

## 1111.08 Signs

a) Purpose and Intent. It is the intent of this Section to establish reasonable regulations governing the size, designcharacter, mass, distribution, and location of signs within the incorporated area of the City of Franklin, in the interest of safety and general welfare of its citizens, business concerns and other affected sectors of the City. It is intended to protect property values, create a more attractive economic and business climate, enhance and protect the physical appearance of the City, and preserve the scenic and natural beauty of designated areas. It is further intended to reduce sign distractions and sight obstructions that may contribute to traffic accidents, reduce hazards that may be caused by signs overhanging or projecting over public rights-of-way, provide more open space, and curb the deterioration of the natural environment and enhance City development in such a way as to support and complement the land-use objectives set forth in this UDO. The specific public purposes of this Section are:

- 1) To provide reasonable, yet appropriate, conditions for identifying goods sold or produced or services rendered in Commercial, Downtown, Office/Institutional, and Industrial Districts;
- 2) To control the size, location, and design of permanent signs so that the appearance of such signs will be aesthetically harmonious with their surroundings;
- 3) To eliminate any conflict that would be hazardous between business or identification signs and traffic control signs and devices;
- 4) To ensure that signs are located and designed to maintain a safe and orderly pedestrian and vehicular environment; and
- 5) To reduce sign clutter.

b) Scope of Regulations.

- 1) **Applicability.** The regulations set forth herein shall apply to and govern signs in all districts. No sign shall be erected or maintained unless it is in compliance with the regulations governing location and bulk of structures for the district in which it is located, unless such sign is otherwise specifically regulated by a conditional use provision or provisions relating to variances.
- 2) **Nonconformities.** Any sign already established on the effective date of this UDO and which sign is rendered nonconforming by the provisions herein, and any sign which as a result of subsequent amendments hereto, shall be rendered nonconforming and shall be subject to the regulations of section 1111.08(mt).

3) Variances. Variances to this Section may be considered by the Appeals Board.

4) Planned Unit Developments. Signs within Planned Unit Development (PUD) districts shall be subject to the applicable regulations of the underlying zoning district. Signs that do not meet the requirements of this section that are located within a PUD are subject to the approval of the Planning Commission.

c) Permit Required:

- 1) All ~~temporary and~~ permanent signs to be erected, placed, constructed or modified within the City limits, except those specifically excluded herein, shall require a permit before work is initiated. ~~Temporary sign permit requirements are established in Section 1111.08(l).~~
- 2) ~~Sign permits shall be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Official, unless specifically stated otherwise. Planning Commission shall approve signs submitted with a Major Site Plan, in accordance with this section and Section 1115.09; with a Conditional Use, in accordance with this section and Section 1115.09; and certain signs within the Highway Sign Overlay District in accordance with Sections 1109.07 and 1115.09. The Zoning Official shall approve all other signs in accordance with this section and Section 1115.11.~~
- 3) ~~In order to defray the cost of examination of plans and inspections, an applicant for a sign permit shall pay a fee in accordance with section 1105.09.~~

4) 3) Submittal Requirements:

A. *General Submittal Requirements:* The following general requirements shall apply:

- i. Each request for a Sign Permit shall include an application form, provided by the City, with the submittal;
- ii. The name(s), address(s), and telephone numbers of the applicant(s), and the property owner(s) if other than the applicant(s) with a notarized letter of authorization from the property owner;
- iii. Legal Description of property or portion thereof; and
- iv. Payment of the application fee as established ~~on the City's official fee schedule; by~~ ~~section 1105.09;~~
- v. The Zoning Official may request additional supporting information that in ~~their his~~ professional judgment is necessary to fully explain the applicant's proposal. The applicant shall supply the requested additional information.
- vi. Only complete applications shall be processed by the City. The Zoning Official or the TRC, as appropriate, shall make determination as to completeness.

B. *Site Plan*, which shall show:

- i. Address and zoning classification of the subject property;
- ii. Surrounding uses and zoning classification(s);
- iii. The proposed sign(s) location, including distance from the public right-of-way and the property lines;
- iv. The location of all other existing signs located on the same premises; ~~and~~
- v. The relationship of the proposed sign(s) to access drives, parking areas and buildings;

vi. ~~A landscape plan that identifies all plantings to be located at the base of any ground signs; and~~

vii. ~~A lighting plan for all internal and external light sources.~~

C. *A Sign Graphics Plan*, including:

- i. Plans, ~~drawn and/or blueprints~~, to scale, of the proposed signage, including details of fastenings, lighting and any lettering, symbols or other identification which will be on the sign;
- ii. The dimensions, construction supports, sizes, electrical wiring and components, sign materials, and method of attachment;
- iii. The location, size, and illumination of wall signs, ground mounted signs, and directional signs;
- iv. Color renditions of the proposed signage; and
- v. Elevation drawings of ground mounted signs and/or a façade elevation (showing the height and proportions) for wall signs.

d) Administration:

- 1) The Zoning Official shall regulate and enforce the requirements of this ~~Section, and Section~~ and shall be in charge of issuing all sign permits, both temporary and permanent ~~unless specifically identified otherwise.~~
- 2) No signs, except for municipally owned signs and signs authorized by the City Manager for community events and programs shall be placed in, on or above the public right-of-way including on utility poles. The Zoning Official or ~~his~~ their designee may ~~effect removal of~~ remove any sign illegally placed within the right-of-way of any road within the City.

e) Measurement.

- 1) Sign area shall include the face of all the display area of the sign not including the bracing, framing and structural supports of the sign, unless such support members are made part of the message or face of the sign or are determined by the Zoning Official to be intended solely to make the sign more visible rather than serving any aesthetic or structural purpose. For internally illuminated signs; or internally illuminated awnings, canopies or marquees, the entire lighted surface shall be considered the sign area. The lighted surface area of internally illuminated canopies, awnings or marquees is counted as signage regardless of whether it contains graphics.
- 2) Where a sign has two or more display faces, the area of all faces of the sign shall be included in determining the area of the sign unless two display faces join back to back, are parallel to each other and not more than ~~twenty four inches (24 inches)~~ apart, or form a V-angle of less than ~~forty five~~ 45 degrees (~~45°~~). For spherical signs, the sphere shall be dissected by an imaginary line through the center of the sphere and the surface area of the

half sphere shall be counted as the sign face. For cubical signs, the area of all display faces shall be included in determining the area of the sign.

- 3) The area of letters, numbers or emblems mounted on a building wall or wall extension shall be computed by enclosing such sign with the smallest single continuous perimeter around the letters, numbers or emblems and determining its area.
- 4) The term “lot frontage” as used in calculating ground signs and monument signs shall refer to the dimension of the lot along the street. The term “building frontage” as used in calculating wall signs shall refer to the building wall dimension facing the street or parking lot.
- 5) For structures and uses having no direct frontage on public roads, as within shopping centers, frontage shall be counted as the intersection of the building line onto adjacent drives or parking areas.

f) Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited within the City of Franklin:

~~6)1) Billboards. Billboards are prohibited.~~

7)2) **Pole Signs.** Pole signs ~~are prohibited~~, except within the Highway Sign Overlay District, under the conditions outlined in Section 1109.07.

~~3) Roof Signs. Roof signs are prohibited.~~

~~4) Revolving signs~~

~~5) Inflatable signs, air activated devices, beacons, searchlights, and other similar devices.~~

~~6) Pennants, Streamers, etc.~~ No sign or advertising shall contain or consist of banners, pennants, ribbons, streamers, or similar moving devices.

~~7) Bench signs~~

~~8) Mobile or portable sign~~

~~8)9) Additional prohibited temporary signs as listed in Section 1111.08(l)(11).~~

g) Exempt Signs. The following signs are exempt from the requirements of this Chapter:

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

2) **Organizational Flags.** Flags for private or non-profit organizations subject to such flags are limited to one per organization and such flags shall not exceed three feet in width or five feet in length. Such flags shall contain no commercial or advertising message.

3) **Identification Wall Signs.** Signs up to a maximum of two square feet (~~2 sq. ft.~~) in size and may be mounted or attached flat or parallel onto a building face of any use or may be ground mounted at a height not to exceed four feet. ~~administrative, business or professional office building which denotes the name and address of an occupant in a building where more than one tenant is located and which has individual and separate entries.~~

9)4) **Public.** 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 any country-a-nation, political unit, educational facility, school or religious/cultural group.

10)5) **Memorial Signs, Markers, and Statues.** Signs which are in the nature of cornerstones, commemorative tables, tablets, grave markers, headstones, statuary, remembrances of persons or events, or historical signs, provided that such signs are less than nine square feet (~~9 sq. ft.~~) in size and not illuminated and are noncommercial in nature. Such signs shall not be placed within a public right-of-way. Additionally, memorial markers, statues, sculptures, or similar items that commemorate historical events, persons, locations are exempt as long as such items are not located in the public right-of-way and do not block visibility.

h) **Permanent Signs.** All permanent signs shall require a permit. Permitted permanent signs shall be classified into one of the seven following types: canopy/marquee signs, ground signs, monument signs, projecting nameplate signs, wall signs, window signs, and shingle signs.

**TABLE 22: Permitted Permanent Signs**

	<b>Agricultural and Residential Zoning Districts</b>	<b>Office Districts, Parks and Recreation District</b>	<b>Commercial Districts</b>	<b>Industrial Districts</b>	<b>Downtown Districts</b>
Wall Signs	X	X	X	X	X
Ground Signs	X	X	X	X	X
Residential Development Identification Signs	X				
Menu Boards			X		
Canopy/Marquee/Awning Signs		X	X	X	X
Window Signs		X	X	X	X
Projecting Signs		X	X		X
Directional Signs	X	X	X	X	
Murals		X	X	X	X
Manual Changeable Copy Signs		X	X	X	X
Electronic Message Centers			X		

**1) Wall Signs**

- A. ~~Wall Business or identification~~ signs may be erected on a building wall or extension of a building wall which faces a street, parking lot, or service drive, and such signs may not extend ~~more than ten inches~~ beyond any building setback lines.
- B. Wall signs shall be attached parallel to the building face and extend outward perpendicular from the building face a maximum of ~~10ten inches (+0")~~, except as otherwise provided herein.
- C. ~~Wall signs shall be primarily constructed out of channel cut letters or other high-quality sign construction types, as determined by the Zoning Official. Logos and graphic elements may also be incorporated into the sign as accent features.~~
- D. ~~There is no limit to the quantity of wall signs as long as the cumulative square footage of all wall signs meets the maximum area requirements. The sign area of any proposed canopy, marquee, or permanent window signs shall be included in the overall cumulative calculation of maximum wall signage area.~~

**TABLE 23: Wall Sign Regulation**

<b>Wall Sign Regulations</b>		
<b>District/Use</b>	<b>Maximum Area</b>	<b>Illumination/Other</b>
<del>Nonresidential Uses Located in Agricultural and Residential Districts</del>	<del>2 square feet per lineal foot of building frontage (maximum 150 square feet)</del>	<del>internally or externally External illumination permitted</del>
<del>Office Districts/Parks and Recreation District</del>	<del>2 square feet per lineal foot of building frontage (maximum 200 square feet)</del>	<del>Internally or externally illumination permitted</del>
<del>Commercial Districts</del>	<del>2 square feet per lineal foot of building frontage (maximum 250 square feet)</del>	<del>Internally or externally illumination permitted</del>
<del>Industrial Districts</del>	<del>2 square feet per lineal foot of building frontage (maximum 300 square feet)</del>	<del>Internally or externally illumination permitted</del>
<del>Downtown Districts (Downtown Core, Mixed Use, Riverfront Mixed Use)</del>	<del>2 square feet per lineal foot of building frontage (maximum 250 square feet)</del>	<del>Internally or externally illumination permitted. Cabinet wall signs are prohibited.</del>
<del>Downtown Districts (Civic)</del>	<del>2 square feet per lineal foot of building frontage (maximum 200 square feet)</del>	<del>Internally or externally illumination permitted</del>
<del>**In the Transitional Neighborhood Downtown District wall signs are limited to Identification Signs</del>		

11)2) Ground Monument Signs

~~A. Ground signs must be located on the same parcel to which they are an accessory use. Off-premises advertising is not permitted on ground signs. Monument signs may be erected on a lot, provided the location, height and other characteristics of the sign meet the regulations of this section. Monument signs shall be permanently and securely anchored to the ground, and shall be flush with the base, which shall be of brick or stone. Monument signs shall not exceed the allowable height for the zoning district in which the property is located, from the ground to the top of the sign, and such height shall be measured from the grade and not any mounding around the sign. Monument signs shall be limited to Business signs or Identification signs. Professionally finished post and panel signs shall be permitted in the I-2, General Industrial District and shall meet the height and size requirements of a monument sign.~~

~~A.B. Ground signs may include a variety of designs including monument signs, post and panel signs, and other similar-type professionally designed signs. Ground signs do not include pole signs.~~

~~B.C. No ground monument sign shall be erected so as to obstruct free access to or egress from any building.~~

~~C.D. Inside the fire limits, no ground monument sign shall be constructed of combustible materials, except ornamental features. Outside the fire limits, the structural frame of ground monument signs shall not be erected out of combustible materials.~~

~~D.E. No person shall place or cause to be placed any ground monument sign within any right-of-way or within the clear sight triangle.~~

~~E.F. Ground Monument signs shall be anchored to a minimum depth of ~~32~~thirty-two inches (32").~~

~~F.—A monument sign shall only advertise matters that are the business, name or identity, address and/or activity of the establishment in front of whose property such sign is located, whether through logo, type, graphics or other symbols.~~

~~G.—All changeable copy signs shall be monument signs.~~

~~H.—No monument signs within the Downtown Districts shall be internally illuminated.~~

~~I.G. The base of all new ground monument signs and post and panel signs signs shall be effectively landscaped with a single, continuous landscaped area to be maintained beneath the sign, in accordance with the following standards:~~

- ~~i. The minimum size of the landscaped area shall be equal to the area of the ground sign (i.e., if a ground sign is proposed to be 40 square feet in size then it shall be located in a landscaped area of at least 40 square feet in size).The edge of the required landscaped area shall be thirty inches (30") from the edge of the sign or any edge of the sign structure. Ground signs that are replaced or expanded in existing landscape areas are exempt from the thirty inch requirement;~~

- ii. The landscaped area shall include all points where sign structural supports attach to the ground;
- iii. Where the required landscaped area adjoins a paved surface accessible to vehicular traffic, a raised planter-type area around the base of the sign ~~is shall be~~ required to prevent the encroachment of vehicles; and

~~The landscaped area shall include living plant materials that areing, aesthetically located and maintained.~~

- iv. The landscaped area shall include living plantings aesthetically located and maintained including flowers, grasses, and a minimum of one shrub for every five square feet of required landscaped area. Plants may be located in mulch beds, but the landscaped area may not be completely comprised of mulch. The use of concrete, asphalt, gravel, or any other paved surface, or hardscape in the landscaped area shall be prohibited.

**TABLE 24: Ground Sign Regulations**

<b>Ground Sign Regulations</b>					
<b>District/Use</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Maximum Area</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>	<b>Minimum Setbacks</b>	<b>Illumination/ Other</b>
Agricultural and Nonresidential Uses Located in Residential Districts	1 per street frontage	0.25 square feet per foot of road frontage (maximum 36 square feet)	6 feet	10 feet from right-of-way, 15 feet from side property lines, 5 feet from all driveways	<u>Internally or externally</u> External illumination permitted
Office Districts/Parks and Recreation District	1 per street frontage	0.25 square feet per foot of road frontage (maximum 36 square feet)	6 feet	10 feet from right-of-way, 15 feet from side property lines, 5 feet from all driveways	Internally or externally illumination permitted
Commercial Districts	1 per street frontage	0.5 square feet per foot of road frontage (maximum 64 square feet)	6 feet	10 feet from right-of-way, 15 feet from side property lines, 5 feet from all driveways	Internally or externally illumination permitted
Commercial Districts (multi-tenant developments or single users of 50,000 sq. ft or more)	1 per street frontage	0.5 square feet per foot of road frontage (maximum 100 square feet)	10 feet	10 feet from right-of-way, 15 feet from side property lines, 5 feet from all driveways	Internally or externally illumination permitted
Industrial Districts	1 per street frontage	1 square feet per foot of road frontage	8 feet	10 feet from right-of-way, 15 feet from side property	Internally or externally



		(maximum 80 square feet)		lines, 5 feet from all driveways	illumination permitted
<u>Downtown Districts**</u>	1 per street frontage	0.25 square feet per foot of road frontage (maximum 36 square feet)	6 feet	Must be located on private property and 5 feet from all driveways and side property lines	External illumination only
<i>**In the Transitional Neighborhood Downtown District ground signs are not permitted</i>					

### 3) Residential Development Identification Signs

- A. Ground signs may be erected at the entrance of any residential subdivision or residential development. The location, height, and other characteristics of the sign must meet the regulations of this section.
- B. Two ground signs are permitted per each street entrance (one sign is permitted on each side of the entrance to the subdivision or development). Ground signs shall be permanently and securely anchored to the ground and shall be flush mounted to a base, which shall be of brick, stone, or a faux alternative. Alternate ground sign designs may be presented to the Planning Commission for review and approval. Pole type signage is prohibited.
- C. The sign area shall be limited to 24 square feet and shall not exceed four feet -in height.
- D. The sign area may be incorporated into a larger design feature that may include columns, walls, or other similar features. The reverse sides of identification features shall be finished to match the fronts.
- E. Such identification features may not be located in the public right-of-way. Under no circumstances shall such feature be located in the tree lawn nor the clear sight triangle, nor impair the future utilization or expansion of public streets.
- F. Applications for permanent subdivision identification signs must demonstrate provisions for future maintenance and maintenance easements at the time of final platting. Written consent of the property owner of each proposed sign location shall be submitted with each permit application.

**TABLE 25: Residential Development Identification Sign Regulations**

<u>District/Use</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Maximum Area</u>	<u>Maximum Height</u>	<u>Minimum Setbacks</u>	<u>Illumination/ Other</u>
<u>Agricultural and Residential Zoning Districts</u>	<u>2 per street entrance into the subdivision</u>	<u>24 square feet</u>	<u>4 feet</u>	<u>10 feet from right-of-way, 15 feet from side property lines, 5 feet from all driveways</u>	<u>External illumination permitted</u>

4) **Menu Boards.** Menu Boards provided such signs are oriented solely for the use of patrons utilizing the drive-thru and are not visible from adjacent property or the right-of-way. Drive-through menu board signs may include freestanding, pylon and monument signs. One drive-through menu board sign and one preview board is permitted, but only when all of the following conditions are fulfilled: the sign is located on the property to which it refers; the sign is not visible from the public right-of-way; the sign does not exceed six feet (6') in height; and the sign is located at least ~~75~~seventy-five feet (75') from a Residential District or use.

**TABLE 26: Menu Board Sign Regulations**

District/Use	Quantity	Maximum Area	Maximum Height	Minimum Setbacks	Illumination/Other
Commercial Districts (Uses that include a permitted drive-thru)	2 per drive-thru	48 square feet	6 feet	75 feet from a Residential District or use	Internally or externally illumination permitted

5) **Canopy/Marquee/Awning Signs.** Canopy, marquee, and awning signs may be painted on or attached to an awning area or attached to a canopy or marquee. Such signs shall not exceed the maximum height of the principal structure when mounted on the top of the canopy. The sign area of any proposed canopy or marquee sign shall be included in the overall cumulative calculation of allowable wall signage. Awning signs shall be externally illuminated only. Marquee and canopy signs may be internally or externally illuminated.

**TABLE 27: Canopy/Marquee/Awning Sign Regulations**

District/Use	Maximum Area	Illumination/Other
Office Districts/Parks and Recreation District	The area of all canopy/marquee/awning signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage.	Internally or externally illumination permitted
Commercial Districts	The area of all canopy/marquee/awning signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage.	Internally or externally illumination permitted
Industrial Districts	The area of all canopy/marquee/awning signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage.	Internally or externally illumination permitted

<u>Downtown Districts (Downtown Core, Mixed Use, Riverfront Mixed Use)</u>	<u>The area of all canopy/marque/awning signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage.</u>	<u>Internally or externally illumination permitted. Cabinet wall signs are prohibited.</u>
<u>Downtown Districts (Civic)</u>	<u>The area of all canopy/marque/awning signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage.</u>	<u>Internally or externally illumination permitted</u>
<u>**In the Transitional Neighborhood Downtown District canopy/marquee/awning signs are not permitted</u>		

**6) Window Signs.** The cumulative maximum area of all permanent window signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage and are limited to windows on the ground or first floor. A maximum of 25 percent% of each window may be covered by window signs. Political jurisdictions and educational facilities are exempted from this maximum area and their window signage does not count towards the overall calculation of allowable wall signage. Window signs shall not be lighted or illuminated. Permanent window signs shall be limited to signs denoting the identification of the occupant, the address of the premises and its use. Except for within the Downtown Districts where a business does not occupy first floor space, such signs shall be limited to use solely on the ground or first floor.

**12) Projecting Nameplate Signs.**

**7) One projecting sign is permitted per parcel.** Projecting ~~nameplate~~ signs shall not exceed ~~12~~twelve square feet (~~12 sq. ft.~~) in size, shall be placed not less than eight feet (~~8'~~) above the sidewalk or ground level, and shall not project more than four feet (~~4'~~) outward from the building face. ~~Projecting signs shall be externally illuminated only. Projecting nameplate signs shall be limited to Business signs and Identification signs.~~

**8) Directional Signs.** On-site directional signs indicating points of entry or exit for a facility, off-street parking areas, circulation patterns, business or building locations, or for other similar purposes are permitted subject to the following:

A. Directional signs are limited to a maximum are of nine (~~9~~) square feet and five (~~5~~) feet in height.

A.—Directional signs shall not contain advertising or commercial messaging, including logos.

**TABLE 28: Directional Sign Regulations**

District/Use	Quantity	Maximum Area	Maximum Height	Minimum Setbacks	Illumination/ Other
See TABLE 22: Permitted Permanent Signs	N/A	9 square feet	5 feet	5 feet from the public right-of-way and all property lines	Internal and External Illumination permitted

9) **Murals.** Murals that contain no advertising or commercial messaging may be permitted on any blank wall or portion of a wall per the approval of the City Manager. Murals that contain advertising or commercial messaging may be permitted per the approval of the Planning Commission. The following factors shall be considered and weighed in determining whether a mural should be approved:

A. Mural Location:

- i. Murals shall not be located on the principal façade(s) of a building unless approved by the Planning Commission.
- ii. Murals should not cover or detract from architectural features.
- iii. The installation of a mural should complement and enhance the building and be incorporated architecturally into the façade.
- iv. Murals should not be in an area which may cause undue distraction to drives, thereby creating a safety hazard.

B. Mural Design and Materials:

- i. The scale of the mural should be appropriate to the building and the site.
- ii. The theme of the mural should be appropriate within the context of the surrounding area and complement the existing character.
- iii. The name of the artist or sponsor of the mural may be incorporated into the mural but shall not exceed five percent of the design or two square feet in area, whichever is less.
- iv. The paint utilized for the mural should be intended for exterior use, have a waterproof seal coating, and of sufficient quality which will not corrode or compromise the integrity of the surface to which it is applied.
- v. Reflective, neon, and fluorescent paints should not be used.

**10) Manual Changeable Copy.** The following regulations apply to all manual changeable copy:

- A. Manual changeable copy shall be permitted on ground signs.
- B. Manual changeable copy signs shall comprise no more than two-thirds (2/3) of the total area of the sign per side.
- C. Ground signs containing manual changeable copy are subject to the maximum height and sign area requirements of ground signs for the zoning district in which they are located.
- D. In the Residential Districts and the Downtown Districts, manual changeable copy signs shall not be internally illuminated. In these three districts, the manual changeable copy signs may be externally illuminated only between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless otherwise permitted by Planning Commission.

**11) Electronic Message Centers.** The following regulations apply to all electronic message centers:

- A. Electronic message centers may be incorporated into ground signs subject to the approval of a conditional use permit per Section 1115.09(b).
- B. Ground signs containing electronic message centers are subject to the maximum height and sign area requirements of ground signs for the zoning district in which they are located.
- C. Electronic message centers shall be located a minimum of 250 feet from any residential use.
- D. Electronic message centers shall only be located on ground mounted signs and shall not exceed two-thirds (2/3) of the size of the total sign area to ensure that the electronic component is subordinate to the principal sign face in size.
- E. A maximum of one electronic message center is permitted per parcel or development.
- F. Each message on an electronic message center shall be displayed for no less than eight seconds before transitioning.
- G. The use of streaming or full-motion video on any electronic message center is prohibited.
- H. The lighting within an electronic message center shall not be permitted to strobe, flash on or off, change the intensity of illumination, or illustrate movement.
- I. Electronic message centers shall be equipped with automatic dimmer controls to produce a distinct illumination change from a higher illumination level to a lower illumination level between one-half hour before sunset (dusk) and one-half hour after sunrise (dawn).
- J. Electronic message centers shall not exceed a maximum illumination of 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter) during daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 500

nits (candelas per square meter) between dusk and dawn. The applicant shall provide a certificate of maximum illumination before a sign permit application is approved.

K. Electronic message centers are prohibited in the Downtown Districts.

f)j) Requirements Applicable to All Permanent Signs. The following general requirements shall apply for characteristics of permanent signs.

- 1) **illumination.** Illumination of signs shall be permitted in all districts, except residential districts, or as otherwise provided in this Section. Illumination shall be from a concealed or indirect light source and shall not flash, blink, fluctuate, travel, revolve, move or in any manner fail to provide constant illumination and shall not create a hazard or visibility problem or interfere with or impair vehicular movement on any street from which the sign may be viewed. Illuminated signs shall be constructed and maintained so that the source of illumination is shielded or otherwise prevented from beaming directly onto adjacent properties or streets.
- 2) **Construction.** The construction of all signs, including any electrical wiring necessary for the operation of illuminated signs shall conform to the specifications of the Ohio Building Code.

3) **Maintenance**

A. Signs shall be maintained in a safe and good condition at all times by the owner of the sign. Regular maintenance includes the repair and replacement of damaged or malfunctioning parts, repainting, cleaning, and other acts required to keep the sign in good condition.

B. The maintenance of a mural shall be the responsibility of the property owner. The mural must be properly maintained to ensure that material failure (such as peeling paint) is corrected, and vandalism is removed promptly in accordance with the Property Maintenance Code.

C. Property surrounding any ground mounted sign shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition and shall be free from weeds, rubbish, and flammable material.

3)4) **Location.** All permanent signs shall be located on the site being promoted, identified or advertised. Off premise signs are prohibited. In no case shall any part of a sign be placed in, over, or extend onto any public right-of-way, except for projecting **nameplate** signs on lots where no front yard exists and for publicly owned signs such as traffic control and directional signs. In no case shall any part of a sign be placed in, over or extend above the roof line of any structure.

4)5) **Maximum Number, Height and Area of Signs.** In addition to placement of signs, the heights, area and number of permitted signs allowed per use or lot shall be regulated by districts and uses as listed under the regulations of this Section. The height of **monument signs and** ground signs shall be measured from the established grade, and no mounding shall be used to increase the height of a sign.

5)6) **Joint Identification Signs**

- A. Joint identification signs shall be limited to wall signs or monument signs, and to premises where there are two or more uses located on a property having frontage on at least one public street.
- B. If the property fronts on one street, only one joint identification sign is permitted.
- C. A second joint identification sign is permitted if the property fronts on two streets, provided that the frontage for each street is not less than ~~two hundred~~200 lineal feet (~~200~~). Additionally, a second joint identification sign may be permitted in the Downtown Districts if the premises has pedestrian access open to the public from parking facilities both in the front and in the rear of the property.
- D. The size of a joint identification sign shall meet the size and location requirements for a commercial center sign under [Table 24](#).

6)7) **Off-Premises Signs for Industrial and Commercial Lots with No Street Frontage.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these sign regulations, a lot or parcel with an Industrial or Commercial zoning designation that has no frontage on a public street, as determined by the Zoning Official, may apply for a sign permit to erect a **groundmonument** sign on an adjacent lot with street frontage, with the permission of the owner of the adjacent lot. The **groundmonument** sign shall meet the size and setback requirements for the lot upon which the sign is to be erected. The off-premise sign shall not be counted toward the total allowable signage for the lot upon which it is erected.

- j) **Street Numbers Required.** An owner, occupant or person having control of a residential, industrial, commercial or public building shall display the numerical address of the building in Arabic numbers not less than four inches (~~4"~~) in height. Other street numbering guidelines include:
  - 1) The color of the numbers shall contrast to the color of the surface on which they are ~~mounted~~mounted, and the numbers shall be clearly visible from the street on which the building is numbered.
  - 2) The numbers shall be placed on the front of the building facing the street on which the building is numbered.
  - 3) For buildings not having entrance doors facing the street on which the buildings are numbered, numbers of all units within such building shall be placed either on the wall of the building facing the street on which the building is numbered or on a sign in compliance with this Section.
  - 4) The owner of a residential building may post additional sets of address numbers provided that one set complies with the provision of this Section.
  - 5) Whoever violates this Section or any part thereof, upon being notified in writing of such violation by the City Engineer, shall have ~~thirty~~(30) days in which to comply with the provisions of this Section. Upon expiration of the ~~thirty~~(30) days and failure to comply with

the provisions of this Section within that period the owner, occupant or person having control of a building shall be deemed in violation. Each subsequent day shall constitute a separate violation.

k) Lighting. LED, neon tubing, and string lights that are being used as building accent lighting or window trimming are prohibited. String lights may be used as decoration around outdoor eating and drinking areas, parks, public spaces, or gathering areas.

~~k)l~~ Temporary Signs and Temporary Sign Permits.

1) **Temporary Sign Permits.** A temporary sign permit is **not** required for **all** temporary signs, unless specifically stated otherwise.

2) **Single-Family Residential Temporary Signs.** Each single-family residential property may display temporary signs per the following regulations:

A. Each parcel is limited to a maximum of three signs at any one time.

B. The maximum size of each sign is six square feet.

C. The maximum sign height is four feet.

D. Signs shall not be illuminated.

E. The display of Single-Family Residential Temporary signs shall be limited to 30 consecutive days in a given year.

~~1)~~ **Garage Sale Signs.** A sign which advertises the sale of personal property such as a garage, yard, porch or moving sale sign provided that it is limited to one sign, not greater than four square feet (4 sq. ft.) in size and which sign is located on the sale premises for a time period not greater than two (2) consecutive days. Such signs shall not be located in a public right-of-way.

3) **Real Estate Signs.** Property or buildings for sale, rental, or lease are permitted to have a temporary sign subject to the following:

A. The maximum sign area is 32 square feet.

B. The maximum sign height is six feet.

C. One sign is permitted per street frontage.

D. Such signs may be temporary ground, wall, or window signs. Ground signs must be located a minimum of 10 feet from any public right-of-way.

E. Signs shall not be illuminated.

~~A.F.~~ Signs shall be removed following the sale, rental, or lease of the building or property.

~~B.~~ Signs that indicate the sale, rental or lease of a particular residential structure or single- or two-family residential land area, to be limited in size to six square feet (6), with one sign allowed per street front, except that a corner lot may have one such real estate sign



~~per street front. Such signs shall not be located in a public right-of-way, and shall not be illuminated. Signs advertising a single- or two-family residential structure or land area must be removed within fourteen (14) days after the sale, rental, or lease has occurred.~~

~~C.—Signs that indicate the sale, rental, or lease of a particular residential or non-residential undeveloped parcel over three (3) acres in area, multi-family, commercial structure or industrial land area, to be limited in size to thirty-two square feet (32 sq. ft.) in area and six feet (6') in height, with one sign allowed per street front. They shall be placed at least ten feet (10') from any public right-of-way, and shall not be illuminated. Individual tenant spaces within a parcel are allowed a window or wall sign.~~

~~D.—**Property Signs.** No trespassing signs or other such signs regulating the use of property, such as "Beware of Dog," or "No Hunting," etc., of no more than two square feet (2 sq. ft.) in size.~~

~~2) **Security Signs.** A sign indicating that the property is protected by a security surveillance system of any nature.~~

~~4) **Community Events.** Signs for community events and programs which last for a time period of 30 days or less and which are sponsored by nonprofit, public, educational, religious and charitable organizations are subject to the following:~~

~~A. Signs for community events and programs which last for a time period of 30 days or less and which are sponsored by nonprofit, public, educational, religious and charitable organizations are subject to the following:~~

~~i. Signs may be displayed during the event for a period of ~~thirty (30)~~ days immediately preceding the commencement of the event.~~

~~ii. One sign may be located at the site of the event, provided it does not exceed 32 square feet in size and six feet in height.~~

~~iii. All off-site signs must be located on private property with the permission of the property ~~owner, and owner and~~ may not exceed ~~16~~sixteen square feet (~~16 sq. ft.~~) nor six feet (~~6'~~) in height.~~

~~iv. Signs shall not be illuminated, and shall not create a safety or visibility hazard, nor be affixed to any public utility pole or tree or be located within a public right-of-way.~~

~~v. Each sign shall be placed at a different site and shall be removed not later than ~~forty-eight (48)~~ hours after the scheduled activity.~~

~~B. If the program or event is for a continuing period of time in excess of ~~thirty (30)~~ days, only one sign, not larger than ~~ten~~10 square feet (~~10 sq. ft.~~), is permitted and such sign must be located either at the site of the event or program or at the location of the sponsoring organization, unless otherwise approved by the Zoning Official.~~

~~5) **Construction Signs.** Properties or buildings that are under construction may have temporary signs that are subject to the following:~~

~~A. Construction signs which display the identification of the contractors, architects and other construction principals and temporary development signs which shall include signs indicating or promoting the development of land, facilities, or structures. Construction and/or development signs shall not be illuminated. One sign is permitted. No more than one such sign shall be permitted per street frontage and such signs shall be installed on the property to which they refer. For sites having at least one hundred feet (100') of frontage on each of two public rights-of-way, a second sign may be permitted facing the second right-of-way if both signs comply with UDO requirements. The two signs shall be no closer than seventy five feet (75'). The distance shall be measured by drawing two straight lines from the edge of each sign, forming a 90-degree (90°) angle.~~

~~B. Such signs shall be limited to thirty-two (32) square feet (32 sq. ft.) and six feet (6') in height and. They shall be placed at least ten (10) feet (10') from any public right-of-way.~~

~~C. In residential subdivisions that are under construction, development signs must be removed when seventy five (75) percent (75%) of the lots in the first subdivision phase have received any certificate of occupancy or the permanent subdivision sign has been erected.~~

~~D. For multi-family and non-residential developments, signs For other than single-family residential development, development signs must be removed when more than 50 (50) percent (50%) of the space is rented, sold or leased.~~

~~E. Signs shall not be illuminated.~~

~~t) For construction signs in developed residential neighborhoods, such sign shall be limited to six square feet (6') and must be removed upon completion of construction or the commencement of occupancy, whichever event occurs first.~~

1)6) **Temporary Holiday Signs/Decorations.** Signs clearly in the nature of decorations customarily associated with any national, local, or religious holiday, shall ~~to~~ be limited to ~~sixty (60)~~ days in any one ~~(1)~~ year and to be displayed not more than ~~sixty (60)~~ consecutive days. Such signs must meet the sign area limitations of the applicable zoning district. Such signs may be illuminated provided that safety and visibility hazards are not created.

7) **Banners.** Professionally printed advertising banners that are a maximum size of 150 square feet are permitted provided that a temporary sign permit is obtained, they are attached at each corner, point, and/or end so as to prevent movement. Banners may be attached to ground signs within the frame, provided that they are attached at each corner, point and/or end so as to prevent movement. Only one banner is permitted per establishment. No business shall display such signs for more than 60 days within one calendar year per location. The date each sign is first displayed and the time period for which the sign will be displayed shall be legibly marked on the sign. The area of each banner shall not count toward the maximum sign area as specified in this Section.

2)8) **Temporary Window Signs.** Temporary window signs that are limited in size to ~~twenty-five (25) percent (25%) of~~ the window area in which it is placed, and which are not

illuminated. Such signs may be placed only in ground floor windows where no other temporary signs are placed and be limited to only one sign per window. Such signs may be displayed not more than ~~one hundred twenty (120)~~ days per calendar year. ~~if they indicate or promote special sales or special occasions. The date upon which a temporary window sign is first displayed shall be legibly marked on the sign. It will be assumed that a sign has been displayed continuously from the date marked.~~ Merchandise ~~may be~~ displayed within individual store display windows ~~does not count as signage.~~

3)9)          **Other Types of Temporary Signs.** Up to two temporary signs, which do not fall within any other category under this Section 1111.08(lf) and which are not greater than eight square feet ~~(8 sq. ft.)~~ in size, may be displayed on private property, with the permission of the property owner; provided any such sign shall not be displayed for longer than ~~thirty~~ **30(30)** days in a given year. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated; and shall not create a safety or visibility hazard.

4)10)          **General Restrictions for Temporary Signs:**

A. No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured by any permanent means to any land, structure or other improvement.

~~B. Subject to the exemptions set forth in Section 1111.08(f) above, all temporary signs must be issued permits, in accordance with this Chapter, before they may be installed, erected, constructed or otherwise displayed.~~

~~C.B.~~          Subject to the other provisions of this Chapter, temporary signs advertising or otherwise directing viewers to a particular event shall be located at the site or location of the event being promoted or at the headquarters of an event sponsor.

~~D.C.~~          The date upon which a temporary sign is first displayed shall be legibly and permanently marked on the sign.

11) **Prohibited Temporary Signs.** ~~The following types of temporary signs and advertising devices are prohibited.~~

~~A. Flutter flags~~

~~B. The use of any inflatable signs, air activated attraction devices, beacons and searchlights is prohibited, except by special permit for specific events not to exceed ten (10) days in any twelve-month period.~~

~~C. Portable signs, "A" or "T" frame signs, swinger message board signs, windblown signs, or any other type of sign which can be moved from one location to another without any change in its structural components or members, including trailer signs. Portable "A" frame (also known as sandwich board) signs, and swinger message board signs are permitted to be used with non-residential uses within the Downtown Districts; provided, however that such signs shall not exceed twenty-four inches by thirty-six inches (24" x 36").~~

~~D. Human signs~~

E. Snipe signs

F. Vehicle signs

5)12) **Signs in the Public Right-of-Way.** No temporary signage shall be placed in the public right-of-way, unless specifically approved by the City Manager (regardless of whether such sign is exempt from sign permitting requirements under Section 1111.08(f) above). Temporary signs placed in the public right-of-way present an immediate distraction and hazard to traveling vehicles and pedestrians, and contribute to visual clutter, blight and litter throughout the community. In addition to other available enforcement action and penalties set forth in this Chapter, the following enforcement action and penalties shall apply to violations of this Section 1111.08(lg)(125):

A. The Zoning Official shall cause prompt removal of the prohibited sign from the public right-of-way. Temporary signs removed from the public right-of-way may be disposed of in the City's discretion.

B. Any person responsible for placing or maintaining a temporary sign in the public right-of-way shall be subject to the following graduated civil fines:

i. For the first offense, a fine of \$50.00;

ii. For the second offense, a fine of \$100.00;

iii. For the third offense, a fine of \$250.00; and

iv. For any subsequent offense, a fine of \$500.00.

C. Each temporary sign placed in the public right-of-way in violation of this section shall be considered a separate offense.

m) Nonconforming Signs and Illegal Signs. The continuance of an existing sign that does not meet the regulations and requirements of this Section shall be deemed a nonconforming sign that shall terminate by abandonment, discontinuance, damage or destruction in accordance with this Section.

1) **Termination by Abandonment or Discontinuance.**

A. A sign shall be considered abandoned or discontinued:

i. When the sign is associated with an abandoned or discontinued use.

ii. When the sign remains after the termination of a business. A business has ceased operations and terminated if it is closed to the public for at least ~~ninety (90)~~ consecutive days and no active building permit is on file for remodeling or reconstruction. Seasonal businesses are exempt from this determination.

B. Abandonment shall be determined, based upon the above definitions, by the Zoning Official. When the Zoning Official finds, upon investigation, that a sign has been abandoned, he shall notify the owner of said sign, together with the owner of the land on which the sign is located, by certified mail, of ~~their~~ findings. Such notice shall

advised the owner(s) that the sign has been declared abandoned and must be removed within ~~thirty(30)~~ days. The owner may appeal such decision by the Zoning Official to the Appeals Board within ~~twenty(20)~~ days of receipt of the notice.

- C. If the abandoned sign is not removed as ordered and the owner has not filed an appeal within ~~twenty(20)~~ days to the Appeals Board, or if the sign is not removed within ~~ten(10)~~ days of notice to the owner of the Appeals Board's denial of the owner's appeal, the sign may be removed at the expense of the property owner. If the City is not reimbursed for such costs within ~~thirty(30)~~ days, the amount thereof shall be certified to the County Auditor for collection as a special assessment against the property on which the sign is located.
- D. Upon a finding that the signage is abandoned, the right to maintain and use such sign shall terminate immediately.

## 2) **Termination Due to Damage, Destruction, or Relocation**

- A. A sign which is damaged or destroyed, by any means, to the extent of more than ~~fifty(50)~~ percent ~~(50%)~~ of the cost of replacement of such sign, it shall not be reconstructed except in conformity within the provisions of this UDO.
- B. A nonconforming sign shall not be structurally relocated unless it is brought into compliance with the provisions of the sign requirements and standards of this UDO. Should any relocation take place without being brought into compliance, the sign shall be deemed an illegal sign.

## 3) **Maintenance of Nonconforming Signs.** A nonconforming sign shall be maintained as required in accordance with the following provisions:

- A. All signs, together with all supports, braces, guys and anchors shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation. The display surfaces of all signs shall be subject to periodic inspection.
- B. Every sign and the immediately surrounding premises shall be maintained by the owner or person in charge thereof in a clean, sanitary and inoffensive condition free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.
- C. Should any sign be or become unsafe or in danger of falling, the owner thereof and/or the owner of the land on which such sign is located shall proceed at once to put such sign in a safe and secure condition or shall remove the sign.
- D. When the Zoning Official or ~~theirhis~~ designee finds, upon investigation, that a sign is unsafe or unsound structurally, he shall notify the owner of said sign, together with the owner of the land on which the sign is located, by certified mail of ~~theirhis~~ findings. Such notice shall advise the owner that the sign has been declared unsafe and/or structurally unsound, and must either be repaired or removed (as determined by the Zoning Official in ~~theirhis~~ discretion) with ~~ten(10)~~ days. The owner may appeal such decision by the Zoning Official to the Appeals Board within ~~ten(10)~~ days of receipt of the notice.
- E. If an unsafe, or structurally unsound sign is not repaired or removed as ordered by the Zoning Official, and the owner has filed an appeal within ~~ten(10)~~ days to the Appeals

Board, or if the sign is not repaired or removed within ~~ten~~(10) days of the Appeals Board's decision denying the owner's appeal, the sign may be removed by the City at the expense of the sign owner and/or underlying property owner. If the City is not immediately reimbursed for such sign removal costs, the City may pursue collection of its costs in any lawful manner.

n) Enforcement

- 1) If any sign is installed, erected, constructed or maintained in violation of any provision of this section, except for nonconforming signs in compliance, the Zoning Official or ~~their~~his designee shall notify the owner or user thereof to comply with the provisions of this section by certified mail, personal service, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- 2) If the owner or user fails to comply with such notice, and the owner has not requested an opinion as to the existence of the violation from the Appeals Board, or, if after a reasonable search, the owner cannot be found, the Zoning Official or ~~their~~his designee shall cause such graphic or such portion thereof as is constructed or maintained in violation of this Section to be taken down, the expense of which shall be paid by the owner or user.
- 3) Unless clearly specified otherwise, the property owner will be considered to be the presumptive owner of said sign. However, nothing herein contained shall prevent the Zoning Official or ~~his~~their designee from adopting such precautionary measures as may seem to him necessary or advisable in case of imminent danger to place the graphic in safe condition, the expense of which shall be paid by the owner of the premises or recovered against him in the manner as further described in this section.
- 4) No owner or person in charge, possession or control of the sign(s) shall fail to comply with the notices provided in within five ~~(5)~~ days of mailing of the notice. No owner or person in charge, possession or control of permanent signs shall fail to comply with the notices provided within ~~twenty-one~~(21) days of mailing of the notice.
- 5) If a violation of a provision of this section is repeated within ~~ninety~~(90) days of a previous violation of the same provision of this Section by the owner or user subject of the previous violation on the same property as the previous violation, such sign may be seized immediately and a charge assessed for removal without additional notification.
- 6) Fees for removal shall be immediately due and payable to the City. Notice of such assessment shall be given to the owner or user by mailing such notice to the address utilized by the County Treasurer for tax billing purposes. All assessments not paid within ~~ten~~(10) days after such mailing shall be subject to collection by the City in any lawful manner
- 7) The City may also collect such costs together with interest through a civil action in the appropriate court of law having jurisdiction thereof and seek such additional orders from a court of competent jurisdiction as may be necessary from time to time in order to enforce the provisions of this section.

o) Penalties

- 1) Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association violating any provision of this Section or failing to obey any lawful order issued pursuant to its terms shall be charged with a minor misdemeanor offense and fined not less than \$75.00. Each day during which such violation continues may be deemed a separate offense.

2) An organization may be charged and found guilty of a violation of a provision of this Section under any of the following circumstances:

- A. The offense is committed by an officer, agent or employee of the organization acting in or on its behalf and within the scope of ~~their~~his office or employment.
- B. The offense consists of an omission to discharge a specific duty imposed by law on the organization.
- C. If, acting with the kind of culpability otherwise required for the commission of the offense, its commission was authorized, requested, commanded, tolerated or performed by the board of trustees, partners or by a high managerial officer, agent or employee acting in behalf of the organization and within the scope of ~~their~~his office or employment.