

#### DIVISION 4. - HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNS

##### Sec. 82-166. - Generally.

All signs in the downtown historic district shall be designed, constructed and affixed so as to promote and not visually obscure the significant architectural features of the district and its buildings.

(Code 1964, § 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-155; Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00)

##### Sec. 82-167. - Special restrictions.

The following special restrictions shall apply in the downtown historic district in the city.

- (1) Plastic as a sign material is discouraged in the downtown district as historically signs were made of wood, metal, etched or painted glass, and gold leaf.
- (2) No sign shall be displayed from the parapet or roof of any building.
- (3) No sign shall be erected, constructed, placed, attached, located, hand carried or displayed by any means unless the sign relates to or advertises a bona fide business conducted in or on the premises to which the sign adjoins.
- (4) Interior illuminated signs are prohibited on the exterior of a building.
- (5) The light source for exterior illumination shall be a steady light concealed by a hood or other acceptable method of indirect lighting.
- (6) Sandwich signs may be placed outside only when the business is open and must be properly anchored or weighted against the wind. The maximum height of any sandwich sign is 48 inches and a minimum clearance of four feet must be maintained on the sidewalk for pedestrian access. No other portable signs are permitted.
- (7) Awning and canopy signs must be painted or applied flat against the awning or canopy surface, and may not use over 70 percent of the lineal footage of the awning or canopy.
- (8) Permanent signs painted on glass windows shall cover no more than 25 percent of the total glass area of the window upon which they are placed, and may not contain words or characters greater than 12 inches in height. For purposes of this subsection, the area of any such sign shall be calculated as the area of an imaginary square or rectangle that encompasses the entire sign and its graphics.
- (9) Daylight fluorescence pigmented materials or paints are not allowed.
- (10) With the exception of donor plaques, advertising on planters, trash receptacles, park benches or other street amenities is not allowed.
- (11)
- (12) No building may have signage on more than two facades.
- (13) Permanent signs shall not be constructed of core-plast or banner material. Existing signs made from core-plast or banner material may remain but cannot be altered or replaced except by signs and materials meeting the requirements of this Code.
- (14) Neon signs are allowed as long as design and color scheme are kept simple.

(Code 1964, § 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-156; Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00; Ord. No. 06-38, § 1, 6-20-06; Ord. No. 09-51, § 1, 8-18-09; Ord. No. 2012-01, § 1, 1-3-12)

##### Sec. 82-168. - Temporary signs.

Signs painted on glass windows, exterior banners and pennant flags, when placed on a building in connection with special events, promotions and holidays, are considered temporary and may be placed for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days. Any such temporary signs shall be removed within ten days of expiration of the special event, promotion or holiday. Banners may not exceed 30 square feet in area. Temporary signs are excluded from the maximum allowable sign area per building. Temporary real estate signs and those advertising space for lease may exceed the 30-day limit as long as they are maintained in good repair.

(Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00; Ord. No. 06-38, § 1, 6-20-06)

Sec. 82-169. - Size and number of signs.

- (1) No business shall have more than one primary sign per street facade. Buildings with rear public entrances not facing a street may also have one sign oriented to the rear of the building. Primary signs are the sign designed to be viewed from the street from vehicular traffic.
- (2) The maximum allowable size of all signs affixed to any one building facade shall be two square feet of sign surface area for each 50 square feet of building facade surface area. Provided, however, that in no event shall the maximum allowable sign area per primary sign exceed 45 square feet..
- (3) A hung perpendicular sign will be considered as one primary sign.
- (4) Businesses can have three secondary signs in addition to its one primary sign. Secondary signs can be hung from an awning, window signage, building directory sign and similar sign types. Secondary signs should be made of appropriate materials.

(Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00)

Sec. 82-170. - Permits; variance procedure.

- (1) With the exception of real estate signs, temporary signs and permanent signage with an area of fifteen square feet or less, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect or substantially alter any signage in any historical district without obtaining the proper permit and/or variance. Application for sign permits and variances within any historical district shall be made upon forms provided by the building official. Permit, inspection and variance fees shall be the same as provided for elsewhere in the chapter and appendix C to this Code.
- (2) The city's Main Street director must first approve all sign permits in any historic district. Should the Main Street director refuse approval of a sign permit, the applicant may appeal the decision in writing to the design review committee. Should the design review committee thereafter refuse approval of a sign permit, the applicant may then appeal the decision to the zoning board of adjustments, which shall have the final say in the matter.
- (3) All requests for a variance from the historic sign requirements must be submitted in writing to the Main Street director along with a permit application. If the design review committee refuses to approve the variance, the applicant may thereafter appeal the decision in writing to the zoning board of adjustment, which shall have the final say in the matter.

(Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00; Ord. No. 06-38, § 1, 6-20-06)

Sec. 82-171. - Licensed contractor required.

With the exception of sandwich signs, signs with an area of fifteen feet or less, and temporary signs, all historic district signs must be installed by a licensed contractor in accordance with article II, and section 82-65 of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00)

Sec. 82-172. - Sign maintenance and removal; nonconformance.

- (1) All signs and all components thereof shall be kept in a good state of repair.
- (2) If a business, service or other enterprise shall cease activity or use of a sign for a period of over 180 days, any signs at said location shall be deemed to be abandoned and the sign owner, business owner or property owner shall remove any sign identifying or advertising said business or activity or any product sold thereby within 30 days of such abandonment. Removal shall mean to remove the face of the sign, paint over the message of the sign in a neat manner, or to otherwise remove in a satisfactory and safe manner the advertising or message contained by said sign.
- (3) The building official or his representative may inspect every new and existing sign of any type at such intervals as may be required by the building official. In the event of a change or alteration in a sign beyond normal maintenance and upkeep, the entire sign must be brought into conformance.

(Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00)

Sec. 82-173. - Murals.

All murals painted on the exterior surface of any building facade must first go through the permitting procedure prescribed in section 82-170. Murals must be visually appealing, enhance the architecture of the downtown historic district, and must meet the general requirements of section 82-166.

(Ord. No. 00-61, 7-18-00; Ord. No. 06-38, § 1, 6-20-06)

Sec. 82-174. - Use of electronic signs.

- (a) The components or sections of a monument sign shall not contain an electronic sign.
- (b) An on-premises electronic sign, with a maximum display of six square feet and meeting all other criteria established in section 82-110, may be installed as an inside window display.
- (c) Off-premises electronic signs are not permitted.
- (d) Electronic signs shall only operate during the hours that the business is open to the public, but at other times shall only be operable to denote the business is closed.
- (e) Businesses can have a maximum of two electronic window signs.

(Ord. No. 2012-01, § 2, 1-3-12)