

TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 18 SIGNS

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6-18-1 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to provide that signs and awnings are safely constructed and kept in a safe condition and that signs shall not be located so as to cause a safety hazard.

6-18-2 DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein.

1. "Area" means the display surface included within the framework of any sign, measured from the outside of the framework.
2. "Awning" means drop-awnings attached to buildings by means of movable metal frames.
3. "Billboard" means any structure or portion thereof, situated on private premises, or on which lettered, figured or pictorial matter is displayed for advertising purposes, except the name and occupation of the user of the premises, the nature of the business conducted on the premises, or the products primarily sold or manufacture don the premises and having an area of one hundred square feet or more but not to exceed two hundred eight-eight square feet. Any signboard carrying a message excepted in this definition which also carries extraneous advertising on one hundred square feet or more shall be considered a billboard. This definition shall not include any board, sign or surface used to display any official notices issued by court or public duty, or bulletin boards used to display announcements of meetings to be held on the premises on which such billboards are located, nor shall it include any real estate sign advertising for sale or rent the property upon which it stands when such sign does not exceed one hundred square feet. Billboards in excess of two hundred eight-eight square feet are prohibited in the City.
4. "General advertising sign" means any structure or portion thereof, situated on private premises, or on which lettered, figured or pictorial matter is displayed for advertising purposes, except the name and occupation of the user of the premises, the nature of the business conducted on the premises, or the products primarily sold or manufactured on the premises and having an area of one hundred square feet or less hall be considered a general advertising sign. "General advertising sign" shall not include any board, sign or surface used to display any official notices issued by court or public duty, or bulletin boards u sed to display announcements of meetings to be held on the premises on which such signs are located, nor shall it include any real estate sign advertising for sale or rent the property upon which it stands.

5. "Ground sign" means any sign the structure of which is erected upon or supported by the ground.
6. "Poster board" means any flat surface under twenty square feet in area, erected on a framework or attached to posts, buildings or other structures, and used for the display of bills, posters or other advertising matter produced on paper sheets, cloth or other materials and posted, tacked, or fastened thereto.
7. "Projecting signs" shall mean any sign fastened to, suspended from or supported by a building or structure so as to project therefrom at an angle.
8. "Roof sign" shall mean any sign placed on or above the roof of any building or structure.
9. "Sign" shall mean any device or surface on which letters, illustrations, designs, figures or symbols are painted, printed, stamped, raised or outlined or attached in any manner.
10. "Street line" shall mean the place where the public sidewalk begins and the private property line ends.
11. "Wall sign" shall mean any sign with its face parallel to and projecting not more than twelve inches from the wall to which it is attached.
12. Offensive language and images shall mean any utterance or image which is blasphemous, obscene, indecent, insulting, hurtful, disgusting, morally repugnant, or which breaches commonly accepted standards of decent and proper speech and images.

6-18-3 PERMIT AND INSPECTION REQUIRED. Any person, firm or corporation shall attain a permit from the Planning and Zoning Committee before erecting a projecting sign, roof sign, wall sign (excluding signs painted on walls), billboard or either a posterboard or ground sign which is over twenty square feet in area. The Planning and Zoning Committee shall inspect and approve such signs as they may deem necessary.

6-18-4 EFFECT ON EXISTING USES. This chapter shall apply to all signs and awnings hereafter erected, relocated or rebuilt. The lawful use of any sign or awning existing at the time of the enactment of the ordinance codified in this chapter may be continued although such use does not conform with the provisions of this chapter.

6-18-5 MOVABLE AWNING RESTRICTIONS. Movable awnings supported throughout on metal frames may extend over the sidewalk portion of a public street a distance not to exceed two-thirds of the width of the sidewalk space; provided, that every such awning frame shall not be less than six feet six inches from the sidewalk immediately below, and that any fringe attached to the awning shall not be less than six feet from the sidewalk immediately below.

6-18-6 WALL SIGNS. The following regulations shall apply to all signs placed on walls:

1. Extension. Signs placed against the exterior walls of buildings shall not extend more than one foot from the wall surface to which they are attached.
2. Area and Number. Wall signs attached parallel to the face of a building shall not exceed fifty square feet in area, for any twenty-five feet of frontage on the building, nor shall more than

one of these signs be attached to each face of the building.

3. Wall Surface Width. Wall signs shall not extend beyond the ends of the wall surface on which they are placed.
4. Securely Attached. Wall signs shall be securely attached to structural members of buildings with metal brackets, expansion bolts, through bolts or lag screws.

6-18-7 PROJECTING SIGNS. The following regulations shall apply to all projecting signs:

1. Projection. Signs fastened to, suspended from or supported by a building or structure so as to project therefrom at an angle shall not extend more than eight feet beyond the street line; provided, that signs not exceeding two feet in height supported directly on marquees may extend to the permissible outer limits of the marquees.
2. Surface Area. Projecting signs shall not contain an exposed surface area on one side exceeding thirty square feet.
3. Width. The distance between the parallel surfaces of a double-faced sign shall not exceed one foot.
4. Support. All projecting signs shall be securely supported by metal brackets attached to the walls of the buildings with through bolts, expansion bolts or lag screws, and shall be firmly braced and held in place by means of soft iron or steel cables, provided with turnbuckles for tightening when required. Projecting signs which are permitted to extend above the parapet walls may be attached to brackets fastened to the roof by means of through bolts but shall not be attached to any part of a wall above the point of bearing of the roof joists or rafters. Turnbuckles and connections in rods and cables shall be provided with closed eyelets, welded or forged.
5. Swinging Signs. Swinging signs shall not be permitted.
6. Construction and Wind Stress. Projecting signs shall be erected, constructed and maintained in a safe and stable manner. They shall be able to support their own weight safely and in addition be able to resist safely a horizontal wind pressure of thirty pounds per square foot of exposed area. The unit stress values used in the design of supporting members shall be fifty percent of the allowable unit stress values generally used for such materials.

6-18-8 BILLBOARDS, GROUND SIGNS AND GENERAL ADVERTISING SIGNS. The following regulations shall apply to billboards, ground signs and general advertising signs:

1. Billboard, Ground Signs and General Advertising Sign Regulation. Billboards or ground signs exceeding thirty-six square feet in area are prohibited in the following locations:
 - a. Railroad Crossings. Within five hundred feet of any railroad crossings where the sign will interfere with or obstruct the view of persons approaching the railroad crossing.
 - b. Intersections. Within two hundred feet of any street intersection where the sign will interfere with or obstruct the view of persons approaching the street intersection.
 - c. Public Places. In any location which will interfere with the lighting of any street, alley or public place, or interfere with any public utility service.

2. Height. Billboards, the supporting structure of which rests upon the ground, or ground signs, shall not exceed twenty feet in height above the ground on which they rest.
3. Signs Elevated. An open space at least three feet high shall be maintained between the billboard or ground sign and the ground.
4. Wind and Stress. All billboards and ground signs shall be constructed and supported to withstand a horizontal wind pressure of thirty pounds per square foot of surface. All structural parts, posts and braces shall be able to withstand all induced stresses using unit stress values of fifty percent of the allowable unit stress values commonly used for such materials.
5. The minimum distance between billboards or between billboards and general advertising signs shall be three hundred feet for signs facing the same direction on the same side of the roadway.
6. General advertising signs shall be a minimum distance of one hundred feet from other general advertising signs facing in the same direction on the same side of the roadway and a minimum distance of three hundred feet from billboards facing in the same direction on the same side of the roadway.

6-18-10 ILLUMINATED SIGNS. Whenever any sign is illuminated by electricity or equipped in any way with electrical devices, these devices shall conform in all respects to the laws of the City.

6-18-11 MEANS OF EGRESS. Signs shall not be placed to obstruct or interfere with a required doorway, window, fire escape, passageway to a fire escape or other means of egress.

6-18-12 PERMIT FEES. The fees for permits required by this chapter for projecting signs, roof signs, wall signs, poster board and ground signs shall be established by a resolution duly adopted by the City Council. The annual calendar year fees for billboards shall also be established by a resolution duly adopted by the City Council.

6-18-13 COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING REGULATIONS. All signs and posters shall be located, constructed and erected in compliance with the zoning regulations.

6-18-14 INSPECTION – NOTIFICATION OF ALTERATIONS OR REPAIRS. The City Council is authorized to have signs and awnings inspected, to notify owners of changes and repairs needed, and to order removal of signs or awnings not conforming to this chapter. They may revoke or cancel a permit if the requirements of this chapter are not met.

6-24-15 SIGNS IN PUBLIC AREAS – WRITTEN PERMISSION REQUIRED. No person, firm or corporation shall place or cause to be placed any sign in or on any street, sidewalk, parking, park or other public space or area, without first obtaining the written permission of the City Council.

6-24-16 OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE AND IMAGES. Offensive language and images are prohibited on all signs of any size regardless of where they are placed.