

ARTICLE VIII. SIGN REGULATIONS

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to minimize any detrimental effects of signs on adjacent land uses, and to insure that permitted signs do not become a public nuisance or hazard. All signs erected, altered, relocated, or maintained shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 2. Signs Prohibited

- a. Signs not to Constitute Traffic Hazards - No sign or advertising structure shall be erected or maintained at the intersection of any streets or roads so as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, illumination, shape or color, it may impair, obstruct the view or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device; or which makes use of the words "stop", "look", "drive-in", "danger" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- b. Signs Erected on Public Streets - No sign shall be erected or maintained within any public street right-of-way nor be allowed to extend over or into any public street, provided that this section shall not apply to public signs necessary in the performance of a governmental function or required to be posted by law.
- c. Obstruction of Ingress or Egress of Building - No sign shall be erected or maintained that obstructs ingress and/or egress to or from any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress to or from any room or building as required by law.
- d. Obscene Matter Prohibited - No sign shall be erected or maintained which bears or contains statements, words, or pictures of an obscene character.
- e. Signs on Private Property; Consent Required - No sign may be erected by any person on private property of another person without first obtaining the verbal or written consent of such owner.
- f. Mobile Signs - Signs or advertising structures having the capability of being transported from one site to another shall be prohibited.

Section 3. Signs Permitted in All Districts

The following signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts:

- a. Directional and Information Signs erected and maintained by public agencies and governmental bodies.
- b. Temporary Real Estate Signs not to exceed twelve square feet in area displayed on the property proposed for sale or lease and located on private property behind the property line. Such signs may be indirectly illuminated in non-residential districts.
- c. Bulletin Boards - Churches, schools, community centers, and other public and institutional uses may erect one sign or bulletin board not exceeding 12 square feet in area for the purpose of displaying the name of the institution and related information. Such signs shall be used as wall signs or shall be located a minimum of 12 feet from the street lot line and side lot or property lines. Where side yards are required, no such sign shall be permitted in the required side yards. Such signs may be indirectly illuminated.
- d. Temporary Construction Signs which denote the architect, engineer, contractor, or builder of the project or which describe the name and proposed use of the project may be placed on the site until construction is completed.
- e. Identification Signs not to exceed six square feet in display area bearing only addresses or names of occupants of the premises and located on privately owned property.
- f. Memorial Plaques, cornerstones, historical tablets, and similar signs.
- g. Instructional Signs, erected on private property, not to exceed six square feet in display area, erected strictly for the direction, safety or convenience of the public, including signs which identify restrooms, parking area entrances or exits, height entrances and similar devices, warning, danger and no trespassing signs.

Section 4. Business Signs

Business signs and name signs shall be permitted on the premises of the business in districts in which the principal use is permitted subject to the following limitations:

- a. Signs for customary home occupations shall not exceed six square feet in display area.
- b. Business signs shall not project more than one foot from any building wall or canopy.

- c. If suspended from a canopy, the sign must be at least eight feet above the sidewalk level.
- d. Non-illuminated signs shall have a total surface area in square feet per establishment no greater than two times the street frontage of the lot, in feet, but in no case greater than 150 square feet. Reader board - 20 square feet. (3/6/90)
- e. Illuminated signs shall have a total sign surface area in square feet per establishment no greater than two times the street frontage of the lot, in feet, but in no case greater than 100 square feet. Display lighting shall be shielded so as to present a direct view of the light source from a residence in a residential district. No intermittent lighting effects may be utilized. Reader board - 20 square feet (3/6/90).
- f. Freestanding signs shall be located not less than twelve (12) feet from the street lot line or behind the setback line, whichever is greater. No freestanding sign shall be located in a required side yard or within ten (10) feet of the side property line.
- g. Signs in shopping centers shall be subject to the following limitations:
 - (1) Each shopping center may provide not more than one freestanding sign that displays the name of the shopping center.
 - (2) Detached buildings that are designed to contain not more than one business, may display not more than two business signs.
 - (3) Businesses located in attached buildings may display not more than one business sign.

*Amend.
Pg. 13*

*Pg. 10
Amenda.*

Section 5. Outdoor Advertising Signs

Outdoor advertising signs are permitted as a conditional use in the Industry district subject to the following limitations:

- a. The maximum size of the display area of outdoor advertising signs shall be 300 square feet for single-face signs and 300 square feet for each face of double face signs.
- b. They must meet all requirements of the district applying to the principal structures with regard to yards, setbacks, and height requirements. Further, the minimum height of the lowest portion of any display surface shall be elevated to a height of eight feet from the ground level.
- c. Such signs shall not be located within 100 feet of any residential district.

- d. Such signs shall not be permitted within 300 feet of an existing advertising sign or structure.
- e. No outdoor advertising sign shall be erected or maintained within 600 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of interstate or primary highways, except as allowed by the North Carolina General Statutes.
- f. Lighting
 - (1) Display lighting of signs shall be shielded so as to prevent the direction of such light into any structure used primarily for residential purposes.
 - (2) No rotating, revolving or intermittent lighting devices shall be attached to or made a part of, any outdoor advertising sign.

Section 6. Permits

No person shall construct or maintain any sign within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of the interstate or primary highway system without first obtaining a permit from the North Carolina Department of Transportation as required by the North Carolina General Statutes.

Section 7. Nonconforming Signs

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation all signs and property rights pertaining thereto which are prohibited under the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes.