



Community Matters Institute

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MEMO

To: Palmer Lake Planning Commission
Through: Dawn Collins, CMC, Town Administrator/Clerk
From: Barb Cole, Executive Director, CMI
CC: Mike Davenport, CMI and Matt Krob, Town Attorney
Date: August 11, 2023
RE: FINAL Sign Code for Planning Commission meeting on August 16, 2023

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

The following changes have been made in the Sign Code:

- 1) Reference to State Statute has been added to # 6 on page 2:
 - This Chapter is not intended to and does not apply to signs erected, maintained, or otherwise posted, owned, or leased by the state, the federal government, or the Town. This includes Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) tourist-oriented signs governed by Section 43-1-420, C.R.S., as amended, and in accordance with all rules and regulations of CDOT. The inclusion of "government" in describing some signs does not intend to subject the government to regulation but instead helps illustrate the type of sign that falls within the immunities of the government from regulation.
- 2) The term **legally** non-conforming was added to the section on Non-Conforming Signs. (pg. 3)
- 3) Any sign designed to wave, flap, or rotate **including attention-getting devices, wave banners** except for **government and service flags** as provided for in this Chapter. (pg. 4)
- 4) Off-Premises Signs (~~excluding off-premise directional signage~~) **unless** otherwise permitted in this Chapter. (pg. 4) per workshop direction.
- 5) Abandoned Signs- A sign which is located on property that becomes vacant and unoccupied for a period of **sixty (60) days** or more, or a sign which pertains to a time, event, or purpose which no longer applies, shall be considered abandoned. Previously the time period was 180 days but a non-conforming sign that was abandoned is only 30 days. (pg. 5). Obsolete or Discontinued Commercial Use signs were changed from 30 days to 60 days for consistency.

- 6) Prohibited Signs: Removed from (29) the term gas filled from prohibited neon signs and LED signs since neon signs are the only type of gas-filled sign and added digital signs(a defined term). (pg. 6)
- 7) Under exempt signs added size: Building Directory Signs **not to exceed eight (8) square feet.**
- 8) Temporary signs are subject to an administrative sign registry. The term 'permit' has been removed. (pg. 8).
- 9) Fines and penalties have been amended as follows (pg. 11):
 - a. **First violation: One hundred dollars (\$100.00).**
 - b. **Second violation: Two hundred dollars (\$200.00).**
 - c. **Third violation: Three hundred dollars (\$300.00).**
 - d. **Fourth violation: A summons and complaint shall be required.**
- 10) Event Signs- period has been changed to 45 days prior to the event as requested. (pg. 14)
- 11) Home Occupation signs reference existing requirements (pg. 14) but I have not referenced the existing Section of the Zoning Code since that reference is likely to change with critical updates to the land use regulations.
- 12) Clarified rules for directional signs- these do not count toward aggregate sign area: Directional signs shall be on-premise signs and shall not exceed six (6) square feet per face. (pg. 15)
- 13) New Text: Signs visible through the glazing area of any window shall not be included in the allowed number of signs or the allowed overall sign area. **One neon open size is permitted for each business.** (pg. 23)
- 14) Added the following to definitions: **Attention Getting Device: Any flag, streamer, spinner, pennant, feathers, costumed character, light, balloon, continuous string of pennants, or similar device or ornamentation used primarily for the purpose of attracting attention for promotion or advertising a business or commercial activity which is visible by the general public from any public right-of-way or public area.** (pg. 24)
- 15) Freestanding vs. Monument Signs: Bill is correct a monument sign is often referred to as a type of freestanding sign. Freestanding signs are defined as follows (no change)- Freestanding Sign: *A self-supporting sign, not attached to the building and permanently anchored to the ground.* (pg. 25) and Monument Signs are defined as follows (no change)- *Monument Sign: a site or area entry sign identifying a subdivision, commercial center, residential complex, etc. Typically, a freestanding sign with a base integrated with the ground and landscaping.* (pg. 26) Revised term Freestanding Sign to **Pole Sign: a freestanding sign that is permanently supported in a fixed location by a structure of poles, uprights, or**



braces and not supported by a building or a base structure. (pg. 26) Pylon Sign: a tall pole-mounted sign higher than 10' (typically associated with an adjacent higher-speed roadway).(pg. 27)

- General understanding of Freestanding vs. Monument Signs:
 - A Freestanding Sign is a sign anchored directly to the ground or supported by one or more posts, columns or other vertical structures or supports, and not attached to or dependent for support from any building.
 - MONUMENT SIGN: a freestanding sign supported by a solid foundation or base that is at least as wide as the sign's display area.
 - Pylon signs are typically taller, more vertical structures, where monument signs are shorter and stockier.
- RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION: The sign type on page 16 Freestanding Sign is changed to **Pole Sign** per the definitions in the current draft of the Sign Code

16) We added a definition for residential complex. (pg. 28)

17) Format of Sign Types- We have removed the last column that stated examples because no one was in favor of a photo of that kind of sign.

18) Mike is updating the sketch-up drawing to show an awning sign. This is a non-substantive change and we can add this to the Final Code before the Public Hearing next Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

/bc