
CHAPTER 155

SIGN REGULATIONS

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155.01 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide that signs shall be kept in a safe condition, located so as not to cause a safety hazard, and aesthetically acceptable.

155.02 DEFINITIONS.

For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Erect" means to build, construct, attach, hang, suspend or affix.
2. "Facing" or "surface" means the surface of the sign upon, against or through which the message is displayed or illustrated on the sign.
3. "Ground sign," as regulated by this chapter, means any sign supported by uprights or braces placed upon the ground and not attached to any building.
4. "Illuminated sign" means any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outline illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes as a part of the sign proper.
5. "Roof sign," as regulated by this chapter, means any sign erected, constructed, and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building with the principal support on the roof structure.
6. "Sign" means and includes every sign, billboard, ground sign, wall sign, roof sign, illuminated sign, projecting sign, and temporary sign, and includes any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display, illustration or insignia used to advertise or promote the interests of any person when the same is placed out of doors in view of the general public.
7. "Street line" means the place where the public sidewalk begins and the private property line ends.
8. "Wall sign," as regulated by this chapter, means all flat signs of solid face construction which are placed against a building or other structure and attached to the exterior front, rear or side wall of any building or other structure.

155.03 PERMITS REQUIRED.

It is unlawful for any person to erect, alter, or relocate within the City any sign or other advertising structure as defined in this chapter, without first obtaining an erection permit from the City Administrator, and making payment of the fee required by Section 155.06 hereof.

155.04 APPLICATION FOR ERECTION PERMIT.

Application for erection permits shall be made upon blanks provided by the City Administrator and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
2. Location of building, structure or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected.
3. Position of the sign or other advertising structure in relation to nearby buildings or structures.
4. One blueprint or ink drawing of the plans and specifications and method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground.
5. Name of person, firm, corporation or association erecting structure.
6. Written consent of the owner of the building, structure, or land on which the structure is to be erected.
7. Such other information as the City Administrator shall require to show full compliance with this chapter and all other ordinances of the City.

155.05 PERMIT ISSUED.

It shall be the duty of the City Administrator, upon the filing of an application for an erection permit to examine such plans and specifications and other data and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign or other advertising structure, and if it shall appear the proposed structure is in compliance with all the requirements of this chapter and all other ordinances of the City, the City Administrator shall then issue the erection permit. If the work authorized under an erection permit has not been completed within six months after date of issuance, the said permit shall become null and void.

155.06 PERMIT FEES.

Every applicant, before being issued a sign permit, shall pay to the City Clerk a fifty dollar (\$50.00) permit fee for each such sign or other advertising structure regulated.

155.07 UNSAFE AND UNLAWFUL SIGNS.

If the City Administrator finds that any sign or other advertising structure regulated hereunder is unsafe or insecure or is a menace to the public, or has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this chapter, the City Administrator shall give written notice thereof to the permit holder. Such notice shall include a statement explaining the alleged violations and deficiencies, an order to repair or remove said sign, and an explanation of the consequences of failure to comply with said order. If the permit holder fails to remove or alter said sign so as to comply with the order within ten days after such notice, said sign or other advertising structure may be removed or altered to comply by the City Administrator, at the expense of the permit holder or owner of the property on which it is located. The permit holder may appeal the order of the City Administrator to the Council, and, if such an appeal is on file, the ten-day compliance period shall be extended until ten days following the Council's decision on the matter. If, however, the City Administrator finds that any sign or other advertising structure poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or safety of any person, the City Administrator may order the removal of such sign summarily and without notice to the permit holder. Such an order may be appealed to the Council, and if the Council reverses, it shall order restitution at the City's expense.

155.08 PERMIT REVOCATION.

Any permit holder who fails to comply with a valid order of the City Administrator within the allotted time period, or who fails to pay reasonable removal or repair expenses assessed under the preceding section, shall have the permit as to such sign or signs revoked, and another permit for the erection or maintenance of such sign or signs shall not be issued to said permit holder for a period of one year from the date of revocation. Such revocation shall be subject to Section 155.22. The permit holder must file a written notice of appeal with the City Administrator, no later than ten (10) days after the date of the revocation notice.

155.09 REMOVAL OF CERTAIN SIGNS.

Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted, or a product sold, shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure upon which such sign may be found within ten (10) days after written notification from the City Administrator; and, upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, the City Administrator is hereby authorized to cause removal of such signs, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building or structure to which such sign is attached.

155.10 EXEMPTIONS.

The provisions and regulations of this chapter do not apply to the following signs, provided, however, that said signs shall be subject to the provisions of Section 155.11.

1. Real estate signs not exceeding eight square feet in area and which advertise the sale, rental, or lease of the premises upon which said signs are located only.
2. Professional name plates not exceeding one square foot in area.
3. Signs painted on the exterior surface of a building or structure, provided, however, if said signs have raised borders, letters, characters, decorations or lighting appliances, they shall be subject to all applicable provisions of this chapter.
4. Bulletin boards not over eight square feet in area for public, charitable, or religious institutions when the same are located on the premises of said institutions.
5. Signs denoting the architect, engineer, or contractor when placed upon work under construction, and not exceeding 16 feet in area.
6. Occupational signs denoting only the name and profession of an occupant in a commercial building, public institutional building or dwelling house, and not exceeding two square feet in area.
7. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials.
8. Traffic or other municipal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger, and such temporary, emergency or non-advertising signs as may be approved by the City Council.
9. Political signs on private property 21 days before and seven days after an election.
10. Signs not exceeding one square foot in area and bearing only property numbers, post office box numbers, names of occupants of premises, or other identification of premises not having commercial connections.

155.11 OBSTRUCTIONS TO DOORS, WINDOWS OR FIRE ESCAPES.

No sign shall be erected, located, or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window, or fire escape. No sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.

155.12 SIGNS NOT TO CONSTITUTE TRAFFIC HAZARD.

No sign or other advertising structure as regulated by this chapter shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view

of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device that 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. No sign or other advertising structure regulated by this chapter shall have posts, guides or supports located within any street or alley.

155.13 FACE OF SIGN SHALL BE SMOOTH.

All signs or other advertising structures that are constructed on street lines, or within five feet thereof, shall have a smooth surface and no nails, tacks, or wires shall be permitted to protrude therefrom, except electrical reflectors and devices which may extend over the top and in front of the advertising structures.

155.14 GOOSE NECK REFLECTORS.

Goose neck reflectors and lights shall be permitted on ground signs, roof signs, and wall signs, provided, however, the reflectors shall be provided with proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign as to prevent glare upon the street or adjacent property.

155.15 SPOTLIGHTS AND FLOODLIGHTS PROHIBITED.

It is unlawful for any person to maintain any sign that extends over public property that is wholly or partially illuminated by floodlights or spotlights.

155.16 GROUND SIGNS.

Ground signs shall conform to the following:

1. All letters, figures, characters or representations in cut-out or irregular form, maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or superimposed upon any sign shall be safely and securely built or attached to the sign structure.
2. It is unlawful to erect any ground sign whose total height is greater than 20 feet above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining ground level, if such ground level is above street level.
3. Ground signs shall have an open space not less than two feet between the base line of said sign and the ground level. This open space may be filled in with a platform or decorative, lattice work that does not close off more than one-half of the square footage of such open space. No ground sign shall be nearer than two feet to any other sign, building, or structure.
4. No ground sign shall be nearer the street than the building line established by law.
5. All ground signs shall be securely built, constructed and erected upon posts and standards sunk at least three and one-half (3½) feet below the natural surface of the ground.
6. All posts, anchors and bracing of wood shall be treated to protect them from moisture by creosoting or other approved methods when they rest upon or enter into the ground.
7. All ground signs and the premises surrounding the same shall be maintained by the owner thereof in a clean, sanitary and inoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.

155.17 WALL SIGNS.

Wall signs shall conform to the following:

1. No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening or project beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached, and any one wall sign shall not exceed an area of 500 square feet.
2. No flush, wall mounted wall sign shall be permitted to extend more than one foot beyond the building line, and said sign shall not be attached to a wall at a height of less than 10 feet above the sidewalk or ground.
3. All wall signs shall be safely and securely attached to the building wall by means of metal anchors, bolts or expansion screws. In no case shall any wall sign be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails.

155.18 ROOF SIGNS.

Roof signs shall be subject to Section 155.17.

155.19 REMOVAL UPON ABANDONMENT OF USE.

It is the responsibility of the owner of the sign to remove such sign when its advertising or other commercial use is abandoned.

155.20 NONCONFORMING SIGNS.

Where, at the effective date of this chapter (November 4, 1982) a lawful sign is made no longer permissible under the terms of this chapter as enacted or amended, such use may be continued, so long as it remains otherwise lawful, subject to the following provisions:

1. No such nonconforming sign shall be altered or repaired in any way which will extend the life of the sign.
2. No such nonconforming sign shall be replaced, if destroyed or damaged.
3. No such nonconforming sign shall be moved in whole, or in part, to any other location unless such movement conforms with these regulations.

155.21 AWNINGS.

Awnings supported throughout on metal frames may extend over the sidewalk portion of a public street a distance not to exceed two-thirds (2/3) of the width of the sidewalk space, provided that every such awning frame shall be not less than seven feet six inches from the sidewalk immediately below, and that any fringe attached to the awning shall be not less than seven feet from the sidewalk immediately below.

155.22 COUNCIL REVIEW.

All administrative decisions by the City Administrator may be appealed to the City Council. The City Council shall have the authority to overrule the administrative decision. Such appeal shall be filed in writing with the City Administrator no later than ten (10) days following the decision being appealed. Council decision will be final.