erection or alteration which requires a permit unless a structural change is made or the alteration and painting is being done due to a change in ownership of the business or premises.

C. Exemptions. A permit will not be required for the following listed signs. These exemptions, however, shall apply only to the requirement of the permit and shall not be construed as relieving the owner of the sign from the responsibility for its erection, maintenance and appearance.

1. Construction project signs, with a maximum size of seventy-two (72) square feet.
2. Agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial acreage or commercial and industrial structure "for sale" or "for rent" signs.
3. Residential structure for sale or for rent signs, provided that it must be removed upon completion of the project or within ten (10) days after sale or letting of the property.
4. Political signs, subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner who gives permission for the use of his property for such signs or the political

party for the political event or political candidate to have these signs removed not later than five (5) days after the election or event and they shall not be erected earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the election or event to which they pertain.

b. There shall be no political signs on any public utility pole, fence post, fences, trees or sides of buildings.

5. Traffic or other municipal or informational signs, legal notice, railroad crossing signs, danger, warning and such temporary, emergency or non-advertising signs necessary for traffic control or as may be approved by the Board of Aldermen.

6. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other metal.

7. Signs inside buildings, inside windows, or painted on windows or on glass portions of doors of buildings.

8. Temporary signs for special events for public, charitable, religious or fraternal organizations, subject to the following limitations:

a. Maximum size thirty-two (32) square feet per face.

b. One (1) per street frontage.

c. To be located on premises.

d. To be placed no sooner than thirty (30) days prior to the event and removed within five (5) days following the event.

D. Application for Permit. Application for a permit shall be made to the City upon a form provided and shall be accompanied by written approval of the property owner, site plans and specifications as may be required.

E. Permit Fees. Every applicant, before being granted a permit hereunder, shall pay a fee to the City based upon the fee schedule used for building permits.

F. Inspection. As soon as a sign has been erected, the permittee shall notify the Zoning Administrator who shall inspect such sign and approve the same if it is in compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance. The Zoning Administrator may from time to time as he deems, inspect all signs or other structures regulated by this Ordinance, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are secure or whether they are in need of removal or repair. If the sign does not comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall notify the applicant in writing of such non-compliance and give the applicant ten (10) days, or less if the Zoning Administrator determines a hazardous situation exists, to comply.

G. Permit Revocable At Any Time. All rights and privileges acquired under the provisions of this Ordinance, or any amendments thereto, are mere licenses revocable at any time. Installation shall be completed within six (6) months after date of issuance of the sign permit.

9.5 Additional Regulations.

A. Maintenance. All signs, together with all their supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be kept in good repair and in a proper state of preservation. The Zoning Administrator may order the removal of any sign deemed to be a dangerous structure.

B. Prohibited Signs.

1. Snipe signs are prohibited and may be removed by the Zoning Administrator.
2. It shall be unlawful for any person to display any real estate advertisements or signs which recite that real property is to be used for purposes or will be zoned for land uses in the future, when in fact such real estate is not presently zoned for such purposes.
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to display upon any sign or other advertising structure any obscene, indecent or immoral matter.
4. Attention attracting devices, electrical signs and illuminated signs, which are an annoyance to residential neighborhoods, or may impair night vision, or are a hazard to traffic, or interfere with or conflict with traffic signals, whether inside or outside the building, are prohibited.
5. It shall be unlawful to post or erect any sign on utility poles, governmental signs, public rights-of-way or any other public property except those placed by agencies of the federal, state or local government.
6. Pole Signs (Single Pole) are prohibited. C.

Engineering Design and Materials

1. Wind Pressure Resistance. All signs shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind pressure of not less than twenty-five (25) pounds per square foot.
2. Except as specifically provided elsewhere, all permanent signs, sign structures, and non-structural trim shall be constructed of approved combustible or non-combustible materials.
3. Signs along all streets and boundaries shall not interfere with line of sight within 75 feet of the point of intersection of pavement of:

- a. A vehicular access way or driveway and a street
- b. A vehicular access way or driveway and a sidewalk
- c. Two or more vehicular access ways or driveways
- d. No sign which obstructs sight lines at elevations between two (2) feet and eight (8) feet above roadways shall be located at any corner lot within the triangular area formed by the right-of-way lines and a line connecting them at points seventy-five (75) feet from their point of intersection or at equivalent points on private streets.

4. Obstruction of egress, openings, ventilation. A sign shall not be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, window, door or other opening; or so as to prevent free passage from one part of the roof to any other part thereof. A sign shall not be attached in any form, shape or manner to a fire escape, or shall not be so placed as to interfere with an opening which is required for legal ventilation.

5. Letters, figures, characters or representations in cutout or irregular form maintained in conjunction with, attached to or superimposed upon any sign shall be safely and securely built or attached to the sign structure.

6. Illuminated Signs. Illuminated signs produced in quantity (other than signs custom-built for specific locations) shall be constructed in accordance with the "Standards for Electric Signs (U.L. 48) of the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc." and bear the label of the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.

7. Electrical Signs. All electrical signs, either temporary or permanent, shall be connected to permanent electrical service installed according to the requirements of the National electrical code. All wiring for newly constructed detached signs shall be underground, unless this is determined to be prohibitive by the Zoning Administrator.

8. The following type signs shall have a seal of a registered engineer or registered architect affixed to the plans: attention attracting devices, detached signs, electrical, illuminated, marquee, portable, poster panel, projecting and roof. In addition, the following standards will apply:

- a. Projecting signs shall not project more than five feet, six inches (5'6") beyond the face of the building. Projecting signs shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet above the level of any sidewalk from the bottom of the sign. Any projecting sign within twenty-five (25) feet of a street or alley intersection shall be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet above the sidewalk from the bottom of the sign.

- b. All projecting signs shall be rigid mounted, shall be supported by strong steel brackets attached to walls of buildings with

through bolts, expansion bolts or other equally secure methods, and shall be braced and held firmly in place with soft iron or steel cables or chains of adequate strength. All such supports shall be attached to walls of buildings with expansion bolts or equivalent method.

c. Projecting signs which are permitted to extend above parapet walls may be attached to brackets fastened to roofs by means of through bolts but shall not be attached to any part of the wall above a point of bearing of the roof joists or rafters.

d. All roof signs shall be secured by or bear upon masonry bearing walls, columns, girders or roof joists. No roof sign shall be erected in a manner which prevents or tends to prevent free passage from one part of the roof to any other part thereof. Spider webs and A-frame structural members shall be prohibited.

e. Roof signs located on flat roofs shall allow a minimum clear open space of six (6) feet from the roof to the lowest point at the bottom of the face of the sign, and there shall be a minimum space of five (5) feet between adjacent vertical supports.

f. Wall signs shall be securely fastened to a masonry wall by means of anchors, bolts, expansion screws or similar connectors. A wall sign which is attached to a wall of wood may be anchored with wood blocks used in connection with screws and nails.

g. Under-canopy signs of greater than four (4) square feet shall be rigidly mounted, and there shall be eight feet, six inches (8'6") clearance between the base of any rigidly mounted under-canopy sign and the sidewalk. There shall be a minimum clearance of seven feet, six inches (7'6") between the base of any non-rigidly mounted under-canopy sign and the sidewalk.

(Ordinance No. 329, §§ 10-11; 110-20-07).

9.6 Temporary Signs.

Temporary signs may be permitted for special events, new ownership, or grand openings for business or organizational use. Special events do not include sales.

A. Duration of Permits. Except as specifically otherwise provided elsewhere in this section, permits for temporary signs shall be valid for twenty (21) days from date of issuance.

B. Permits Renewable. Permits for temporary signs may be renewed a maximum of one time for a maximum of twenty (21) days, except as specifically otherwise provided elsewhere in this section.

C. Number of Permits. Except as specifically otherwise provided elsewhere in this section, only one temporary sign permit may be issued at any one time for any business, industry or shopping center. The total number of days per year which a temporary sign may be displayed at any business, industry or shopping center shall be forty-two (42) days.

D. Construction. Construction of temporary signs shall meet the same engineering design and materials standards as for permanent signs.

E. Size. Except as specifically otherwise provided elsewhere in this section, size of temporary signs shall not exceed the size of signs permitted for permanent signs of similar permitted construction and location within the same zoning district.

F. Location. Temporary signs shall be erected entirely on private property and shall not be erected in locations which would conflict with Sections 9.5.C.4 and 9.5.C.5. Except as specifically otherwise provided elsewhere in this section, all temporary signs shall be located on the premises where the good, service or event is available.

9.7 Appeals. Appeals to sections of this ordinance for interpretation of engineering or structural standards shall be to the Board of Adjustment.