



# PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

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To: Planning Commission Members  
From: Liz Fields, AICP, Planner  
Meeting Date: December 11, 2024

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## **PC 24-20                      Amendments to the Municipal Code**

**Project Overview:** The City of Franklin is proposing amendments to the City’s Municipal Code Chapter 1103 of the Municipal Code. The City is requesting that the Planning Commission approve a motion to initiate a text amendment to the City’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) under Section 1115.04 of the Unified Development Ordinance at this time.

In addition to the amendments to Section 1111.08 of the Municipal Code, it is also contemplated that the definitions pertaining to signs in Chapter 1103 will need to be updated as well in order to properly define the new sign types and ensure that the existing definitions are not in conflict with the proposed regulations. Thus, a list of the sign definitions is provided below along with a visual reference of each sign type.

New sign types and definitions will be in red while existing sign types and definitions will be in black. If text is struck through, that means that the language is proposed to be removed from the UDO.



**Awning Sign.** A sign that is mounted on or painted on an awning.



**Banner Sign.** A sign on a lightweight fabric, or similar non-rigid material that is attached by at least two corners of such sign, to a building or structure. Flags of any country, state, unit of local government, institution of higher learning, or similar institution area not considered to be banners. A non-rigid cloth, plastic, or canvas SIGN typically related to a special event or promotion. National FLAGS, state or municipal FLAGS shall not be considered banners, nor shall the official FLAG of any institution or business be considered a banner.



**Bench Sign.** Any sign painted on, located on, or attached to any part of a surface of a bench, seat, or chair placed on or adjacent to a public roadway.



**Billboard Sign.** An off-premise, outdoor SIGN sign exceeding 50 square feet in area. Billboards are prohibited under this UDO.



**Business Sign.** A SIGN directing attention to a business, product, service or activity conducted or sold on the LOT where the SIGN is displayed.

**Canopy Sign.** A sign that is mounted on or painted on an attached canopy. A SIGN directing attention to a business, product, service or activity conducted or sold on the LOT where the SIGN is displayed that is mounted on a MARQUEE, attached to or printed on the fascia or valence of a CANOPY or MARQUEE, or hanging from the soffit (i.e. underside) of such structure.

**Changeable Copy Sign (mechanical or electronic).** A SIGN, or portion thereof, on which characters, letters, or illustrations are changed mechanically or electronically in the field without altering the face or surface of the SIGN, including without limitation, an electronic or mechanical message center.



**Construction Sign.** A sign that is located on a lot that has active construction. A SIGN directing attention to CONSTRUCTION upon property where the SIGN is displayed, and bearing the name, address, sub lot number or other identifier of the contractor.



**Directional Sign.** A SIGN sign intending to direct the safe flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including, but not limited to, "enter," "exit," "one way" and "narrow" signs.



**Electronic Message Center.** A sign that is capable of displaying words, symbols, figures, or images that can be electronically changed by remote or automatic means. May also be known as a variable message sign or a LED sign.



**Flutter Flag.** A tall, narrow, vertical flag that is designed to flutter in the wind and attract attention.



**Governmental Flags.** Flags of any country, state, or unit of local government.



**Ground Sign.** A PERMANENT SIGN supported by one or more poles, posts or braces permanently anchored or secured to the ground. Such SIGNS shall be flush with the base, which shall be brick or concrete, and shall not exceed four feet (4') in height from the ground to the top of the SIGN, as measured from the GRADE. PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION OR PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFICATION SIGNS shall be ground signs.

A sign supported by one or more uprights, posts, or bases, in or upon the ground and not attached to any part of a building.



**Human Sign.** A sign that is worn (including costumes) or held by a human for temporary commercial advertising or other promotional purposes.



**Identification Sign.** A sign SIGN, other than a NAMEPLATE SIGN, indicating the identity or name, whether through logo, type, graphics or other symbols, address and activity occupying the building BUILDING, store, service or establishment.



**Inflatable Sign.** Any sign or device that is capable of being expanded.

**Informational Sign.** A SIGN conveying a message relative to a danger or hazard existing on the property, or indicating a condition on the property that requires the exercise of ordinary due care, or providing public safety information, or other public information.



~~**Informational Window Sign.** Window signage with a total area of four square feet (4 sq. ft.) or less and bearing only information about entry and exit, business hours, authorized service representative information and/or discount and credit systems accepted in that establishment.~~



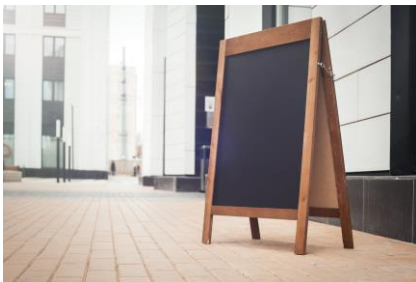
**Manual Changeable Copy Sign.** A SIGN, or portion thereof, on which characters, letters, or illustrations are changed manually in the field without altering the face or surface of the SIGN, including without limitation, a reader board with changeable letters.



~~**Marquee Sign.** A sign SIGN attached to or constructed in a marquee MARQUEE.~~



~~**Menu Board.** Any signage pertaining to items, goods, or services offered by a drive-through business. A permanently mounted SIGN displaying the bill of fare for a RESTAURANT, FAST FOOD RESTAURANT or instructions or services for other drive thru or drive-in establishments.~~



~~**Mobile or Portable Sign.** Any sign which is not permanently affixed to the ground or a building in accordance with the provisions of the building code of the city or any sign which is intended to be moveable or capable of being moved from place to place, whether or not wheels or other special supports are provided. Mobile or portable signs include but are not limited to "A" or "T" frame signs, swinger message board signs, windblown signs, trailer signs or any other type of sign which can be moved from one location to another.~~

~~**Monument Sign.** A PERMANENT SIGN supported by one or more poles, posts or braces permanently anchored or secured to the ground. Such signs shall be flush with the base, which shall be brick or concrete, and shall not exceed six feet (6') in height from the ground to the top of the sign. Such signs shall be measured from the GRADE, not any mounding.~~



**Mural.** Any mosaic, painting, or graphic art or combination thereof which is professionally applied to a building.

~~**Nameplate Sign.** A SIGN indicating the name, address and profession of the individual or individuals residing on the premises, or legally occupying the premises, or indicating a HOME OCCUPATION legally existing on the premises in a residential ZONING DISTRICT.~~



**Organizational Flags.** Flag for private or non-profit organizations.

~~**Permanent Residential Subdivision or Planned Unit Development Identification Signage.** Those signage features specifically relating to the denotation of a major entrance or entrances to a residential SUBDIVISION (See also GROUND SIGN).~~

**Permanent Sign.** A SIGN designed or intended to be used indefinitely, or used indefinitely without change in the same state or place, and includes canopy/marquee/awning signs, directional signs, electronic message centers, ground signs, manual changeable copy signs, menu boards, murals, projecting signs, residential development identification signs, wall signs, and window signs. ~~BUSINESS SIGNS, CANOPY/MARQUEE SIGNS, CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS, DIRECTIONAL SIGNS, GROUND SIGNS, ILLUMINATED SIGNS, IDENTIFICATION SIGNS, MEMORIAL SIGNS, MONUMENT SIGNS, PROJECTING NAMEPLATE SIGNS, SHINGLE SIGNS, WALL SIGNS and certain WINDOW SIGNS.~~

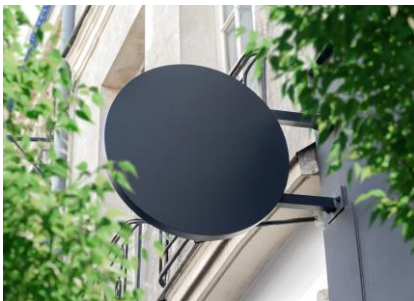


**Pole Sign.** A ~~sign SIGN~~ supported by one or more poles, posts or braces permanently mounted on or in the ground that exceeds six feet (6') in height. Pole signs are not permitted under this UDO, except when approved in the Highway Sign Overlay District.



**Public Sign.** Signs required or authorized for a public purpose by any law, statute or ordinance, such signs to include traffic control devices provided that such signs contain no supplementary advertising, and any identification of display of any official court or public office notices thereof, or any flag, emblem, or insignia of a nation, political unit, school or religious group.

~~**Political Sign.** A SIGN that advocates for or against the election of a candidate, recall or retention of an officeholder, passage or defeat of a ballot measure, or that solicits signatures for initiative, referendum or recall petitions.~~



~~**Projecting Nameplate Sign.** A sign affixed to any party of a building or structure which extends beyond the building or structure by more than four feet. A SIGN indicating only the name and/or address of a business or occupant(s) that extends outward, perpendicular to the BUILDING face, not more than four feet (4') beyond the BUILDING and not less than eight feet (8') above the sidewalk or ground level.~~



**Real Estate Sign.** A ~~sign SIGN~~ announcing the sale, rental or lease of the ~~lot LOT~~ where the sign is displayed, or announcing the sale, rental or lease of one or more ~~structures STRUCTURES~~, or a portion thereof, located on such ~~lot LOT~~, and indicating the owner, realty agent, telephone number or "open house" information.



**Residential Development Identification Sign.** A sign at the entrance of a residential neighborhood identifying the neighborhood.



**Revolving Sign.** A sign which in its entirety or in part moves in a revolving manner. A SIGN that revolves three hundred sixty degrees (360°) but does not exceed eight (8) revolutions per minute.



**Roof Sign.** A sign SIGN erected upon or above a roof or parapet wall of a building BUILDING, which sign is wholly or partially supported by such building BUILDING. Roof signs are prohibited under this UDO.

**Security Sign.** A SIGN indicating that the property is protected by a security surveillance system of any nature.

**Shingle Sign.** A SIGN supported by one or two poles, measuring not more than four feet (4') from the ground to the top of the sign or STRUCTURE. The shingle is a small IDENTIFICATION SIGN, exceeding not more than two square feet (2 sq. ft.) in area, and shall denote only the name, occupation of the professional occupant of the BUILDING, and shall not be illuminated.



**Snipe Sign.** A sign that is posted, tacked, nailed, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to trees, utility poles or structures, street lights, fences, or any other object on public property or within the public right-of-way.





**Streamer.** Any lightweight plastic, fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, string or cord, usually in series, designed to move in the wind. A streamer may have pennants PENNANTS and/or banners BANNERS attached.



**Temporary Sign.** A sign that is neither permanently anchored to the ground, nor permanently affixed to a structure, or mounted on a chassis, and/or is intended for a limited period of display. A SIGN announcing or advertising special events or sales, intended to be used and in fact used for a time period of sixty (60) days or less within one calendar year per location.



**Vehicle Sign.** A sign that is attached to or painted on a vehicle that is parked on or adjacent to any property, the principal purpose of which is to attract attention to a product sold or business located on the property.



**Wall Sign.** A SIGN attached to a BUILDING face, with the exposed face thereof in a plane parallel to the plane of the wall. Wall signs include painted murals, messages, graphics and other designs painted along with any letters or numerals mounted on BUILDINGS and any extensions thereon.



**Window Sign.** A SIGN, graphic, poster, symbol or other identification or information about the use or premises which is physically affixed to or painted on the glass or other structural component of the window or a SIGN, graphic, poster, symbols, or other identification or information about the use or premises erected on the inside of the BUILDING within two feet (2') of the window and intended to be viewed through the window from the exterior of the premises.