

Common Sign Violations



In June 2019, the City Council amended the Sign Ordinance (Ordinance No. O-19-020) in order to:

1. Promote the safety of persons and property;
2. Protect the public welfare and to enhance the appearance and economic value of the community;
3. Promote the compatibility of signs with the use of the property to which the signs are appurtenant;
4. Promote compatibility of signs with the landscape and architecture of surrounding buildings;
5. Promote signs that are appropriate to the activity to which the signs pertain;
6. Avoid and minimize traffic accidents and problems caused by distracting signs;
7. Ensure that all signs are constructed and maintained in a structurally sound, safe, and attractive condition.

The following signs, as listed in Section 21-5 are **PROHIBITED** and are common violators of the Ordinance:

- **Attention-getting devices**- Devices erected, placed or maintained outdoors so as to attract attention, including but not limited to curt out figures, festoons, discs, tinsel, ribbons, pinwheels, inflatable objects, smoke producing devices, wind devices, etc.



Festoons



"Air Dancer"



- **Portable signs with the exception of sidewalk signs;**



- **Signs attached to or being held by a human or living creature for the purpose of advertising a commercial message for a business use;**



- **Signs attached to any trees, utility pole or wire, traffic sign or signal/ Snipe Signs: - - - ➔**

- **Signs located in the public right-of-way;**



- **Signs placed on parked vehicles or trailers for the primary purpose of displaying said sign;**

- ❖ **Sidewalk Signs for Non-Residential Uses:** No permit required, however;
 - Must be located on-premises of the business operations,
 - Shall not encroach within handicapped accessible access ways and routes, or public rights-of-way.
 - Sidewalk signs shall only be displayed or erected during the actual hours of operation only, are
 - Limited to one (1) sign structure with two (2) faces per business/entity or tenant, and;
 - Shall not exceed 6 square feet in size per sign face.

- ❖ **Sidewalk Signs for *Downtown Districts*** (B-3, Historical Central Business District and B-4, Neighborhood Business District): No permit required, however;
 - Must be located within 5 feet of the building occupancy frontage of the business or other entity,
 - Shall not encroach within handicapped accessible access ways and routes;
 - Shall only be displayed or erected during the actual hours of operation,
 - Limited to one (1) sign structure with two (2) sign faces per business/entity or tenant,
 - Shall not exceed 12 square feet in size cumulatively.
 - Properties with multiple entrances on multiple parallel streets shall be allowed one (1) additional sidewalk sign on the parallel street on which the corresponding entrance is located.

- ❖ **Window Signs for Non-Residential Uses:** No permit required, however;
 - Shall not exceed more than 50% of the window surface area, and
 - May not contain words with characters greater than 12 inches in height.

- ❖ **Window Signs for *Downtown Districts*** (B-3 & B-4): No permit required, however;
 - Window signs shall not exceed 25% of the window surface area, and
 - May not contain words with characters greater than 12 inches in height.

- ❖ **Temporary Signs: (Permit Required)**
 - One (1) temporary sign may be displayed during business or activity opening, or special promotions,
 - Shall not be displayed for greater than 14 days with a maximum of 4 permits annually.
 - Area may not exceed 40 square feet.
 - Shall adhere to setback requirements applicable to freestanding signs.

- ❖ **Sec. 21-13. - Maintenance of signs.**
 - All signs and structures supporting signs in the city and ETJ shall be properly maintained. The sign administrator shall have the authority to order the painting, repair, or removal of a sign, sign structure, or accompanying landscaping which constitutes a hazard to safety, health or public welfare by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment. Notice of required maintenance shall be sent by certified mail and if, within 10 calendar days, the maintenance orders are not complied with, the sign administrator may order the sign to be removed at the owner's expense under the provisions of this chapter.

 - It is an offense for a responsible party to fail to maintain signs and sign structures in a good and sound condition as determined by the sign administrator and in accordance with the applicable building code and other code(s). Responsible parties shall repair or replace signs and sign structures, or portions thereof, that are rotting, peeling, rusting, fading, becoming discolored, covered in dirt, contain an incomplete sign face, or any other defective conditions. Responsible parties shall not allow signs or sign structures to become a threat to public health, safety or welfare, within the meaning of the applicable building code and other code(s), as a result of inadequate design, construction, repair, or maintenance. The sign administrator is authorized to seek to compel immediate removal of signs that are in such a state of disrepair or dilapidation as to constitute an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare.

 - Abandoned or discontinued signs. An abandoned or discontinued sign face is a sign face that advertises a business, facility, organization or project that has ceased operations. All abandoned sign faces shall be removed by the responsible party within 60 days from their date of abandonment. For the purposes of this section, a business, facility, organization or project has ceased to operate when it is no longer engaged in the sale of products or services or conducting any other activity in the normal course of business. The sign administrator shall have the authority to grant a time extension not exceeding an additional 60 days for an abandoned, non-damaged sign.