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**ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2023-3**

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**AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA,
AMENDING CHAPTER 50 (THE LAND DEVELOPMENT
CODE) OF THE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; BY
REVISING ARTICLE X - SIGNS TO ALLOW CERTAIN
ILLUMINATED SIGNS ON STATE ROADS IN
RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS AND TO REVISE
DEFINITIONS, UPDATE STANDARDS AND
REQUIREMENTS AND ELIMINATE CONFLICTING OR
DUPLICATIVE LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR
INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY
CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE;
PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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WHEREAS, Section 1, Article VIII of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, vest the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida (the “Board”) with the authority to adopt county ordinances that are not inconsistent with state general or special law and provide the required procedures to adopt such ordinances;

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WHEREAS, in 1990, the Board adopted the Levy County Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, which Comprehensive Plan has been amended through adoption of subsequent ordinances (the “Comprehensive Plan”);

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WHEREAS, in 1991, the Board adopted the Levy County Land Development Regulations, now codified as Chapter 50 titled “Land Development Code” of the Code of Ordinances of Levy County;

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WHEREAS, Article X.- Signs of the Land Development Code currently prohibits illuminated, advertising signs in all residential zoning districts;

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WHEREAS, much of the land in the County lies within a residential zoning district and Planning and Zoning Staff has received requests for illuminated advertising signs

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 from commercial and institutional uses that are located within a residential zoning
2 district;

3 **WHEREAS**, at the November 8, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board, Planning
4 and Zoning Staff presented this topic and the Board gave direction to draft this
5 ordinance;

6 **WHEREAS**, during the preparation of this ordinance, County Staff determined
7 the sign provisions in the Code could benefit from additional revisions, including revising
8 definitions, updating standards and requirements and eliminating conflicting and
9 duplicative language;

10 **WHEREAS**, as required by Part II of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes and Section
11 50-55 of the Land Development Code, this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by
12 the County Planning Commission for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and the
13 Planning Commission recommendation has been forwarded to the Board;

14 **WHEREAS**, at least ten (10) days' notice has been given once by publication in a
15 newspaper of general circulation notifying the public of this proposed ordinance and of a
16 public hearing in the Levy County Government Center in Bronson, Florida; and

17
18 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners
19 of Levy County, Florida, that:

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21 **Section 1.** Article X titled "Signs" within Chapter 50 – Land Development Code - of the
22 Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows.

23
24 ***DIVISION 1. GENERALLY***

25
26 **Sec. 50-411. Purpose.**

27
28 It is the purpose of this article to ~~permit~~ allow signs of ~~commercial nature~~ in zoning districts
29 in which they are appropriate uses, and to regulate the size, density, illumination and
30 placement of signs intended to be seen from a public right-of-way in the interest of
31 highway safety, the preservation of property values, the protection of the character of the
32 community and the general welfare. ~~The state department of transportation also regulates~~
33 ~~signs, and applicants for sign permits who also front on state roads should contact that~~
34 ~~agency~~

35
36 **Sec. 50-412. Exemptions.**

37 The provisions of this article do not apply to the following:

38 ~~(1) Signs to regulate traffic.~~

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

- 1 ~~(2)~~ (1) Signs required to be posted by law.
- 2 ~~(3)~~ (2) Warning signs and no trespassing signs.
- 3 ~~(4)~~ (3) Signs established by governmental agencies for direction to public
4 facilities, bus stops or other transportation facilities, traffic control, or any other
5 public purpose.
- 6 ~~(5)~~ Signs indicating bus stops, taxi stands and similar transportation facilities.
- 7 ~~(6)~~ Temporary real estate signs no greater than four square feet in area and not
8 more than two linear feet in length and two linear feet in height advertising
9 specific property for sale, lease, rent or development on private property.
- 10 ~~(7)~~ Temporary signs on private land involved in campaigns of religious, charitable,
11 civic, fraternal or similar organizations.
- 12 ~~(8)~~ (4) Identification signs of two square feet or less for residential uses, and four
13 square feet or less for commercial or industrial uses.
- 14 ~~(9)~~ Directional or instructional signs four square feet or less, containing business
15 identification only, where vehicle or pedestrian movements are involved.
- 16 ~~(10)~~ Governmental signs for traffic control, street demonstration, direction to public
17 facilities and any public sign deemed necessary by a public officer in the
18 performance of his public duty, or as approved by the county commission.
- 19 ~~(11)~~ Memorial signs or tablets when cut into any masonry surface or constructed of
20 a noncombustible material.
- 21 ~~(12)~~ (5) Governmental or religious flags or insignia or memorials, and holiday
22 decorations incidental to the business and customarily associated with any
23 national, religious or local holiday.
- 24 ~~(13)~~ Window signs or banners.
- 25 ~~(14)~~ Credit card or membership signs of two square feet or less, one of each
26 organization permitted for each street frontage.
- 27 ~~(15)~~ A maximum of two menu boards or price lists for drive-through facilities of no
28 more than 24 square feet each. Such signs shall be located adjacent to and
29 oriented toward the drive-through area.
- 30 ~~(16)~~ (6) Graphics and trademarks on vending machines, gas pumps and other
31 machinery customarily used for sales outside of buildings.
- 32 ~~(17)~~ (7) Standard size menus mounted at the entrance to restaurants.
- 33 (8) Farm signs allowed by Section 604.50, Florida Statutes.
- 34 ~~(18)~~ Political election signs located between the opening of the election qualifying
35 period and ten days after election.
- 36 ~~(19)~~ Garage sale signs erected for no more than three consecutive days.

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 ~~(20) Flashing, portable sign, to introduce new businesses for a period not to exceed~~
2 ~~one year.~~

3 **Sec. 50-413. Prohibited signs.**

4 The following signs are prohibited and ~~no person shall erect or maintain such signs~~
5 ~~or suffer or permit such signs to exist:~~

6 ~~(1) Any sign which obstructs any window, door, fire escape, ladder or opening~~
7 ~~intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress for any building, as required by~~
8 ~~law.~~

9 ~~(2) No part of any sign projecting more than 12 inches from any wall shall be less~~
10 ~~than eight feet above the level of the ground at that point.~~

11 ~~(3) Any sign which violates the traffic safety portion of this article.~~

12 ~~(4) Any sign located within 50 feet of any residential zoning district, except signs~~
13 ~~advertising uses allowed outright or by special exception in that residential~~
14 ~~zoning district that conform with the provisions of that residential zoning district~~
15 ~~in this article.~~

16 ~~(5)~~ (1) Any sign which constitutes a traffic hazard or is a detriment to traffic safety
17 by reason of its size, location, movement, content, coloring or method of
18 illumination including, without limitation, any sign that obstructs the vision of
19 pedestrians or vehicles using the public right-of-way; any non-traffic signs that
20 use traffic control symbols, shapes or words, such as "stop," "look," "caution,"
21 danger" or "slow"; any sign that obstructs a sign erected by a public authority
22 for the purpose of giving traffic directions or instructions or other public
23 information; and any sign prohibited by Section 479.11, Florida Statutes.

24 ~~(6) Any sign which obstructs the vision between pedestrians and vehicles using~~
25 ~~the public right-of-way. Specifically prohibited are the signs using:~~

26 a. ~~Revolving, flashing or stroboscopic lights;~~

27 b. ~~Bare bulbs in excess of 11 watts; and~~

28 c. ~~Words and traffic control symbols so as to interfere with, mislead or~~
29 ~~confuse traffic, such as "stop," "look," "caution," danger" or "slow."~~

30 ~~(7)~~ (2) Signs attached to trees or utility poles.

31 ~~(8)~~ (3) Signs attached to or painted on vehicles which are not regularly used by
32 the advertised business and are obviously parked in such a way as to
33 advertise to the passing motorist or pedestrian.

34 ~~(9)~~ (4) Privately constructed signs in public rights-of way which are not
35 specifically permitted by this article.

36 ~~(10) Signs made of combustible materials that are attached to fire escapes or~~
37 ~~firefighting equipment.~~

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

- 1 ~~(11) (5) Off-site premises, commercial signs.~~
2 ~~(12) Signs with no redeeming social value.~~
3 (6) Animated signs and flashing signs.
4 ~~(13) (7) Any other signs on premises that are not specifically permitted or exempted~~
5 by this article.

6 **Sec. 50-414. Definitions.**

7 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, have the
8 meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a
9 different meaning.

10 *Abandoned sign* means any sign face which advertises a bona fide business no
11 longer conducted or product no longer sold; any previously permitted portable or
12 temporary sign of which permitted time has expired. In making the determination that a
13 sign advertises a bona fide business no longer being conducted, the zoning official shall
14 consider the existence or absence of a utility service deposit on account, use of the
15 premises and relocation of the business; or any sign structure which has not been used
16 for bona fide business purposes for over six months, ~~that is nonconforming as to~~
17 existing codes regarding height, setback or maintenance.

18 *Animated sign* means any sign that uses movement or change of lighting to depict
19 action or to give the impression of action, whether animated or otherwise, including, but
20 not limited to, signs held or worn by a person. "Electronic message sign" is specifically
21 excluded from this definition. And includes any sign that moves or mimics movement by
22 natural or mechanical means, including but not limited to signs designed to flutter, wave,
23 twirl, change the direction of a plane, or mimic movement with changes in lighting, text,
24 or pictorial information.

25
26 *Banner* means any sign with characters, letters, illustrations or ornamentation
27 applied to cloth, paper or fabric of any kind that is not permanently attached to a solid
28 backing of wood, metal or masonry.

29
30 *Changeable copy sign* means any sign designed so that letters or numbers attached
31 to the sign can be periodically changed manually to indicate a different message.

32
33 *Construction sign* means a sign announcing and identifying the construction project
34 scheduled or underway on the site where the sign is located. ~~A construction sign must~~
35 ~~be removed when the project receives a certificate of completion or certificate of~~
36 ~~occupancy.~~

37 *Electronic message sign* means any sign with a variable message that utilizes
38 computer-generated messages or some other electronic means of changing copy,
39 including but not limited to incandescent lamps, LEDs, LCDs or a flipper matrix. Signs

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 that are illuminated by light sources only for the purpose of internal or external illumination
2 are not considered electronic signs, nor are non-animated neon signs.

3
4 *Fascia sign* means a sign located on the fascia of a roof or canopy including signs
5 that extend the plane of the structural fascia such that the vertical dimension of the sign
6 is no more than one-third the distance from the ground to the bottom of the fascia, and
7 no lateral supports are used.

8
9 *Flashing sign* means any sign, the illumination of which is intermittent, does not have
10 constant intensity at all times when in use, and which exhibits sudden or marked changes
11 in lighting effects, including any sign with rotating or flashing lights, or a strobe light or
12 strobe-like effect.

13
14 *Freestanding sign* means any sign supported by uprights or braces placed upon or
15 in or supported by the ground, a fence or nonstructural wall. This definition shall include
16 signs attached to buildings but supported in whole or in part as described in this
17 definition.

18 *Graphic* means any symbol, any syllable or a word, and illustration of a picture.

19 *Height of sign* means the distance between the top of the sign and the average
20 ground elevation below it.

21 *Identification sign* means a sign that ~~indicates~~ includes only the name and type of
22 business or service, or the name of the development, or the name of the resident,
23 ~~located on the site where the sign is located.~~ Identification signs shall be limited to the
24 ~~name of business or development, type of business or service, their~~ street address,
25 phone number and ~~graphic of business logo, if applicable, ,~~ except that theaters,
26 ~~concert halls and other entertainment establishments with changing programs may~~
27 ~~utilize changeable copy to advertise such programs.~~ Identification signs shall not
28 ~~contain lists of specific products and auxiliary services.~~

29 *Illuminated sign* means a sign that uses artificial light, whether internal or external
30 to the sign faces, to draw attention to the sign or otherwise increase its visibility.

31 ~~*Internally illuminated sign* means a sign that uses artificial light from behind the sign~~
32 ~~face to increase its visibility.~~

33 *Nonconforming sign* means a sign that was previously lawfully permitted in the
34 county ~~before the adoption of the provisions of this article, ,~~ but that does not conform to
35 the current requirements of this article. ~~as to height, size, use, spacing, setback or~~
36 ~~structural support.~~

37 *Off-site sign* means a sign or advertising structure that directs attention to a
38 business, product, service, or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered at a location
39 other than the premises on which the sign is located.

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 *On-site sign* means any sign that identifies or advertises only goods, services,
2 facilities, events or attractions available on the premises where the sign is located.

3 *Parasite sign* means any sign not exempted by this article, for which no permit has
4 been issued, that is attached to another sign.

5 *Portable sign* means a sign that has no permanent attachment to a building or to
6 the ground by means of footing, including but not limited to, an A-frame sign, sign with
7 wheels, pull attachments, search light stands or hot air or gas filled balloons. A portable
8 sign may be either a temporary sign or a freestanding sign.

9 *Projecting sign* means a sign supported by a wall of a building, projecting away
10 from that wall 12 inches or more, designed with a face reading at an angle to that wall.

11 *Property front foot* means each foot or major portion thereof, measured along the
12 public right-of-way where the subject property abuts the right-of-way.

13 *Real estate sign* means a sign erected by the owner or his agent, advertising the
14 real property where the sign is located for sale, lease or rent.

15 *Roof sign* means a sign located on the roof of a building and primarily supported by
16 that roof structure, which extends above the top of the parapet or ridge line on the area
17 where the sign is located, except fascia signs.

18 *Sign* means any letters, numbers, symbols, graphics, pictures or figures, or
19 combinations thereof, which are erected, constructed, placed, attached or painted on a
20 structure or the ground which identifies, advertises or directs attention to a product,
21 business, institution, place, person or event which can be seen from the public right-of-
22 way. When not modified by the term "structure" or "face," the term "sign" shall include all
23 parts of the sign and its supporting structure.

24 *Sign area* means the total surface of a sign including the background and frame but
25 not structural supporting elements outside of its frame. Where a sign is composed of
26 skeleton letters, characters or symbols applied to a frame to a background which is not
27 a structural part of the sign, the area of the sign shall be the smallest triangle, rectangle
28 or circle which will include the display. Where a sign is built with two faces back-to-back,
29 the area of the sign shall be the sum of the areas of the two faces computed as
30 specified in this section.

31 *Sign setback* means the setbacks for signs shall be measured horizontally from the
32 vertical plane of the property line to the closest point of the sign.

33 *Sign structure* means the uprights, supports, braces and framework supporting a
34 sign.

35 *Street or road* means any street, road, highway, alley, parkway, viaduct, circle,
36 court, terrace, place or other similar designations, or cul-de-sac, or other ways intended
37 for travel by the general public, whether improved or unimproved, but shall not include
38 those accessways such as easements and rights-of-way intended for limited utility
39 purposes such as for electric power lines, gas lines, telecommunications lines, water
40 lines, sanitary sewers or easements for ingress and egress.

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 *Temporary sign* means a sign used to advertise or identify transitory events of
2 limited duration as described in this article. two weeks or less duration unless
3 ~~specifically permitted for a longer period.~~

4 *Wall sign* means a sign painted on or affixed to a structural wall of a building, with a
5 sign face approximately parallel to the wall perpendicular to the ground and projecting
6 no more than 12 inches from the wall. The term "wall sign" shall also include window
7 signs and fascia signs.

8 *Window sign* means a sign affixed to, suspended behind or painted on either face
9 of a window or glass door that reads to the exterior of the building.

10
11 ***DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT***

12 **Sec. 50-431. Generally.**

13 The zoning administrator official shall administer and enforce this article, with
14 assistance from the building official. ~~delegation to the building inspector as appropriate.~~

15 **Sec. 50-432. Permits.**

16 (a) ~~No sign, except those listed that do not require a permit, may be erected, hung or~~
17 ~~placed or structurally altered without a permit from the building inspector. The~~
18 ~~building inspector shall only issue a permit for the erection or construction of the sign~~
19 ~~which meets the requirements of this section of the zoning ordinance. All signs,~~
20 ~~except exemptions listed in Sec. 50-412 and temporary signs listed in Sec. 50-463,~~
21 ~~require a permit issued by the building official prior to construction, installation or~~
22 ~~modification. In addition, signs that front on a state road or federal highway may~~
23 ~~require a permit from the florida department of transportation. Applicants are advised~~
24 ~~to contact the florida department of transportation for further information.~~

25
26 (b) ~~Application for permits to erect, hang or place a sign shall be submitted on a form~~
27 ~~obtainable from the building inspector. Each application for a sign permit shall be~~
28 ~~on the form provided by the building official and shall be accompanied by the permit~~
29 ~~fee specified in appendix b of this code, the plans showing the area of the sign, size~~
30 ~~and character and method of illumination, if any, the exact location proposed for~~
31 ~~such sign, and, in the case of a projecting sign, the proposed method of fastening~~
32 ~~such sign to the building structure, the vertical distance between such sign and the~~
33 ~~finished grade, and the horizontal distance between such sign and the right-of-way~~
34 ~~line. ~~The building inspector shall charge a fee for each permit as set by the county~~~~
35 ~~commission.~~

36 (c) ~~The erection or painting of all signs requiring permits under this article shall be~~
37 ~~done by and permitted to a general contractor or sign contractor licensed with the~~
38 ~~county, except that property owners or their lessees may erect or paint~~
39 ~~nonilluminated signs of up to 32 square feet attached to an approved existing~~
40 ~~structure or building.~~

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 **Sec. 50-433. Removal of ~~prohibited, unauthorized, temporary, abandoned, unsafe~~**
2 **and unpermitted signs.**

- 3 (a) ~~Prohibited~~ Unauthorized signs on public property or right-of-way shall be removed
4 immediately upon verbal notice from the county or state to the adjacent property
5 owner or person/business identified in the sign, and/or such signs may be removed
6 by the county, state or its ~~their~~ respective agents without notice.
- 7 (b) Temporary signs and parasite signs shall be removed within 48 hours after receipt
8 of written notice from the county to the property owner. ~~notification of the building~~
9 ~~inspector.~~
- 10 (c) Abandoned signs shall be removed ~~by the owner, agent or person in charge of the~~
11 ~~premises,~~ within 30 days after receipt of written notice from the county to the
12 property owner. ~~notification of the building inspector. If the sign is not timely~~
13 ~~removed, the building official shall refer the violation to the board of adjustment.~~
- 14 (d) Should any sign become insecure or in danger of falling, in disrepair, deteriorated
15 or otherwise unsafe in the opinion of the building official ~~inspector,~~ the owner
16 thereof, or person or firm maintaining it, shall upon receipt of written notice from the
17 county to the property owner ~~notification of the building inspector,~~ the sign shall be
18 removed or repaired immediately, in the case of imminent danger, or within ten
19 days in other instances, ~~secure the sign or cause it to be placed in good repair in a~~
20 ~~manner approved by the owner thereof. If such order is not complied with, the~~
21 ~~county shall remove the sign at the expense of its owner. If unpaid, the costs shall~~
22 ~~become a lien after 90 days after the costs of removal are incurred. After one year~~
23 ~~from the filing of any such lien which remains unpaid, the county commission may~~
24 ~~authorize the county attorney to foreclose on the lien.~~
- 25 (e) Signs constructed, installed or modified without a permit shall be removed within 48
26 hours after receipt of written notice from the county to the property owner.
- 27 (f) If notice from the county is not complied with, the county may remove the sign at the
28 expense of the property owner. If unpaid, the costs shall become a lien after 90
29 days after the costs of removal are incurred. After one year from the filing of any
30 such lien which remains unpaid, the county commission may authorize foreclosure
31 on the lien.

32
33 **Sec. 50-434. Reserved. ~~Illegally erected signs.~~**

- 34 (a) ~~Where this article requires sign painting or erection by a licensed contractor and~~
35 ~~such work is not performed by a licensed contractor, the owner or lessee of the~~
36 ~~property where such illegally erected sign is located shall either:~~
- 37 (1) ~~Have the sign immediately removed; or~~
- 38 (2) ~~Have a licensed contractor secure a permit for such sign. County inspections~~
39 ~~of the sign shall be performed.~~

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 ~~(b) If neither of the actions in subsection (a) of this section are completed within ten~~
2 ~~days after notification by the building inspector, the violation shall immediately be~~
3 ~~referred to the board of adjustment by the zoning administrator.~~

4 **Sec. 50-435. Variances and appeals.**

5 ~~(a) On existing lots of substandard width, where existing conditions or county site plan~~
6 ~~requirements conflict with the ability to meet setback requirements of this article,~~
7 ~~the building official may allow the setback to be reduced to the largest dimensions~~
8 ~~available.~~

9 ~~(b)~~ (a) The zoning board of adjustment is hereby designated as the sign code board of
10 adjustment, and is authorized to:

11 (1) Hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order,
12 requirements, decisions or termination made by the building inspector in the
13 enforcement of this article.

14 (2) Grant variances to this article in specific cases where such variances will not
15 be contrary to the public interest and where, owing to special conditions, a
16 literal enforcement of the provisions of this article would result in unnecessary
17 hardship.

18 ~~(c)~~ (b) All requirements, findings, procedures and appeals of variances shall follow
19 those provisions provided for zoning variances.

20 **Sec. 50-436. Nonconforming signs.**

21 (a) It is the intent of this section to allow a nonconforming sign ~~permitted before the~~
22 ~~date of adoption of the ordinance from which this article is derived~~ to continue until
23 it is no longer used, but not to encourage its survival. Such signs are hereby
24 declared to be incompatible with the overall intent of this article.

25 (b) Nonconforming sign use may be continued, subject to the following provisions:

26 (1) Nonconforming signs shall not be enlarged or increased in any way ~~by its~~
27 ~~lawful size as to the date provided in subsection (a) of this section.~~

28 (2) Nonconforming signs or sign structures that are defined as abandoned under
29 this article shall not be permitted for reuse.

30 (3) There may be a change of tenancy or ownership of a nonconforming sign
31 ~~status~~ when such change is in compliance with the other provisions of this
32 article.

33 (4) ~~Normal repairs, maintenance and improvements may be made.~~ Repairs and
34 maintenance necessary to keep a nonconforming sign in a safe condition are
35 allowed, but no further improvements (such as increased illumination or
36 replacing the sign structure with more durable materials) is allowed.

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 ~~(c) The casual, temporary or illegal use of any sign shall not be sufficient to establish~~
2 ~~the existence of a nonconforming use or to create any rights in the continuance of~~
3 ~~such use.~~

4 **Secs. 50-437—50-455. Reserved.**

5
6 ***DIVISION 3. STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS***

7 **Sec. 50-456. General construction and maintenance standards.**

8 All permitted signs shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the
9 following standards, ~~and no certificate of occupancy will be issued for a building unless~~
10 ~~signs have been conformed to the following standards:~~

11 (1) All signs will ~~must~~ be constructed and maintained in compliance with the
12 applicable provisions of the Florida Building Code and National Electrical
13 Code. ~~accordance with section 2301 of the Standard Building Code, as~~
14 ~~adopted and amended by the county, and article 600 of the National Electrical~~
15 ~~Code, as adopted and amended by the county.~~

16 ~~(2) All copies shall be maintained as to be legible and complete.~~

17 ~~(3)~~(2) Signs shall be maintained in vertical position unless originally permitted
18 otherwise.

19 ~~(4)~~(3) Signs must be constructed of durable materials, maintained in a safe and
20 good condition and not allowed to become unsafe or dilapidated. Damaged
21 faces, missing sign lettering or structural members shall be replaced in a timely
22 manner.

23 ~~(5) Electrical systems, fasteners and the sign and structure as a whole shall be~~
24 ~~maintained at all times in a safe condition.~~

25 **Sec. 50-457. Reserved. Density and size.**

26 ~~(a) No two on-site signs which require a permit shall be placed within 50 feet of each~~
27 ~~other unless attached to a building.~~

28 ~~(b) The maximum on-site sign densities permitted in each zoning district are described~~
29 ~~in table 68-1 in section 50-464. Section 50-469 provides additional sign regulations~~
30 ~~by zoning district category.~~

31 **Sec. 50-458. Reserved. Height and setback requirements.**

32 ~~On corner lots, no sign shall be located within 25 feet of triangular area formed by~~
33 ~~measuring by the point of the intersection of the right-of-way lines and connecting the~~
34 ~~points with a straight line. See tables 68-1 (section 50-464), 68-2 (section 50-465), 68-3~~
35 ~~(section 50-466) and 68-4 (section 50-467).~~

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 **Sec. 50-459. Reserved. Illumination.**

2 ~~(a) Illumination devices such as, but not limited to, floodlights and spotlights shall be so~~
3 ~~placed and so shielded as to prevent rays and illumination therefrom being cast into~~
4 ~~neighboring dwellings and approaching vehicles.~~

5 ~~(b) Flashing signs are prohibited.~~

6 **Sec. 50-460. Reserved. Off-premises advertising.**

7 It is the intent of this article to allow very limited off-premises advertising, limited to
8 urbanizing areas as a means of assisting local businesses with promoting their locations
9 and services. Off-premises signs will be limited in location to within those municipal
10 service district boundaries adopted as part of the county future land use map series.
11 The maximum area of each single face is 96 square feet. Each sign may have a
12 maximum of three faces. Spacing between signs will be limited to state guidelines on
13 the state highway system, with a state permit required. On county roads, signs will be
14 spaced no closer than every 1,000 feet.

15 **Sec. 50-461. Reserved. Portable signs.**

16 A portable sign may be either permanent or temporary. Temporary signs are
17 regulated by section 50-463. When used as a permanent sign, a portable sign shall be
18 subject to those standards and regulations contained within table 68-2 in section 50-
19 465, and the graphics contained on such sign shall not be included as a part of the total
20 graphics allowed for freestanding permanent signs or wall or roof signs, but shall be
21 permitted in addition to such other permitted graphics.

22 **Sec. 50-462. Reserved. Projections.**

23 No sign shall project more than four feet from the building wall. No sign or its
24 supporting structure shall extend above the top of a parapet wall or a roof where
25 parapet exists.

26 **Sec. 50-463. Temporary signs.**

27 ~~(a) If a temporary sign which does not require a permit is allowed to fall in disrepair or~~
28 ~~continue in place after its usefulness has expired, the building inspector shall~~
29 ~~advise the zoning administrator, who shall in turn have the sign removed from the~~
30 ~~property upon which it is situated. The costs of removing such sign, including all~~
31 ~~administrative costs, shall be charged against either the landowner or the person~~
32 ~~erecting the sign.~~

33 ~~(b) (a) Portable~~ The following temporary signs and ~~portable changeable copy signs shall~~
34 ~~be permitted temporarily~~ are allowed for the timeframe specified following uses:

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

- 1 (1) A new business, or a business in a new location with no permanent sign may
 2 utilize a ~~confirming~~ portable temporary sign for a period of not more than 60
 3 days or until installation of a permanent sign, whichever shall occur first.
- 4 (2) A new business, including those with a permanent signage, may utilize a
 5 portable temporary sign for a maximum of 15 days ~~in conjunction with a~~ to
 6 announce a grand opening.
- 7 ~~(3) A business may utilize a portable temporary sign for a maximum of 30 days~~
 8 ~~within a six-month period for promotional uses in addition to those specified in~~
 9 ~~subsections (b)(1) and (2) of this section.~~
- 10 (3) A construction sign may be utilized upon receipt of a building permit and shall
 11 be removed within two weeks after issuance of a certificate of occupancy.
- 12 (4) Election signs may be utilized between the first day of the election qualifying
 13 period and shall be removed within ten days after the election day.
- 14 (5) Garage sale signs may be utilized for no more than three consecutive days
 15 leading up to the sale.
- 16 (6) Temporary real estate signs no greater than four square feet in area and not
 17 more than two linear feet in length and two linear feet in height advertising
 18 specific property for sale, lease, rent or development on private property.
- 19 ~~(c) (b) The maximum sign area for portable temporary signs are provided in table 68-2~~
 20 ~~in section 50-465, and for nonportable temporary signs shall be as provided in table~~
 21 ~~68-4 is set forth in section 50-467.~~
- 22 ~~(d) A construction sign may be erected upon receipt of a building permit and shall be~~
 23 ~~removed within two weeks of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.~~

24 **Sec. 50-464. Freestanding permanent signs.**

25 The following provisions apply to freestanding permanent signs:

26 TABLE 68-1

Zoning District	Sign Area Permitted ²		Maximum Graphics	Elevated Signs ⁴ Height/Setback	Ground Signs ⁵ Height/Setback
	One Face	All Faces			
R-1	0.42				
R-2	<u>2'⁶</u>	4	16	N/A	4'/5'
R-3	<u>32'⁷</u>	64'	16	N/A	6'/10'
C-1	100'	200' or 3.0 square feet per front foot ³	16	24'/10'	12'/20'
C-2	150'	300' or 1.5 square feet per front foot ³	16	24'/10'	16'/20'

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

C-3	200'	400' or 1.5 square feet per front foot ³	16	24'/10'	24'/20'
C-4	150'	300' or 1.5 square feet per front foot ³	16	24'/10'	16'/20'
I-1	150'	300' or 1.0 square feet per front foot ³	16	N/A	8'/20'
I-2	150'	300' or 1.0 square feet per front foot ³	16	N/A	8'/20'
A-2	50'	100'	16	N/A	8'/20'

- 1 ¹Sum of all signs on the property, in square feet.
- 2 ² N/A = None allowed.
- 3 ³ Feet or square foot per front foot, whichever is larger.
- 4 ⁴ With visual clearance of eight feet or greater from face of sign to ground level.
- 5 ⁵ With visual clearance less than eight feet from face of sign to ground level.
- 6 ⁶ For permitted or special exception user other than single family use.
- 7 ⁷ For identification of name, apartment complex or mobile home park only.
- 8

<u>Zoning District</u>	<u>Sign Area Permitted (sf = square feet)</u>		<u>Elevated Signs³ Height/Setback</u>	<u>Ground Signs⁴ Height/Setback</u>
	<u>One Face</u>	<u>All Faces</u>		
<u>RR, R-1 and RR-3C</u>	<u>60 square inches</u>			
<u>R-2⁵</u>	<u>2sf</u>	<u>4sf</u>	<u>None allowed</u>	<u>4'/5'</u>
<u>R-3⁶</u>	<u>32sf</u>	<u>64sf</u>	<u>None allowed</u>	<u>6'/10'</u>
<u>C-1</u>	<u>100sf</u>	<u>200sf or 3.0sf per front foot²</u>	<u>24'/10'</u>	<u>12'/20'</u>
<u>C-2¹, RM, PF and REC</u>	<u>150sf</u>	<u>300sf or 1.5sf per front foot²</u>	<u>24'/10'</u>	<u>16'/20'</u>
<u>C-3¹</u>	<u>200sf</u>	<u>400sf or 1.5sf per front foot²</u>	<u>24'/10'</u>	<u>24'/20'</u>
<u>C-4¹</u>	<u>150sf</u>	<u>300sf or 1.5 sf per front foot²</u>	<u>24'/10'</u>	<u>16'/20'</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>150sf</u>	<u>300sf or 1.0sf per front foot²</u>	<u>None allowed</u>	<u>8'/20'</u>
<u>A/RR</u>	<u>50sf</u>	<u>100sf</u>	<u>None allowed</u>	<u>8'/20'</u>

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

<u>PUD</u>	<u>Signs in a PUD are regulated by the underlying zoning district or as specified in the PUD ordinance</u>
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¹ In commercial districts, drive through facilities are allowed a maximum of two menu boards or price lists of no more than 24 square feet each and these shall not count toward the sum of all signs. The menu board or price list signs shall be located adjacent to and oriented toward the drive-through area.

² Square feet or square feet per front foot, whichever is larger.

³ With visual clearance of eight feet or greater from face of sign to ground level.

⁴ With visual clearance less than eight feet from face of sign to ground level.

⁵ Limited to a non-residential permitted use or a special exception use

⁶ Identification sign only.

Sec. 50-465. Portable, freestanding sign regulations.

The following provisions apply to portable, freestanding signs regulations:

TABLE 68-2

Zoning District	Total Sign Area To Front Feet Ratio Square Feet (SF)/Front Feet (FF)	Setback	Spacing Between Signs
<u>RR, RR-3C, R-1</u>	<u>N/A¹ None allowed</u>	—	—
R-2	<u>N/A¹ None allowed</u>	—	—
R-3	64'/1st 300' thereafter 0.20 SF/FF ²	20'	300'
<u>C-1, C-2, C-3, RMU, PF and REC</u>	64'/1st 150' thereafter 0.40 SF/FF ²	10'	150'
C-2	64'/1st 150' thereafter 0.40 SF/FF²	10'	150'
C-3	64'/1st 150' thereafter 0.40 SF/FF²	10'	150'
C-4	64'/1st 100' thereafter 0.60 SF/FF ²	10'	100'
<u>I-1, F/RR and A/RR</u>	64'/1 st 300' thereafter 0.20 SF/FF ²	20'	300'
I-2	64'/1st 300' thereafter 0.20 SF/FF²	20'	300'
A-1	64'/1st 300' thereafter 0.20 SF/FF ²	20'	300'

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

A-2	64'/1st 300' thereafter 0.20 SF/FF ²	20'	300'
<u>PUD</u>	<u>Signs in a PUD are regulated by the underlying zoning district or as specified in the PUD ordinance</u>		

¹ N/A = None allowed.

² Square foot per front foot.

Sec. 50-466. Wall or roof sign regulations.

The following provisions apply to wall or roof signs regulations:

TABLE 68-3

Zoning District	Sign Area To Front Elevation Ratio ¹ (<u>including visable roof</u>)
R-1, <u>R-2</u> , R-3, RR and <u>RR-3C</u>	N/A <u>None allowed</u>
<u>R-2</u> , <u>R-3</u>	N/A
C-1, C-2, <u>RMU</u> , PF and <u>REC</u>	0.20
C-3, C-4 and I	0.25
<u>I-1</u> , <u>I-2</u>	0.25
AG <u>A/RR</u>	0.10
<u>PUD</u>	<u>Signs in a PUD shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district or as specified in the PUD ordinance</u>

¹ Building front area in square feet including visible roof.

Sec. 50-467. Temporary signs.

The following provisions apply to temporary signs:

TABLE 68-4

Zone <u>Zoning District</u>	Area in Square Feet		
	Real Estate Sign	Construction Sign	New Business and Promotional Sign
A-1 <u>F/RR</u> and <u>A/RR</u>	64	100	32
A-2	64	100	32

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

R-1, R-2, RR and RR-3C	4	32	32 ¹
R-2	4	32	32 ¹
R-3	4	64	32 ¹
C-1	32	64	32
C-2, C-3, C-4, I, RMU, PF and REC	32	100	32
C-3	32	100	32
C-4	32	100	32
I	32	100	32
PUD	Signs in a PUD are regulated by the underlying zoning district or as specified in the PUD ordinance		

¹ For home occupation only.

Sec. 50-468. Reserved. Traffic safety.

No sign shall be erected or continued that:

- ~~(1) Obstructs the sight distance along a public driveway.~~
- ~~(2) Would tend, by its location, color or nature to be confused with or obstruct the view of traffic signs or signals.~~
- ~~(3) Uses such admonitions as "Stop," "Go," "Slow," "Danger," etc., which might be confused with traffic directional signals.~~
- ~~(4) Obstructs a sign erected by a public authority for the purpose of giving traffic directions or instructions or other public information.~~ Sec. 50-469. Sign regulations.

Sec. 50-469. Sign regulations.

Signs may be erected and maintained only when in compliance with the following provisions:

- (1) *Signs in residential districts.* The following types of nonilluminated, nonadvertising signs are permitted in all residential districts ~~as follows:~~
 - a. ~~Nameplates and i~~ Identification signs. Signs indicating the name or address of the occupant or a permitted home occupation, provided that they shall not be larger than 60 square inches in area. Only one such sign per dwelling unit parcel is allowed shall be permitted, except in the case of

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 corner lots where two such signs (one facing each street) are allowed.
2 shall be permitted for each dwelling unit.

3 b. ~~Sale or rental signs.~~ Signs advertising the sale or rental of the premises
4 upon which they are erected by the owner or broker or any other person
5 interested in the sale or rental of such premises, and signs bearing the
6 word "sold" or "rented" with the name of the persons affecting the sale or
7 rental may be erected or maintained, provided: The size of any such sign
8 is not in excess of four square feet and not more than one sign is placed
9 upon any property unless such property fronts upon more than one street,
10 in which event one such sign may be erected on each frontage. Such
11 signs shall be promptly removed after the premises has been sold or
12 rented. Temporary signs. Signs listed in section 50-467.

13 c. Institutional signs. Signs of schools, colleges, churches, hospitals,
14 sanatoriums or other public or semi-public institutions are allowed of a
15 similar public or semipublic nature may be erected and maintained,
16 provided:

- 17 1. ~~The size off any such sign is not in excess of~~ sign area does not
18 exceed 20 square feet; and
- 19 2. Not more than one such sign is placed on a parcel of property, unless
20 such property fronts upon more than one street, in which event two
21 such signs may be erected, one on each frontage.

22 (2) Signs in residential districts on parcels that contain commercial, industrial or
23 institutional uses that front on state roads. In all residential districts on parcels
24 that contain lawful, conforming commercial, industrial or institutional uses that
25 front on State Roads 24 and 121 and on Federal Highways 27, Alternate 27,
26 19/98, 41 and 129, the following signs are permitted:

27 Permanent, freestanding signs (which may be non-illuminated, illuminated or
28 electronic message signs) that conform to the limitations listed for the C-2
29 zoning district in Sec. 50-464.

30 ~~(2)~~(3) Signs accessory to parking areas. Signs designating entrances or exits to
31 or from a parking area and limited to one sign for each such exit or entrance
32 and to a maximum size of two square feet each shall be permitted. One sign
33 per parking area and limited to a maximum size of nine square feet shall be
34 permitted, provided that on a corner lot, two such signs shall be permitted, one
35 facing each street.

36 ~~(3)~~ Signs in commercial and manufacturing districts. Business and advertising
37 signs are permitted in commercial and manufacturing districts in accordance
38 with the following regulations:

- 39 a. ~~Size of sign.~~ The gross surface area of all signs on a lot shall not exceed
40 32 square feet, except in the case of planned unit developments, where

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 sign approval shall be by the board of county commissioners upon
2 recommendation of the planning commission.

3 b. ~~Projection of signs.~~ No sign in a nonresidential district shall project more
4 than three feet from the main wall of a building, except that one
5 freestanding business sign shall be allowed for service stations, nor shall
6 any sign project into a public way.

7 c. ~~Height of signs.~~ No signs shall be higher than the height limit in the district
8 where such sign is located, nor shall any sign be located upon the roof of
9 any building.

10 d. ~~Advertising signs.~~ Off-premises advertising is prohibited.

11 (4) *General regulations.* The following regulations shall apply to all signs permitted
12 sign uses:

13 a. ~~Signs must be constructed of durable materials, maintained in good~~
14 ~~condition and not allowed to become dilapidated.~~

15 b. ~~Signs, other than official traffic signs, shall not be erected within the right-~~
16 ~~of-way lines of any street.~~

17 c. ~~Signs shall not project beyond property lines nor over public sidewalk~~
18 ~~areas.~~

19 d. ~~A permit shall not be required for the erection, alteration or maintenance of~~
20 ~~any signs permitted in a residential district.~~

21 e. ~~A permit shall be required for the erection, alteration or reconstruction of~~
22 ~~any business or advertising sign.~~

23 f. ~~All temporary signs erected for a special event shall be removed by the~~
24 ~~property owner when the circumstances leading to their erection no longer~~
25 ~~apply.~~

26 a. No two on-site signs which require a permit shall be placed within 50 feet
27 of each other unless attached to a building.

28 b. On corner lots, no sign may be located within the triangular area formed
29 by measuring 25 feet from the point of the intersection of the rights-of-way
30 and connecting the points with a straight line.

31 c. No sign may project more than four feet from the building wall. Any sign
32 projecting more than 12 inches from any wall must be eight feet or greater
33 above ground level to provide clearance for pedestrians.

34 d. No sign or its supporting structure may extend above the top of a parapet
35 wall or a roof where a parapet exists.

Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

1 e. External illumination such as, but not limited to, floodlights and spotlights
2 must be placed and shielded to prevent light being directed toward
3 neighboring dwellings and approaching vehicles.

4 f. Electronic message signs are subject to the following:

5 1. Each sign shall have a light sensing device that automatically adjusts
6 brightness as ambient light conditions change;

7 2. No sign shall display light of such intensity to cause glare or otherwise
8 impair the vision of a driver, or interferewith the effectiveness of an
9 official traffic sign, signal or device; and

10 3. The sign shall be equipped with a default mechanism or setting that will
11 cause the sign to turn off or show a full black or similar image if a
12 malfunction or failure occurs.

13
14
15 **Section 2.** Inclusion in the Code. The provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance shall
16 become and be made a part of the Levy County Code, and the sections of this ordinance
17 may be renumbered or relettered and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,”
18 “article,” “regulation,” or other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish the
19 codification.

20
21 **Section 3.** Severability Clause. It is declared to be the intent of the Board that if any
22 section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, portion or provision of this Ordinance is
23 for any reason declared or held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent
24 jurisdiction, such section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, portion or provision shall
25 be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and the remainder of this
26 Ordinance shall be not affected by such declaration or holding.

27
28 **Section 4.** Repealing Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances and all resolutions
29 or parts of resolutions of Levy County in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the
30 extent of such conflict

31
32 **Section 5.** Effective Date. In accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, the
33 Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners is directed to file this ordinance with the
34 Florida Department of State within 10 days after adoption and upon such filing, this
35 ordinance shall become effective.

36
37
Note: deletions shown ~~stricken~~, additions shown underlined.

