

ARTICLE G – SIGNS

Section 156.G.001, Purpose and Applicability

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Article is to:
1. *Communication.* Set out reasonable regulations for the design, location, installation, operation, repair, and maintenance of signs which facilitates businesses, residents, and other interested parties to communicate, advertise, or be identified;
 2. *Free Speech.* Provide for reasonable regulation while also safeguarding the constitutionally protected right of free speech;
 3. *Content Neutrality.* Create content-neutral sign regulations which balance the legitimate needs of individuals, entities, and organizations to convey messages with the legitimate objectives of the City to promote public safety, enhance community character and enhance private property values;
 4. *Compatibility.* Assure compatibility of signs with surrounding land uses;
 5. *Clutter.* Prevent and reduce sign clutter which can have negative consequences to the City which include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Undue visual distractions which may create a public safety hazard for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians;
 - b. Degrading the aesthetic character of the City and therefore making the City less attractive for residents, visitors, commerce, and private investment; and
 - c. Physical obstructions within the public right-of-way which create public safety hazards.
 6. *Permitting and Enforcement.* Provide timely, fair, and consistent permitting and enforcement of signage throughout the City;
- B. **Applicability.** The standards of this Article apply to the following development activities:
1. *New Development.* New residential, nonresidential, or mixed-use development or change in use from residential to nonresidential or mixed-use;
 2. *Increase in Intensity.* Increase in apartment units, manufactured home pads, gross floor area, or impervious surface by 20 percent or more, cumulatively over a five-year period; or
 3. *New Sign.* Construction, placement, painting, or another form of creation of a new sign.
- C. **No Restriction on Content.** This Article regulates only the sign structure or copy design, and not the sign's content. Despite any other provision of this Article, no sign is subject to any limitation based on the content of its message. Any sign authorized in this Article may contain any non-commercial copy in lieu of any other copy.
- D. **Signs Permitted Before Effective Date.** If a permit for a sign has been issued in accordance with all City ordinances in effect prior to the effective date of this Zoning Ordinance, and provided that construction is begun within six months of the effective date of this Article and diligently built to completion, the sign may be completed in accordance with the approved permit. Such sign is subject to provisions regarding nonconforming signs in Section 156.K.005, *Nonconforming Signs*.

Section 156.G.002, General Requirements

- A. **Permit Required.** Except as otherwise provided in this Article, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, move, or convert any sign within the City, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a Sign Permit issued in accordance with Subsec. 156.J.004.4, *Sign Permit*.
- B. **Actions Not Requiring a Permit.** The following actions do not require a Sign Permit:
1. *Maintenance.* Routine maintenance, not involving structural changes to the sign;
 2. *Message.* Changes of message, either manually or electronically, on an electronic message sign or changeable copy sign, subject to limitations of Section 156.G.004.J *Changeable Copy*, on the frequency of message changes.
- C. **Signs Not Requiring a Permit.** The following signs are exempted from the permit requirements of this Article, but shall be in compliance with all other applicable codes and ordinances:

1. *ATM Sign.* Signs incorporated into and designed as part of an automatic teller machine (ATM) shall be exempt, provided the sign is limited to the term "ATM" and the financial institution's name and logo.
2. *Ancillary Signs.* Three or less ancillary signs when:
 - a. No trespassing signs less than four square feet;
 - b. Placed on the door or exterior wall or window of the premises; and
 - c. No larger than four square feet in total sign area.
3. *Art and Murals.* Art and murals, provided such signs do not contain any commercial messaging. Murals within the Urban Core, UC zoning district shall be exempt provided that the mural is not on a primary facade;
4. *Athletic Field Signs.* Signs located on the field side of scoreboards and fences of athletic fields provided each sign does not exceed 32 s.f. in area.
5. *Flags.* Flags shall be permitted without a permit ensuring they not exceed 15 square feet, but not including painted or printed images of flags otherwise constituting a sign;
6. *Ghost Signs.* Ghost signs or rehabilitated ghost signs.
7. *Government Signs.*
 - a. Any traffic sign erected at the authorization of either the county, state, or federal government.
 - b. Any sign providing emergency notifications on a temporary basis lasting no more than 90 days erected at the authorization of the county, state, or federal government.
 - c. Any sign erected by the City pursuant to and in the discharge of any governmental function.
 - d. Public notices and other signs erected by government agencies or utilities;
 - e. All government signs other than those listed in this subsection C.7, a through d of this section shall be subject to the permitting requirements of this chapter.
 - f. All government signage is exempt from any fee charged related to permits issued.
8. *Grave Markers, Statues, or Sculptures.* Grave markers, statues, or sculptures that are not commercial in nature;
9. *Holiday Signs.* Holiday signs, as defined in this chapter, provided that they are installed no more than 35 days prior to the holiday for which they are customarily dedicated. Such signs shall be removed no later than 15 days after the holiday for which they are customarily dedicated.
10. *Interior Signs.* Signs located within a structure and not visible from a public or private street;
11. *Mailboxes and Addresses.*
 - a. Addresses and names printed in a standard size on a mailbox provided that the address information on the side of a residence or business shall not exceed four square feet.
 - b. Street markings indicating address information only containing address information painted on curbsides which shall not exceed four square feet.
12. *Menu Board.* Any permanently mounted accessory sign displaying the items for sale of a drive-in or drive-through restaurant shall be allowed provided that:
 - a. A maximum of two menu boards are permitted per drive aisle of a drive-through establishment.
 - b. The menu board shall not exceed 50 square feet.
 - c. The audio component of a menu board is limited to communication between customers and employees, and may not exceed a volume of five decibels over ambient sound as measured from the nearest property line.
13. *Plaques.* Plaques, tablets or names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any surface of when such sign is attached flush to the building or commemorative plaques or monuments placed by historical organizations;
14. *Private Traffic Control Signs.* Signs on private property containing no advertising that direct the movement of traffic, warn of obstacles or overhead clearances, or control parking, including entrance and exit signs provided they do not exceed six square feet in area and shall not exceed four feet in height. Signs in the PI, REC District shall not be limited in area or height.

15. *Property Identification Signs.* Any sign erected at the entrance of acreage or residential property that identifies the property by name or by name of the owner.
 16. *Railway signs.* Any sign on property owned by a railroad placed or maintained in reference to the operation of the railway.
 17. *Recreational Signs.* Any sign approved by the City in a City park or City recreational area.
 18. *Sidewalk Signs.* Sidewalk signs in the Urban Core (UC) and Mixed Use (MU) districts shall not require a permit or advance approval but shall conform to the following requirements:
 - a. The sign shall be removed after business hours;
 - b. The sign may not contain changeable letters on tracks;
 - c. The sign shall be properly anchored or weighted against the wind;
 - d. The sign placement shall maintain a minimum sidewalk clearance width of four feet to provide accessibility;
 - e. The sign shall be no larger than eight square feet per side and no taller than five feet.
 19. *Temporary Signs.* Temporary signs as described in Section 156.G.006, *Temporary Signs*.
 20. *Transit Shelter Sign.* Authorized signs attached to a transit shelter sign shall be exempt from any permit as long as the sign does not exceed 12 square feet. All signs shall be non-electrical. Only one sign/sign face per shelter shall be allowed.
 21. *Utility Pole Banners.* Banners on utility poles in the public right-of-way approved by the Director of Public Works;
 22. *Utility and Hazard Signs.* Safety signs, such as warnings of high voltage, explosives, hazardous materials and other dangerous situations; and
 23. *Vehicle Signs.* Signs applied directly onto the body of a car, truck, bus, trailer, or another vehicle if such vehicle is operated in the normal course of a business and such vehicle is not used primarily to display such sign.
- D. **Nonconforming Signs.** Refer to [Section 156.K.005](#), *Nonconforming Signs*.
- E. **Code Compliance.**
1. *Generally.*
 - a. All signs and sign structures requiring electrical connections must meet all requirements set by the City Electrician and applicable codes and ordinances of the City.
 - b. The construction, installation, erection, anchorage, and maintenance of all signs shall be subject to the applicable codes and ordinances of the City.
 2. *Wind Load Requirements.* Signs erected or placed in accordance with this Section shall withstand wind load pressures as specified in the International Building Code.

Section 156.G.003, Prohibited Signs

- A. **Generally.** This Section identifies sign types and characteristics, materials, design elements, and locations that are prohibited in the City.
- B. **Prohibited Sign Types and Characteristics.**
 1. Abandoned signs;
 2. Damaged or broken signs;
 3. Wall signs on single-family or duplex units, except that one wall sign not exceeding one square-foot shall be permitted on each single-family dwelling or duplex unit;
 4. Wall, pylon, or monument signs that functions as an advertising sign, except as expressly provided in this Article;
 5. Signs that obstruct the view of bicyclists or motorists using any street, approach to any street intersection, or which interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures any traffic sign, device, or a signal;
 6. Signs with flashing or intermitted lights or lights or reflective devices of changing degree in intensity or color that do not comply with [Section 156.G.005](#), *Sign Illumination*;
 7. Portable signs except as permitted in [Section 156.G.006](#), *Temporary Signs*, of this Article;

8. Vehicular signs; and
 9. All off-premise advertising signs and other signs not expressly permitted by this Zoning Ordinance.
- C. **Prohibited Design Elements.** The following design elements, regardless of sign type, are prohibited:
1. *Traffic Hazards.* Signs that interfere with, obstruct the view of, or may be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device because of its position, shape, or color;
 2. *Safety or Health.* Signs that constitute a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate design, construction, repair, or maintenance;
 3. *Confusion.* Signs that use the words “stop,” “look,” “go slow,” “caution,” “danger,” “warning,” or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in a manner that interferes with, misleads, or confuses pedestrians or traffic;
 4. *Glare.* Signs that are illuminated with lights that cause a glare into or upon surrounding property or that distract operators of vehicles or pedestrians on a public right-of-way;
 5. *Lighting.* Signs that contain reflectors, lights, or illuminations that flash, move, rotate, scintillate, blink, flicker, vary in intensity or color, or use intermittent electrical pulsation;
 6. *Moving Parts.* Except for changeable copy signs that otherwise comply with the requirements of this Section, signs that have visible moving, revolving, or rotating parts or visible mechanical movement of any kind, achieved by electrical or mechanical means;
 7. *Nuisance.* Sound, smoke, heat, or odor emitters;
 8. *Back-lit Awnings.* Awnings that are back-lit and/or made of plastic or vinyl, excluding substitute materials;
 9. *Unfinished Wood.* Unfinished wood support structures, except that stake signs may use unfinished stakes; and
 10. *Bare or Flashing Lights.* Bare light bulbs and flashing lights, except on holiday displays which are exempted from regulation by [Section 156.G.002.C, Signs Not Requiring a Permit](#).
- D. **Prohibited Sign Locations.** A sign, regardless of sign type, is prohibited from being in the following locations:
1. *Closed Businesses.* Signs that advertise a business or product that is no longer in existence;
 2. *Blocked Ingress or Egress.* Signs that prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window, fire escape, or any other exit way required by the Building Code or Fire Code of the City or by any other ordinance;
 3. *Signs in Right-of-Way.* Any permanent signs and supports that are located on the public right-of-way, except permanent signs and supports required by a governmental authority. The public right-of-way includes, but is not limited to, public streets, alleys, medians, and parkways.
 4. *Street Intersections.* Signs that are erected or maintained at the intersection of streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision of the intersection;
 5. *Roof Signs.* Signs that are placed on the roof of any building;
 6. *Outdoor Amenities.* Signs or signs attached to or located upon outdoor exposed amenities such as trees, street signs, or utility poles that are visible from any street;
 7. *Vehicles.* Signs that are painted on or attached to a motor vehicle unless:
 - a. The vehicle is operable and has current registration and tags;
 - b. The sign is an accessory sign;
 - c. The vehicle is legally parked within a parking space; and
 - d. The display of the sign is incidental to the vehicle use.
 8. *Encroachment.* Except for marquee signs, projecting signs, and hanging signs that comply with the standards of [Section 156.G.004, Permanent Signs](#), signs that are located on, or project or extend over, any public right-of-way or other public property;
 9. *Semis and Storage.* Signs that are painted on or attached to semi-trailers, shipping containers, or portable storage units except for the brand name of the semi-trailer, container, storage unit; and
 10. *Consented Locations.* Signs that are placed on private or public property without the consent of the owner or authorized agent thereof.

Section 156.G.004, Permanent Signs

- A. **Applicability.** This Section applies to freestanding signs, attached signs, and to other signs that are intended for display for more than a temporary time period.
- B. **Generally.**
 - 1. All freestanding signs must be permanently installed in locations designated in the sign plan, and may not exceed the allowable dimensions of this Section.
 - 2. All attached signs must be affixed to a building wall, within the designated sign area, and may not exceed the allowable dimensions of this Section.
 - 3. No permanent sign shall be located in any public utility easement nor within five feet of any underground public utility.
 - 4. Additional sign area and height is achievable if a Master Sign Plan is approved for an eligible property pursuant to Subsec. 156.J.003.4, *Master Sign Plan*.
- C. **Unlisted Signs.** Signs that are not listed in this Section are prohibited as permanent signs.
- D. **Allowed Sign Types by District.** Table 156.G.004-1, *Allowed Sign Type by District*, identifies on-premise signs allowed by zoning district. The key for the sign types table is as follows.

Table 156.G.004-1 Allowed Sign Type by District						
Sign Type	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts				
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC, UC-HD	GC	PI, REC	GI
Permanent Attached Signs						
Awning	--	P	P	P	P	P
Canopy (Attached)	--	P	P	P	P	P
Hanging	--	P	P	P	P	P
Marquee	--	P	P	P	P	P
Projecting	--	P	P	P	P	P
Wall	P	P	P	P	P	P
Window	P	P	P	P	P	P
Permanent Freestanding Signs						
Access	P	P	P	P	P	P
Canopy (Freestanding)	--	P	--	P	P	P
Directory	--	P	P	P	P	P
Menu Board	--	P	P	P	P	P
Monument	P	P	P	P	P	P
Pylon (or Pole)	--	P	--	P	P	P

NOTES: "--" = Not Permitted; "P"=Permitted

- F. **Allowed Attached Permanent Signs.** All permanently attached signs shall follow the standards established in Table 156.G.004-2, *Allowed Attached Permanent Sign Types*.

**Table 156.G.004-2
Allowed Attached Permanent Signs**

Zoning District	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts				
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC, UC-HD	GC	PI, REC	GI

Awning Sign



Number Allowed	--	1 per building front or per storefront for a multi-tenant building				
Maximum Area	--	5 s.f. per linear ft. of awning or canopy length				
Minimum Clearance	--	8 ft. above grade				
Illumination	--	External				
Sign Permit Required	--	Yes				

Canopy (or Over-Canopy) Sign



Number Allowed	--	1 per building front or per storefront for a multi-tenant building		1 per building front or per storefront for a multi-tenant building	Not Limited	1 per building front or per storefront for a multi-tenant building
Maximum Area	--	75% of canopy width	50% of canopy width	75% of canopy width	100% of canopy width	75% of canopy width
Minimum Height (copy above sign)	--	2		6	6	6

**Table 156.G.004-2
Allowed Attached Permanent Signs**

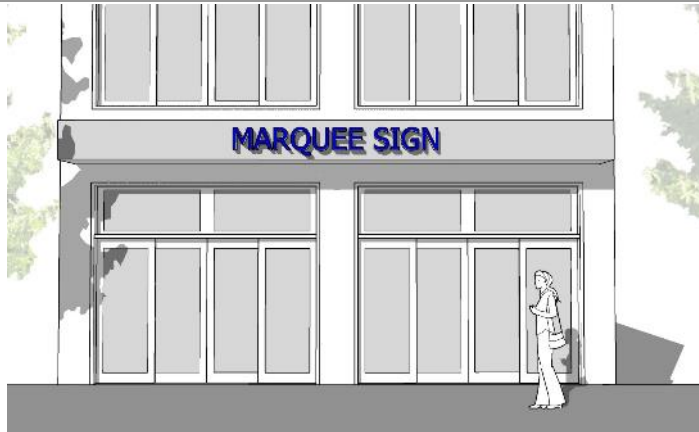
Zoning District	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts				
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC, UC-HD	GC	PI, REC	GI
Illumination	--	External or Internal		External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal
Sign Permit Required	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other Standards	--					

Hanging Sign



Number Allowed	--	1 per building		1 per entrance	
Maximum Area	--	6 s.f.		10 s.f.	
Maximum Height	--	8 ft. above grade			
Illumination	--	Yes, indirect light only			
Other Standards	--	1. Not extend within 2 ft. of the curb line. 2. May be suspended under a marquee sign or under a canopy or awning.			
Sign Permit Required	--	Yes			

Marquee Sign



Number Allowed	--	1 per street-facing facade			
Maximum Area	--	50 s.f. per side; 100 s.f. total		25% of wall to which it is attached	
Maximum Height	--	4 ft. from lowest point of marquee to highest point, excluding any ornamentation supported directly by the marquee			
Minimum Clearance	--	8 ft. above grade			




Table 156.G.004-2 Allowed Attached Permanent Signs						
Zoning District	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts				
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC, UC-HD	GC	PI, REC	GI
Illumination	--	Down lighting only; only the changeable copy area may be internally illuminated				
Other Signs	--	If used, then a wall sign is prohibited on same facade				
Other Standards	--	1. May not project more than 6 ft. from the building; may require an encroachment permit. 2. Sign may be on up to three sides of a marquee.				
Sign Permit Required	--	Yes				
Projecting Sign						
						
Number Allowed	--	1 per establishment	1 per building or 1 per 20 ft. of building frontage if multiple occupants.	1 per establishment		
Maximum Area	--	1 s.f. for each linear foot of building frontage		16 s.f.		
Maximum Distance from Building Wall to Farthest Part of Sign	--	4 ft.	No more than half the distance from the building facade into the public right-of-way	4 ft.		
Minimum Clearance	--	8 ft. above sidewalk or walkway and 20 ft. above adjacent public or private street				
Minimum Clearance, Vehicular Way	--	14 ft. above street				
Illumination	--	Internal or External (down lighting only)				

Table 156.G.004-2 Allowed Attached Permanent Signs						
Zoning District	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts				
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC, UC-HD	GC	PI, REC	GI
Other Signs	--	The area of a projecting sign is included in the total allowable area regulated under Wall Signs.				
Sign Permit Required	--	Yes				
Wall Sign						
						
Number Allowed	Home-Based Business: 1 per establishment Group Living: 1 per premise	No maximum number, subject to aggregate area restrictions.				
Maximum Area	1 s.f.	Total sign area shall not exceed 1.5 s.f. for each foot of linear frontage; a 2nd wall sign shall not exceed 0.5 s.f. per linear frontage.	Total sign area shall not exceed 1.5 s.f. for each foot of linear frontage; a 2nd wall sign shall not exceed 0.5 s.f. per linear frontage. ⁴	No maximum area	Total sign area shall not exceed 1.5 s.f. for each foot of linear frontage; a 2nd wall sign shall not exceed 0.5 s.f. per linear frontage. ⁴	
Maximum Height	The eaveline or the bottom of the second story window sill, whichever is lower.			The eaveline or building parapet wall		
Illumination	No	Yes	Yes, External Only	Yes		
Sign Permit Required	Yes					
Other Signs	--					
Other Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No wall sign shall project more than 18 inches from the building wall. 2. No wall sign or its supporting structure shall cover any window or part of a window. 3. In the UC district, wall signs shall have a texture or depth to distinguish them from the wall. 4. Buildings having a setback from the street of at least 150 feet will be permitted to have two square feet for every one linear foot of primary wall frontage. 					

**Table 156.G.004-2
Allowed Attached Permanent Signs**

Zoning District	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts				
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC, UC-HD	GC	PI, REC	GI
Window Sign						
						
Number Allowed	1 per dwelling unit	Residential: 1 per dwelling unit; Nonresidential: 1 per window		1 per window		
Maximum Area	10% of window area or 2 s.f., whichever is less	Residential: 10% of window area or 2 sq. ft., whichever is less; Nonresidential: 15% of window area, or 9 sq. ft., whichever is less		30% of window area, or 16 sq. ft., whichever is less		
Illumination	No	Residential: No Nonresidential: Yes, Indirect or internal lighting; light shall be turned off when off-business hours		Yes, Indirect or internal lighting; light shall be turned off when off-business hours		
Other Signs	If used, then a wall sign is not permitted	--				
Sign Permit Required	No	Yes				

G. **Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs.** All permanent freestanding signs shall follow the standards established in Table 156.G.004-3, *Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs*.




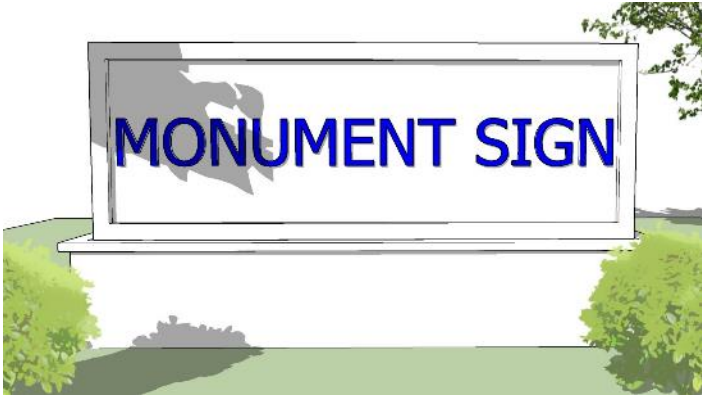
Table 156.G.004-3 Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs						
Land Use	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Nonresidential Districts				
Zoning District (in the City Limits)	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI
Access Sign						
						
Number Allowed	No more than 3 per principal use					
Maximum Area	4 s.f. per sign	6 s.f. per sign				
Minimum/Maximum Height	1 ft/4 ft.					
Minimum Setback	--					
Illumination	Internal or External					
Sign Spacing	No two directional signs hung from separate poles shall be located within 5 feet of each other.					
Other Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All such signs located on corner lots or intersections and greater than 3 feet in height shall not be placed inside the sight triangle as described in Subsection 156.B.008.a, <i>Measurements</i>. 2. There shall be no more than 4 total directional sign poles at any road intersection. 3. More than 1 sign may be hung from the same pole. 					
Sign Permit Required	No					

Table 156.G.004-3
Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs

Land Use	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Nonresidential Districts				
Zoning District (in the City Limits)	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI
Canopy Sign						
						
Number Allowed	--	1 per street frontage				
Maximum Area	--	40% of the canopy fascia face per street-facing side				
Minimum/Maximum Height	--	Shall not extend above the canopy fascia board				
Illumination	--	Internal or external				
Other Standards		1. Color branding shall be permitted and shall not count towards the aggregate sign total.				
Directory Sign						
						
Number Allowed	--	1 per property with a multi-tenant building				
Maximum Area	--	2 s.f. per linear foot of street frontage; maximum 100 s.f.				
Maximum Height	--	10 ft.				
Minimum Setback	--	0 ft.				
Illumination	--	Internal or External				
Sign Permit Required	--	Yes				
Other Standards		1. The bottom portion of the sign shall rest flush against the ground, allowing no space between the ground and the bottom of the sign structure.				

**Table 156.G.004-3
Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs**

Land Use	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Nonresidential Districts				
Zoning District (in the City Limits)	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI
Monument Sign						
						
Number Allowed	--	1 per property street frontage	1 per property street frontage	1 per property street frontage	1 per entrance, not more than 2 total signs	1 per property street frontage
Maximum Area (per sign)	--	50 s.f.	50 s.f.	< 200 ft. of street frontage = 50 s.f. > 200 ft. of street frontage = 75 s.f.	200 s.f.	75 s.f.
Maximum Height	--	6 ft.		25 ft.		35 ft.
Minimum Setback	--	10 ft.				
Illumination	--	Internal or External				
Other Signs	----	If used, then a Pylon Sign shall not be allowed				
Sign Permit	--	Yes				

**Table 156.G.004-3
Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs**


Land Use	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Nonresidential Districts				
Zoning District (in the City Limits)	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI
Pylon or Pole Sign						
						
Number Allowed	--	--	--	1 per frontage	1 per frontage	1 per frontage
Maximum Area (Per Sign Panel / Cumulative)	--	--	--	35 s.f. / 1 s.f. per linear ft. of street frontage; 250 s.f. maximum	48 s.f. per sign	120 s.f. per sign
Maximum Height	--	--	--	30 ft.	20 ft.	30 ft.
Minimum Clearance	--	--	--	8 ft. above grade and 20 ft. above adjacent drive aisle, if edge of sign is within one foot of aisle		
Minimum Setback	--	--	--	10 ft.		10
Illumination	--	--	--	Internal or External		Internal or External
Other Standards	--	--	--	The width of the support(s) of the sign shall be a minimum of 60% of the		The width of the support(s) of the sign shall be a minimum of 60% of the

Table 156.G.004-3 Allowed Freestanding Permanent Signs						
Land Use	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Nonresidential Districts				
Zoning District (in the City Limits)	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI
				width of the sign face.		width of the sign face.
Other Signs	--	--	--	If used, then a Monument Sign is not allowed		If used, then a Monument Sign is not allowed
Sign Permit	--	--	--	Yes		Yes

TABLE NOTES: ft. = Feet; s.f. = Square feet

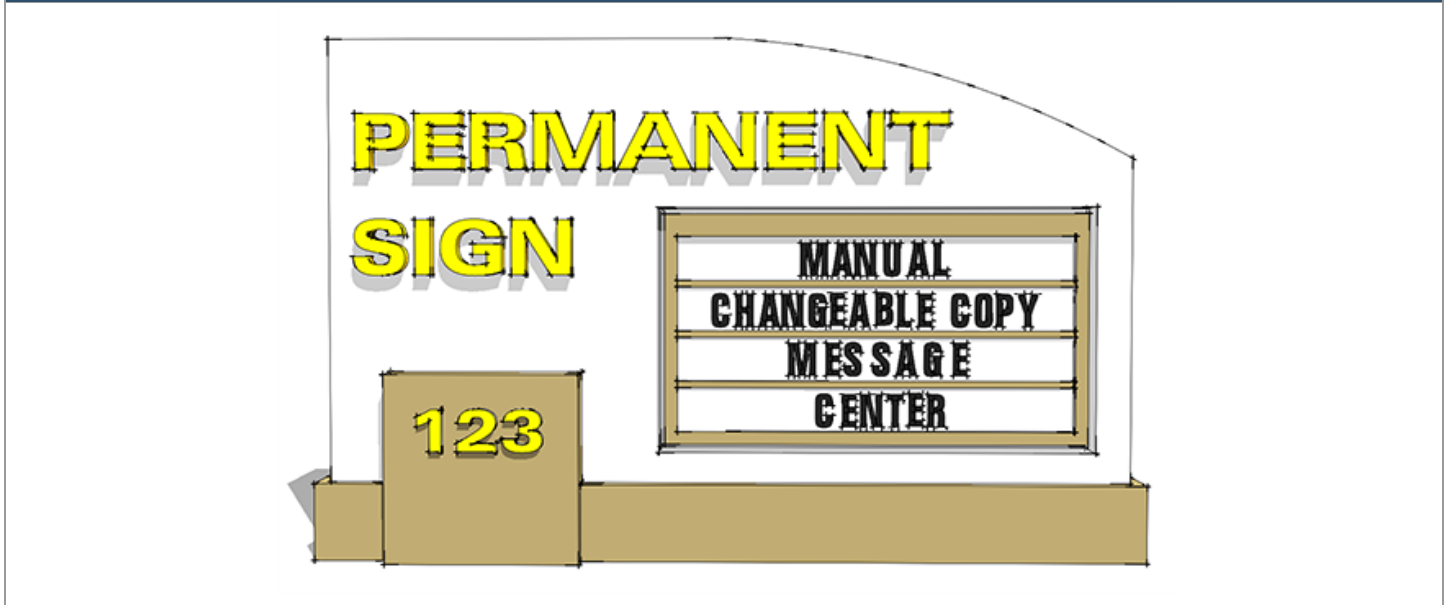
H. Additional Standards in the Urban Core (UC) District.

1. *Generally.* In addition to all applicable standards set forth within this Article, all permitted signs within the UC district shall comply with the following:
 - a. The sign shall be a secondary design element to the building upon which they are placed and/or the surroundings they are placed within; or
 - b. Signs shall fit the architectural details of a building they are placed on and relate to the architecture in at least the material, shape, or color.
2. *Prohibited Sign Treatment.* The following treatment of any sign type permitted in the UC district shall be prohibited:
 - a. Interior box-lit signs;
 - b. Flat signs with no depth;
 - c. Flat signs that do not compliment the architecture of the building. The sign shall be all in the same plane; or
 - d. Vacuum formed signs.
3. *Materials.* Signs must be made from one or more of the following materials:
 - a. Wood, such as solid cedar, cypress, white oak, and walnut. Plywood, pressboard, or other wood materials are not allowed.
 - b. Steel or stainless steel; or
 - c. Glass;
 - d. Aluminum;
 - e. Channel letters;
 - f. Wrought iron;
 - g. High-density urethane (sign foam);
 - h. Half-inch or three-quarter-inch acrylic;
 - i. Half-inch or three-quarter-inch PVC board with layers;
4. *Bracketing.* All bracketing and support materials for signs shall fit the original architectural style of the building or enhance the design of the sign. Sign pins are exempt.
5. *Illumination.* In addition to the requirements established in Table 156.G.004, the following illumination standards shall apply to signs in the UC district:
 - a. Interior lit signs must only be channel letters or have halo illumination.

- b. Exterior lights must be gooseneck or appropriate to the original architecture of the building.
 - c. Florescent lights shall be prohibited.
 - d. Lights emitting white light shall be prohibited.
 - e. No wires shall be visible from the public right-of-way.
6. *Wall Signs.* Wall Signs in the UC district shall have a texture or depth to distinguish them from the substrate they are placed upon. Individual letters and/or logos must have different depths. 20% minimum of the sign must meet these criteria.
- I. **Awnings and Marquees.** In addition to the standards established in this Section, the following standards shall be met for awning and marquee sign types in all zoning districts where permitted:
- 1. *Extension Standards.* Any awning or marquee extending over any public street or thoroughfare shall be constructed by either the following methods:
 - a. Constructed on steel beams projecting through the street wall of the structure or building and capable of supporting the weight of such canopy or marquee and an additional live load weight of 60 pounds per square foot; or
 - b. Solidly anchored against the street wall of such building or structure on steel plates bolted through the wall and hung by rigid rods anchored through such street wall and attached to the extended portion of such canopy or marquee and capable of carrying the weight thereof and an additional live load weight of 60 pounds per square foot.
 - 2. *Anchored.* Awnings shall be attached to framework securely anchored to the street wall of the building or structure in a manner approved by the Building Official.
 - 3. *Public Right-of-Way.* Any marquee or awning permitted to extend over any public street or thoroughfare shall conform to the following:
 - a. It shall not extend in one section more than 25 feet along the line of the street.
 - b. It shall provide a minimum clearance above the sidewalk of the lowest part thereof of not less than seven feet.
 - c. It shall not extend beyond the street line nearer than 18 inches to a vertical extension of the curb line.
 - d. The construction of any marquee or awning from a street wall and extending over any portion of a public sidewalk or thoroughfare shall be liable for injury to any person using such public sidewalk underneath or adjacent to the canopy, marquee, or awning resulting from any faulty construction, maintenance or dangerous condition of the marquee or awning and shall hold the City harmless for such injury.
- J. **Advertising Signs.** Signs commonly referred to as billboards.
- 1. Structures shall be limited to two faces per sign, shall not exceed 30 feet in height and 300 square feet in area. Advertising structures shall be constructed of metal or other durable materials. Poles made of wood shall not be considered acceptable.
 - 2. The minimum distance between advertising signs shall be 500 feet when adjacent to Highway 30 and 300 feet on other streets, whether on the same side of a street or on opposite sides of a street.
 - 3. Advertising signs shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from Highways 14 and 30 and Iowa Avenue. Setbacks from other streets shall be 30 feet. Where any advertising sign is directly adjacent to lots with buildings, the setback shall be no less than the building structure, but no sign shall be required to have a setback greater than 50 feet.
 - 4. No advertising sign shall be permitted within 100 feet of any residential zoning district boundary.
 - 5. Advertising signs may be permitted in the following areas of the City: GC or GI districts adjacent to Highway 30 and Iowa Avenue and GC or GI districts adjacent to Highway 14 south of Southridge Road or north of Riverside Cemetery specifically on the west side of Highway 14.
 - 6. Advertising signs may be electronic provided they comply with 156.G.004.J.3.b & c.
 - 7. Some signs may be subject to Iowa DOT approval.

- K. **Changeable Copy.** Changeable Copy Centers (CCC) may be permitted as an electronic message centers or manual changeable copyreader. These CCCs shall be used as an integral part of marquee signs, menu board signs, monument signs, or pylon signs subject to the applicable standards of this Section (See Figure 156.G.004-1, *Changeable Copy Center Design Requirements*), including the following design requirements:
1. *Enclosure.* Electronic message centers or manual changeable copy are permitted as part of a sign if they are enclosed on all sides with a finish of brick, stone, stucco, powder-coated metal, or anodized aluminum. The enclosure shall extend a minimum of six inches from the perimeter of the electronic message center in all directions. Gaps between the changeable copyreader board and the surround are permitted to accommodate locks and hinges for a cover for the changeable copy area, but only to the extent necessary for such locks and hinges to operate.
 2. *Size and Proportions.* Changeable copy centers square footage shall not exceed the maximum sign area permitted for that sign type within the zoning district where the proposed sign is to be located with the following requirements or limitations for the changeable copy:
 - a. *Menu Board Sign.* If a menu board sign is not visible from a residential property or a public or private street, 100 percent of the copy area may be electronic.
 - b. *Marquee Sign.* The lesser of 100 square feet or 40 percent of the sign area of a marquee sign; or
 - c. *Other Sign Types.* The lesser of 100 square feet or the maximum permitted sign area of a monument sign, or pylon sign.
 - d. *Remainder of Sign Copy.* The balance of the sign area shall utilize permanent letters or symbols.
 - e. *Combination of CCC Types.* No sign structure that includes a manual changeable copy sign may also include an electronic message center, and vice-versa.
 3. *Electronic Message Center Locational Requirements.*
 - a. Electronic message centers shall be:
 - i. Located no closer than 100 feet to a residential dwelling unit;
 - ii. Prohibited in the UC-HD, Urban Core-Historic District, with the exception of permitted marquee signs; and
 - iii. Permitted in the UC, MU, GC, PI, REC and GI zoning districts subject to the standards in subparagraphs b and c below.
 - iv. Be limited to one such sign per lot.
 - b. Electronic message centers shall not:
 - i. Blink, rotate, move, chase, flash, glare, strobe, scintillate, or in any fashion be distracting to the traveling public or the public in general;
 - ii. Include audio, pyrotechnic, or bluecasting (Bluetooth advertising) components;
 - iii. Be included on or used as portable or temporary sign.
 - c. Electronic message centers shall:
 - i. Not be limited by color;
 - ii. Contain a default design that will freeze the sign in one position with no more illumination than 0.3 foot candles above ambient light if a malfunction occurs; and
 - iii. Include an automatic dimmer that dims the sign at dusk or during low-light conditions.
 4. *Manual Changeable Copy.*
 - a. Manual changeable copyreader boards are only permitted on monument signs, pylon signs or marquee signs.
 - b. Manual changeable copy message centers, including their frames shall be the lesser of 100 square feet or the maximum permitted sign area of a monument sign or pylon sign. The balance of the sign area shall utilize permanently affixed letters or symbols.
 - c. Lettering of manual changeable copy signs shall be of a single style and shall be of uniform color and size.

Figure 156.G.004-1
Changeable Copy Center Design Requirements





Section 156.G.005, Sign Illumination

- A. **Generally.** The standards in this Section establish the permitted level of illumination for individual sign types in [Section 156.G.004, Permanent Signs](#), and the level and type of illumination allowed (internal illumination, external illumination, or halo lit).
- B. **Color.** Illumination shall be in white light only.
- C. **Electrical Service.** When electrical service is provided to a sign, all such electrical service shall be permanently installed in accordance with the City's Electrical Code, and shall be placed underground.
- D. **Glare.** All lighting shall be arranged so that there will be no glare directed or reflected toward adjacent properties or constitute a hazard to the safe and efficient operation of vehicles upon a street.
- E. **Illumination.** Internal or external illumination of signs is permitted as follows:
 - 1. *Generally.*
 - a. Externally illuminated signs may be illuminated by either ground-mounted lights or wall-mounted light bars.
 - b. Internally illuminated signs may include halo lighting, neon, or other sources that do not exceed the brightness or flashing light standards below.
 - c. All signs shall not exceed 0.3-foot candles over ambient light conditions.
 - 2. *Flashing Lights.* Signs with flashing, blinking, or traveling lights shall have light bulbs that do not exceed 350 Lumen each.

Section 156.G.006, Temporary Signs

- A. **Generally.** The signs described in this Section may be installed or modified without a sign permit and not counted in the total square footage of signage allowed on any particular property or site, provided that the sign otherwise complies with the Building Code and with all applicable regulations of this Zoning Ordinance and the following requirements:
 - 1. The temporary signage permitted by this Section shall be regulated by the base zoning district and by number, size, height, location, duration of signs placed on a property on a temporary basis;
 - 2. All temporary signs must be made of durable materials and shall be well-maintained;

3. Lighting shall only be from ambient, external illumination;
 4. The party posting the temporary sign is solely responsible for obtaining the permission of the property owner before posting their temporary sign; and
 5. The Zoning Administrator has the authority to remove any temporary signage that does not meet any and all of the requirements of this Article.
- B. **Allowed Signs.** Table 156.G.006-1, *Allowed Temporary Signs*, sets out:
1. The temporary sign types allowed in each zoning district; and
 2. The standards applicable to each sign type.
- C. **Unlisted Signs.** Signs that are not listed in Table 156.G.006-1 are prohibited as temporary signs.

Table 156.G.006-1 Allowed Temporary Signs							
Sign Type	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts					Example Image
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI	
Balloon Sign							
Number Allowed	--	--	--	1	--	1	
Maximum Area	--	--	--	50 s.f.	--	50 s.f.	
Maximum Height	--	--	--	20 ft.	--	20 ft.	
Illumination	---	--	--	Ambient Only	--	Ambient Only	
Maximum Days Sign May be Displayed (Cycle)	--	--	--	15 days	--	15 days	
Maximum Cycles per Calendar Year	--	--	--	4	--	4	
Banner Sign							
Number Allowed	--	1 per street frontage for a single tenant building; 1 per business in a multi-tenant building, subject to separation requirements					
Maximum Area	--	48 sq. ft.		100 sq. ft.			
Maximum Height	--	Attached: Below eave line or parapet wall; Ground Mounted: 5 ft.					
Illumination	--	Ambient Only					
Minimum Separation	--	25 feet from other temporary signs					
Maximum Days Sign	--	30 days					

**Table 156.G.006-1
Allowed Temporary Signs**



Sign Type	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts					Example Image
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI	
May be Displayed (Cycle)							
Maximum Cycles per Calendar Year	--	12					
Feather Sign							
Number Allowed	--	1 per 50 ft. of street frontage with a max. of 3 per street frontage	--	1 per 50 ft. of street frontage with a max. of 3 per street frontage			
Maximum Area	--	24 s.f.	--	24 s.f.			
Maximum Height	--	8 ft.	--	8 ft.			
Minimum Setback	--	--	--	--			
Illumination	--	Ambient Only	--	Ambient Only			
Maximum Days Sign May be Displayed (Cycle)	--	30 days	--	30 days			
Maximum Cycles per Calendar Year	--	4	--	4			
Freestanding Development Sign							
Number Allowed	1 per lot			2 per street frontage			
Maximum Area	48 s.f. per sign						
Maximum Height	8 ft.						
Minimum Separation	--			5 ft. between signs			
Minimum Setback	10 ft.	--	10 ft.				



Table 156.G.006-1 Allowed Temporary Signs							
Sign Type	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts					Example Image
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI	
Maximum Days Sign May be Displayed (Cycle)	Sign shall be removed upon project completion, issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, transfer of ownership of subdivided lots or after six months of inactivity on a project or development.						
Maximum Cycles per Calendar Year	--						
Other Signs	A freestanding development sign is prohibited from a property that already has a permanent freestanding sign						
L-Frame/H-Frame Sign							
Number Allowed	1 per street frontage						
Maximum Area	9 s.f.						
Maximum Height	6 ft.						
Minimum Setback ¹	6 feet; 20 ft. from an intersection						
Illumination	Ambient only						
Maximum Days Signs May be Displayed (Cycle)	180 days						
Maximum Cycles Per Calendar Year	2						
Yard Sign							
Number Allowed	No maximum number; see next row for maximum area	One Every 30 ft; Max. of 5 signs					
Maximum Area	6 s.f. per side	9 s.f. per side					
Maximum Height	4 ft.	4 ft.					
Minimum Setback	--						
Illumination	Ambient only						

Table 156.G.006-1 Allowed Temporary Signs							
Sign Type	Residential Districts	Mixed-Use and Non-Residential Districts					Example Image
	AG, RR, RL, RM, RH	MU	UC	GC	PI, REC	GI	
Maximum Days Signs May be Displayed (Cycle)	30 days						
Maximum Cycles Per Calendar Year	--						

- D. **Portable Signs.** Portable signs may be located in any nonresidential zoning district on a temporary basis through issuance of a sign permit subject to the following requirements:
1. *Maximum Size.* Signs shall not exceed 50 square feet in area;
 2. *Maximum Height.* Signs shall not exceed six feet in height;
 3. *Public Right-of-Way.* Portable signs shall not be located in any public right-of-way;
 4. *Duration.* One portable sign shall be permitted on any zoning lot for a period of not more than 60 days in any calendar year.
 5. *Off-Premises Signs.* Off-premises advertising is prohibited.
 6. *Other Standards.*
 - a. Portable signs may not be adapted for use as permanent signs.
 - b. All portable signs being displayed on the effective date of this Zoning Ordinance are subject to the above regulations and shall be removed within 30 days unless authorized in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 156.G.007, Installation, Maintenance, and Removal

- A. **Installation.**
1. *Identification.* Every permitted sign shall display in a conspicuous place on the sign, in letters no less than one inch in height, the date of erection, the permit number, the name of the sign manufacturer and installer, and the voltage of any electrical apparatus used.
 2. *Anchoring.* Signs shall not be suspended by chains or other devices that will allow the sign to swing, due to wind action. Signs shall be anchored to prevent any lateral movement that could cause wear on supporting members or connections.
 3. *Supports.* Supports and braces shall be an integral part of the sign design. Angle irons or wires used for supports or braces shall be hidden from public view to the extent technically feasible.
 4. *Freestanding Signs.* Freestanding signs shall be self-supporting structures and be permanently attached to sufficient foundations.
 5. *Attached Signs.* Attached signs must derive their principle and total support from the building to which they are attached.

6. *Use of Fill Under Monument Signs.* Mounds or berms may be used to elevate permanent monument signs, provided that the mound or berm elevates the base of the sign not more than three feet above the natural grade at the location of the sign.
 7. *Electrical Switch.* The sign shall be equipped with a switch that prevents electricity from flowing to the sign in order to promote safety during maintenance.
 8. *Inspection Request.* After any sign requiring a permit is constructed or erected, the sign contractor performing the work or service shall notify the Building Official for final inspection of the sign.
- B. Inspection.** The Building Official or Zoning Administrator has the right to visit any site where a sign is erected or is being erected, installed, converted, relocated, enlarged, or modified in the City for the purpose of making any inspection necessary.
1. If the Zoning Administrator finds a sign to be non-conforming, the Zoning Administrator shall cause notice in writing to be given the owner of the sign or the owner of the building to which it is attached to at once remove the sign.
 2. If such owner neglects or fails to comply therewith, the Building Official or Zoning Administrator may cause the sign to be removed and the expense thereof to be assessed against the owner of the building or sign and collected as other special taxes.
 3. Anyone violating any of the provisions of this subchapter shall be subject to a fine that shall be set by resolution.
 4. Any fines issued or actions taken by the Zoning Administrator under this subsection may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment, whose decision is subject to judicial review pursuant to I.A.C. § 414.15. Removal of a sign shall be stayed during such appeal unless the sign presents a danger to public safety.
- C. Maintenance.** Signs that do not have a permit, or are not maintained as set out in this Section, are subject to the provisions set out in this Subsection.
1. *Message.* Signs shall display messages. Signs that do not display a message for a period of more than 90 days are "abandoned signs," which are prohibited subject to [Section 156.G.003, Prohibited Signs](#).
 2. *Upkeep of Ground Around Sign.* The area within a 10-foot radius of the base of a sign shall be kept free of weeds, rubbish, or flammable waste or material.
 3. *Supports and Other Hardware.* Structural supports, braces, bolts, clips, supporting frames and fastenings of a sign shall be kept in good repair and safe condition, including replacement of defective parts, so that the sign is securely fastened or anchored to a building wall, structural framing, or other foundation.
 4. *Paint and Finishes.* Paint and other finishes shall be maintained in good condition. Peeling finishes shall be repaired. Signs with running colors shall be repainted, repaired, removed, or replaced if the running colors were not part of the original design.
 5. *Corrosion and Rust.* Permanent signs and sign structures shall be finished and maintained to prevent corrosion and rust. A patina on copper elements is not considered rust.
 6. *Level Position.* Signs that are designed to be level shall be installed and maintained in a level position.
 7. *Materials.* All signs shall be constructed of durable materials and securely attached to framework, with supports made of masonry, wood, metal, or other material of equivalent strength.