

SIGNS

Sec. 22-1. Purpose.

It is the purpose of this chapter to permit signs in districts in which they are appropriate, uses, and to regulate the size, density, and placement of signs intended to be seen from a public right-of-way in the interest of highway safety, the preservation of property values, the protection of the character of the community and the general welfare. (Ordinance No. 90-03.s, 1(l), 5-7-90)

Sec. 22-2. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in Chapter 59, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the content indicates a different meaning.

ABANDONED SIGN: Any sign face which advertises a bona fide business no longer conducted or product no longer sold; any previously permitted portable or temporary sign of which permitted time has expired; or, any sign structure which has not been used for bona fide business purposes for over six (6) months.

AREA OF SIGN: The total surface of a sign, including the background and frame, but not structural supporting elements outside of its frame. Where a sign is composed of skeleton letters, characters or symbols applied to a frame or to a background which is not a structural part of the sign, the area of the sign shall be the smallest triangle, rectangle or circle which will include the display.

BANNER: Any sign on which characters, letters, illustrations or ornamentation are applied to cloth, paper, or fabric of any kind that is not permanently attached to a solid backing of wood, metal, or masonry.

CONSTRUCTION SIGN: A sign announcing and identifying the construction project scheduled or underway on the site where the sign is located.

DIRECTIONAL SIGN: Any sign on-site used to indicate the direction to entrances, exits, parking areas, restrooms or other non-business-related facilities.

FREESTANDING SIGN: Any sign supported by uprights or braces placed upon or in the ground.

GRAPHIC: Any symbol, any syllable of a word, any illustration or picture.

HEIGHT OF SIGN: The distance between the top of the sign and the average ground elevation below it.

IDENTIFICATION SIGN: A sign that indicates the name and type of business or service, or the name of the development located on the site where the sign is located.

ILLUMINATED SIGN: A sign that uses artificial light, whether internal or external to the sign faces.

MEMBERSHIP SIGN: A sign identifying affiliation with a club, business association, credit card company or professional association.

MULTIPLE FRONTAGE PROPERTY: A plot or parcel that is contiguous to more than one public right-of-way.

NON-CONFORMING SIGN: A sign legally allowed in the city before the adoption of this chapter that does not conform to the requirements of this chapter as to height, size, use, spacing, setback, or structural support. A sign not legally allowed prior to the adoption of this chapter shall not be considered a non-conforming sign. A sign which has not received a permit shall not, for that reason alone, be considered a non-conforming sign.

OFF-PREMISE SIGN: Any sign not immediately located upon properties where goods, services or activities are offered.

ON-SITE SITE: Any sign that identified or advertises goods, services, facilities, events or attractions available on the premises where the sign is located.

PARCEL: All contiguous property with a common owner or owners.

PENNANT: Any flag-like piece of cloth, plastic or paper, attached to any staff, cord, building or other structure that hangs loosely for the purpose of attracting attention to its site.

PERMITTED SIGN: All signs requiring permits under this chapter.

PORTABLE SIGN: A sign that has no permanent attachment to a building or to the ground by means of footing, including but not limited to, an A-Frame sign, sign with wheels, pull attachments, searchlight stands or hot air or gas-filled balloons.

PREMISES: The lot or lots, plots, portions or parcels of land considered as a unit for single development or activity.

PROJECTING SIGN: A sign supported by a wall of a building, projecting away from that wall twelve (12) inches or more, designed with a face or faces reading at an angle to that wall.

PROPERTY FRONT FOOT: Each foot or major portion thereof, measured along the public right-of-way where the subject property abuts the right-of-way.

REAL ESTATE SIGN: A sign erected by the owner or his agent advertising the real property where the sign is located for sale, lease or rent.

SETBACK: The setbacks for signs specified in this chapter shall be measured horizontally from the vertical plane of the property line to the closest point of the sign.

SIGN: Any letters, numbers, symbols, graphics, pictures, or figures, or combinations thereof, which are erected, constructed, placed, attached or painted on a structure or the ground which identifies, advertises or directs attention to product, business, institution, place, person or event which can be seen from the public right-of-way.

SIGN FACE: The place area which is defined as sign area, sign face shall not include trim, embellishments or owner's nameplate.

SIGN STRUCTURE: The uprights, supports, braces, and framework supporting a sign.

SUPER ELEVATED SIGN: Any sign over 24' in height. Refer to Article 14 of Chapter 59.

TEMPORARY SIGN: A sign used to advertise or identify transitory events of sixty (60) days or less duration.

WALL SIGN: A sign painted on or affixed to a structural wall fascia, or roof of a building, with a sign face approximately parallel to the wall, perpendicular to the ground and projecting no more than twelve (12) inches from the wall.

WINDOW SIGN: A sign affixed to, suspended behind, or painted on either face of a window or glass door that leads to the exterior of the building.
(Ordinance No. 90-03 s. 1(2), 5-7-90)

Sec. 22-5. Exemptions.

The following signs are exempted from the provisions of this chapter:

- (1) Signs to regulate traffic.
- (2) Signs required to be posted by law.
- (3) Warning signs and no trespassing signs.
- (4) Signs established by governmental agencies.
- (5) Signs indicating bus stops, taxi stands, and similar transportation facilities.
- (6) (a) Temporary real estate sign no greater than four (4) square feet in area located on and advertising specific property for sale, lease, rent or development on private property.
(b) Temporary "lead-in" real estate sign, off-premises, no greater than four (4) square feet.
- (7) Identification signs of four (4) square feet or less.
- (8) Directional or instructional signs four (4) square feet or less.
- (9) Governmental signs for traffic control, street names or direction to public facilities.
- (10) Memorial signs or tablets when cut into any masonry surface or constructed of a noncombustible material.
- (11) Governmental or religious flags or insignia and holiday decorations customarily associated with any national, religious or local holiday.
- (12) Window signs or banners.
- (13) Credit card or membership signs of two (2) square feet or less.
- (14) A maximum of two (2) menu boards or price lists for drive-through facilities of no more than twenty-four (24) square feet each. Such signs shall be located adjacent to and oriented toward the drive-through area.
- (15) Graphics and trademarks on vending machines, gas pumps and other machinery customarily used for sales outside of buildings.

- (16) Standard size menus mounted at the entrance to restaurants.
- (17) Political election signs located between the opening of the election qualifying period and ten (10) days after election, five (5) square feet or less. One hundred dollars (\$100.00) cash bond per candidate is required to insure sign removal.
- (18) Garage sale signs erected for no more than three (3) consecutive days.
- (19) Indoor signs.
- (20) Pennants or flags or banners erected on-site. (Ordinance No. 90-03, s. 1 (5), 5-7-90)
- (21) Repainting of existing signs for maintenance purposes.

Sec. 22-7. Off-premise signs.

Off-premise signs are regulated by Table 3, "Density and size standard for off-premise signs." All off-premise signs, in addition to meeting the requirements of Table 3, must meet the following requirements:

- (1) No two (2) off-premise signs advertising the same product, service or establishment may be closer than one mile (5,280 feet), as measured along the most direct path between the signs following public road right-of-way.
- (2) No off-premise advertisements may be closer than one hundred fifty (150) feet from a residentially zoned area.

The city may mandate where more than one off-premise directional sign (may) exist to combine the mounting of the signs onto one structure.
(Ordinance No. 90-03, s. 1 (7), 5-7-90)

Sec. 22-8. Illumination.

Illumination devices or reflective devices, such as but not limited to, flood and spotlights shall be so placed and so shielded as to prevent rays and illumination there from being cast into neighboring dwellings and approaching vehicles.
(Ordinance No. 90-03, s. 1 (8), 5-7-90)

Sec. 22-11. Prohibited signs.

The following signs are prohibited according to the provisions of this chapter.

- (1) Any sign which obstructs any window, door, fire escape, ladder or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress for any building, as required by law.
- (2) Any sign, any part of which projects more than twelve (12) inches from any wall and is less than eight (8) feet above the level of the ground at that point.
- (3) Any sign which violates the traffic safety portion of this chapter.
- (4) Any sign located within fifty (50) feet of any residentially-zoned property, except signs advertising uses allowed outright or by special exception in that residential zone that conforms with the provisions of that zone in this chapter.

- (5) Any sign which obstructs the vision between pedestrians and vehicles using the public right-of-way. Specifically prohibited are the signs using:
 - a. Revolving, flashing, or stroboscopic lights; and
 - b. Bare bulbs in excess of eleven (11) watts.
 - (6) Signs attached to trees or utility poles.
 - (7) Signs attached to or painted on vehicles which are not regularly used by the advertised business and are obviously parked in such a way as to advertise to the passing motorist or pedestrian.
 - (8) Privately constructed signs in public rights-of-way.
 - (9) Signs made of combustible materials that are attached to fire escapes or fire-fighting equipment.
 - (10) Any other signs on-premise that are not specifically permitted or exempted by this chapter.
- (Ordinance No. 90-03, s. I (11), 5-7-90)

Sec. 22-12. Temporary signs.

- A. Portable temporary signs and portable changeable copy signs shall be permitted temporarily for the following uses:
 - (1) For any business, religious, charitable, civic or fraternal activity or event.
 - B. All temporary signs are subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) No more than sixty (60) days for the same purpose and location.
 - (2) Subject to all provisions of the portable sign provisions of Sec. 22-10 of this chapter.
 - C. Temporary signs may be allowed off-premise with permission of the property owner.
 - D. Permit required.
 - E. Temporary sign standards must comply with the portable sign standards in Section 22-10, subsections (1)-(6).
- (Ord. No. 90-03, s 1(13), 5-7-90)