

AGENDA

Clallam County Planning Commission

Meeting of June 15, 2022 6:00 p.m.

The Clallam County Planning Commission will conduct a regularly scheduled meeting on **Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.** in Room 160 of the Clallam County Courthouse, 223 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362. The meeting can also be attended via Zoom through meeting number 857 7304 5582 with passcode 12345.

The information provided to the Commission in preparation for this meeting is available at:
<https://websrv7.clallam.net/forms/uploads/PlanningCommissionPacket.pdf>

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. ROLL CALL**
- D. WELCOME**
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- F. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Member resignations, appointment of chair
- G. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Please Limit Comments to Three Minutes
- H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- I. PUBLIC HEARING:** none
- J. WORK SESSION ITEMS:** Sign Ordinance
- K. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Please Limit Comments to Three Minutes
- L. ADJOURNMENT**

Members:

Chair, Jane Hielman & Vice-Chair, Steve Gale
Robert Miller; Ron Long; N. Bonnie Booth; M. Ingrid Carmean; Jeff Carter; Thomas Butler

Department of Community Development Staff:

Donella Clark, Principal Planner

MINUTES

Clallam County Planning Commission

Meeting of 6:00 PM

- A. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
- C. ROLL CALL: Members present were Chair Hielman, Vice-Chair Gale, Robert Miller, N. Bonnie Booth, M. Ingrid Carmean and Jeff Carter. Donella Clark, Principal Planner; Greg Ballard, Senior Planner; Holden Fleming, Senior Planner represented staff from the Department of Community Development.
- D. WELCOME: Chair Hielman welcomed all in attendance
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 6, 2021
- F. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ingrid and Jane visited Serenity House and notes from that trip are attached to these minutes. Staff announced that Holden Fleming will be leaving our department and is the new Housing Coordinator for the City of Port Angeles. Scott Clawson's vacant Planning Commission seat has been filled by Thomas Butler.
- G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.
- H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.
- I. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM: Holden Fleming presented the 2nd Half 2021 Current Use Assessments. Two reclassifications from Farm and Ag and four new applications were processed. Overall shift to tax payers will be \$9545. Planning Commission had discussion and opened the public hearing. Charlotte Watts thanked the commissioners for their support of the program and explained her circumstances and why the program is important. Dave Shreffler made comments on the program hoping that the commission will continue to advocate for the open space program. Commission voted 6-0 to have staff move this to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Second public hearing was in regards to a Proposed Forestry Conversion Ordinance. Greg Ballard provided a history of the workshops and discussions that produced the current ordinance and presented that an additional sentence be inserted to clarify applicability. The question was asked by Ed Bowen if a land owner could cut one tree outside of critical areas, which would not subject the land owner to this ordinance. The DNR allows less than 5,000 board feet to be cut and calls this a Class I FPA. Planning Commission discussed percent of cuts allowed and if the 6-year moratoriums were recorded with title and the interpretation of CCC 31.02.140. Ted Alison explained there is an instrument tied to the sale of property so the next owner complies with continuing forest. Kenneth Reandeau commented

The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to move the proposed ordinance with the addition of one sentence regarding applicability onto the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Robert Miller was experiencing technical difficulty during the vote and was able to call in after the meeting to let staff know he was trying to vote yes, so the final vote would be 6-0.
- J. WORK SESSION ITEMS: None.
- K. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Ed Bowen asked if the Commissioners had received his comment regarding cutting outside Critical Areas, to which they reported they had.
- L. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at ___7:00___ p.m.

Clark, Donella

From: Ingrid Carmean <icarmean2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Clark, Donella; Jane Hielman; Bonnie; Winborn, Mary Ellen
Subject: Notes from Serenity House visit

*** EXTERNAL EMAIL *** This message was sent from outside our County network.

Everyone,

These are my notes and Morgan's additions to them from our visit to Serenity House. Jane and I went, Bonnie missed it due to miscommunication. (Probably my fault. ☐)

Ingrid

EVERGREEN FAMILY VILLAGE

They have 14 units for family permanent supportive housing, plus two emergency units for emergency family shelters. Children are not allowed in the night by night shelter. Families that have experienced domestic violence are referred to healthy families. (If I remember correctly they can still be housed at the family village but get more appropriate services from Healthy Families.)

There is a playground for the children and the families are clearly a village where they sometimes share child care and become fast friends.

I have observed that the landscaping looks pretty bleak and at my last visit Morgan a month ago or so told me they will be working on that. I mention this because a friend of mine, an architect in Fresno said that there is less violence in beautiful situations. So I believe beauty in a living situation is important.

The family shelters are planning "Mommy and me" classes and painting classes for older children.

Then there is Serenity Court: 10 units of housing in a two year program. Up to 3 people in a family unit in this program. They need to be clean and sober (& get random urine tests while in the program) for 5 months before they can enter this program. After 6 months they are expected to look for work and after 2 years they are expected to have work. They may be disabled.

Clallam Families Fund – literally homeless, under 30% annual medium income, head of household is over 18 and household includes children, inspection prior to move-in, 12-month lease.

24/7 Shelter:

At the beginning of COVID, they opened the shelter 24/7 rather than the closed from 8 am to 6 pm it had previously been . This was done because of the shelter in place regulations and then continued at the behest of the County and City because the police were getting significantly fewer complaints and calls about vagrancy and the like. (Calls to police cost the public money.)

They offer 3 hot meals a day (except on Wednesdays when they clean the shelter.) They have AA meetings and are planning to add NA meetings. They also have life skills classes.

They have an area for those who have jobs. It is quieter with fewer roommates. four rooms. 2 rooms with 12 beds (6 bunk beds) each for men and 2 rooms with 8 beds (4 bunk beds) each for women. This area is below capacity making it a much quieter place to be. If I remember correctly, you have to be clean and sober to be in these rooms.

The new building can house 80 clients in 40 bunk beds. One room houses 20 clients for women only. One room houses 40 males. One room houses 20 clients for couples only, and here you only have to declare you are a couple and one of you is head of the household. Each couple has one bunk bed (no double beds.)

There are 80 beds in the older housing area.

Sunbelt and Maloney Heights are permanent supportive housing. Sunbelt is 15 units in Sequim and Maloney Heights is 28 units on the Serenity House grounds, of which 8 are dedicated to veterans. These are one room with a full kitchen, very nice. Some are end of life shelters. Personally I am so glad our county has these.

They have 61 staff plus 8 at the thrift store. Their mission is "Working to end homelessness in in Clallam County."

Ingrid Carmean and

Morgan Bartholick

Business Development Manager

Serenity House of Clallam County

2203 W. 18th Street

Port Angeles, WA, 98363

360-452-7973



MEMORANDUM

Clallam County Department of Community Development

Date: June 8, 2022
To: Clallam County Planning Commission
From: Donella Clark, Principal Planner
Re: Sign Code

The Clallam County sign code was adopted in the year 2000 and has not been updated since. Portions of the code were invalidated through legal action and programs within the code to help bring existing signs into conformance are no longer available. New technology also exists regarding lighting of signs and there are numerous types of signs that exist that are not addressed by the code. New zones have also been added within the zoning code that are not listed in the code. Rearranging the sections of the code, listing prohibited and then exempt signs before those that require a permit, and providing a clear process to gain a permit would help the code be more user friendly for the public.

Sign codes cannot be regulated based on content, but signs can be regulated by their physical and non-content based attributes, rather than content-based categories. An excerpt from the MRSC (Municipal Research and Services Center) explores sign regulations in light of the Reed case: <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Planning/Development-Regulations/Sign-Control.aspx>

"The primary takeaway of the Reed case is that local regulation of non-commercial signs must be content-neutral and that a sign code (or the enforcement of a sign regulation) will be subject to "strict scrutiny" judicial review if it applies different standards based on a sign's content.

Factors considered in a content-neutral "time, place, or manner" approach may include:

- Location, such as commercial vs. residential locations, zoning districts, or placement in public right-of-way
- Dimensions, such as size and height
- Type of structure (for example, freestanding signs, monument signs, permanent façade signs, banner signs, and inflatable roof signs)
- Materials
- Number of signs allowed
- Maximum square footage
- Illuminated or not
- Fixed message signs vs. signs with changing messages (electronic or otherwise)
- Moving parts
- Portability (for example, A-frame or sandwich board signs)
- Condition of sign (abandoned, dilapidated, etc.)"

Staff would appreciate input on ways to improve the sign ordinance, sections to remove, examples of signs that are working in our community, those that are not, and standards that might be appropriate from other jurisdictions. The ordinance for the City of Port Angeles and Lacey have been provided for you to review. Port Angeles, because we can see implementation of the code and Lacey due to its robustness.

Chapter 33.57

SIGNS

Sections:

- 33.57.010 Goals and intent.**
- 33.57.020 Definitions.**
- 33.57.030 Certificate of compliance.**
- 33.57.040 Commercial and Industrial sign standards.**
- 33.57.050 Residential/Resource zoning district sign standards.**
- 33.57.060 Exempt signs.**
- 33.57.070 Prohibited signs.**
- 33.57.080 Nonconforming signs.**
- 33.57.090 Signage visible from a scenic highway.**
- 33.57.100 Variances.**
- 33.57.110 Review of Administrator's action (appeals).**
- 33.57.120 Severability.**

SOURCE:

ADOPTED:

Ord. 694

06/13/00

33.57.010 Goals and intent.

- (1) The goals of these sign regulations are:
- (a) To encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication in the County;
 - (b) To maintain and enhance the visual environment and the County's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth;
 - (c) To minimize excessive lighting in rural Clallam County along designated scenic highways;
 - (d) To maintain and enhance scenic views along the County's scenic highways;
 - (e) To improve traffic and pedestrian safety and to eliminate distractions to vehicle drivers;
 - (f) To minimize the adverse effect of signs on nearby public and private property;
 - (g) To ensure compliance with the Scenic Vistas Act and the Growth Management Act; and
 - (h) To enable the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations.

This chapter is adopted under the zoning authority of the County in furtherance of the more general purposes set forth in this title.

(2) It is the intent of this chapter that signs may be erected, placed, established, painted, created or maintained in the County only in conformance with the standards, procedures, exemptions and other requirements of this chapter. The intent of this chapter, as more specifically set forth herein, is:

- (a) To permit a variety of types of signs in commercial and industrial zones and a limited variety of signs in other zones, subject to the standards of this chapter;
- (b) To permit certain signs which are small, unobtrusive, and incidental to the principal use of the lots on which they are located; provided, that these types of signs are not portable signs which often cause safety problems due to blockage of vehicle/pedestrian sight lines and are further subject to the substantive requirements of this chapter;
- (c) To bring existing, nonconforming signs which exceed an area/height/number cap set in this chapter into compliance with these standards after a set period of time in order to further the goals and intent set forth in this chapter;
- (d) To prohibit signs not expressly permitted by this chapter; and
- (e) To provide for monitoring and compliance with the provisions of this chapter. This chapter distinguishes between signs by their structural type and duration of use but to the maximum extent possible does not distinguish between signs by their content. Certain types of signs are classified as temporary if they are only up for a short and specified period of time. Signs required by law, public signs required for safety, and public signage, the purpose of which is to inform the traveling public of public roadside facilities, are exempt from the ordinance requirements.

33.57.020 Definitions.

Except where specifically defined herein, all words used in this chapter shall carry their customary meanings. Words used in the present tense include the future, and the plural includes the singular. The word "shall" is mandatory; the word "may" denotes a use of administrative discretion in making a decision. The words "used" or "occupied" shall be considered as though followed by the words "or intended, maintained, arranged or designated to be used or occupied."

- (1) "Abandoned sign" means a sign that, for a period of more than six (6) months, no longer correctly identifies, exhorts, or advertises any person, business, lessor, lessee owner, product or activity conducted or available on or off the premises on which the sign is located. Signage on a property which is continuously listed for sale or lease shall not be considered abandoned for a period of six (6) months after which it shall be considered abandoned and subject to conformance with this chapter.
- (2) "Administrator" means the Director of the Clallam County Department of Community Development or his/her designee.

- (3) "Advertising" means to announce publicly by emphasizing a printed notice or to call public attention to desirable qualities so as to arouse a desire to buy or patronize. This also includes logos, borders, backgrounds and accents.
- (4) "Building frontage" means the linear frontage of a building facing an abutting public or private street. When a building fronts on multiple streets, the building frontage shall be the one building front that would result in the greatest linear frontage.
- (5) "Community event sign" means a temporary informational sign that pertains exclusively to a specific upcoming event sponsored by a nonprofit organization or by a governmental entity and is removed soon after the event.
- (6) "Construction sign" means a temporary informational sign that identifies the architect, engineers, contractors, suppliers or grant agencies involved in construction project or announces the character of the building and is removed soon after completion of construction.
- (7) "Election sign" means any sign which serves to influence, is intended to influence, or appears to be of the type which is commonly erected to influence, an election or ballot proposition.
- (8) "Facade sign" means a sign which is attached parallel to and within nine (9) inches of the wall of a building, or vertical face of an awning or parapet which is supported by and confined within the limits of such wall, awning or parapet and which displays only one sign surface. "Facade sign" also include signs affixed to (within nine (9) inches at one point) or painted on an awning, canopy or roof so long as they do not extend above the primary roofline or more than eight (8) feet from the outside edge of the building. Soft drink dispensing machines will be considered a facade sign if located within nine (9) inches of the building.
- (9) "Flashing sign" means a sign or a portion thereof which changes light intensity or switches on and off in a repetitive pattern at less than one-minute intervals, or uses electrical energy to provide motion or the optical illusion of motion.
- (10) "Freestanding sign" means a sign which is supported by permanent uprights, pole or braces to the ground and which is not connected to a building.
- (11) "Grade" means the average elevation of the natural ground surface immediately below the sign before construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign; and provided, that when the elevation of the natural ground surface of a freestanding/monument sign is below the grade of the edge of the adjacent roadway, then the height of a freestanding or monument sign shall be measured from the grade at the outer edge of the roadway nearest the proposed sign location.
- (12) "Grand opening sign" means a temporary sign of no more than thirty (30) days' duration announcing the new opening of a store or a complete change in ownership or product line sold.
- (13) "Illuminated sign" means any sign illuminated in any manner by an on-site artificial light source.

- (14) "Monument sign" means a ground-related, freestanding sign which is attached to the ground or to its base on grade by a solid sign structure and which structure extends from the ground or base to the sign face at the same or greater width as the sign face. Signs on fences are considered a form of monument sign.
- (15) "Multiple-business complex" means a group of structures housing at least two (2) separate businesses or agencies operating under separate State tax numbers, or a single structure containing more than one business with separating walls and at least one outside or inside access for each business which shares a common lot, access and/or parking facility operating under separate State tax numbers.
- (16) "Multiple-business complex sign" means a sign that is designated to identify a multiple business complex including directory signs for businesses within the complex.
- (17) "Mural" means an outdoor wall painting on a building which consists exclusively of paint applied to the wall or to framework attached within nine (9) inches of the wall and which contains no advertising.
- (18) "Noise" means any intended or unintended sound created by the sign or its installed equipment which exceeds forty (40) decibels as measured from the nearest point adjacent to the property or place of business, whichever is closer.
- (19) "Nonconforming sign" means any sign in existence within the County on the date of adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter which does not conform with the provisions of this chapter, but which did conform to all applicable laws in effect on the date the sign was originally erected.
- (20) "Portable sign" means any moveable sign which is not permanently affixed to the ground or a structure or building. This definition includes movable reader boards, outdoor soft drink dispensers located farther than nine (9) inches from a building and sandwich boards that are placed so as to be seen from public right-of-ways.
- (21) "Primary roofline" means the roofline under which a majority of the square footage of the business is located.
- (22) "Real estate sign" means a temporary sign advertising real estate for sale, rent or lease.
- (23) "Sign" means any object, device, fixture, placard, banner, structure or portion thereof, including any letters, figures, design, symbol, trademark or device that uses any color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol or writing intended to advertise, announce the purpose of, or identify the purpose of a person or entity, or to attract attention to any message, activity, service, place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine or merchandise or to communicate information of any kind to the public, and which is visible from any right-of-way open to the public. Lighting that highlights an architectural feature of a building and does not consist of lettering, symbols or graphics shall not be considered a sign.
- (24) "Sign area" means the entire face of the sign, including advertising surface, backlit surface, and any framing, trim or molding but does not include the supporting structure. Sign area is measured by multiplying the maximum horizontal width by the maximum vertical width. The surface area of a sign painted on a wall, awning or roof shall be measured by multiplying the maximum width of the copy by the maximum length of the copy. Sign areas may also be calculated by measuring the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the advertising copy, together with any material or color forming an integral part

of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed, including an awning. Supportive framework which contains no written copy or other advertising and is clearly incidental to the display itself shall not be included in sign area calculations; provided, that the sign support structure shall be the minimum necessary to support the sign. For the purpose of this chapter the total sign area of any two (2) faced sign with parallel faces or V-type sign having an interior angle of forty-five (45) degrees or less shall be calculated as the area of the larger of the two (2) faces or one face if equal in size. All other multiple-faced or paneled signs shall be the total area of all faces or panels combined.

- (25) "Sign surface" means any surface of a sign upon which there is lettering or other advertising.
- (26) "Sign height" means the vertical distance from grade to the highest point of a sign or any projection thereof.
- (27) "Sign structure" means any structure that supports or is capable of supporting any sign as defined in this chapter. A sign structure may be a pole or poles, or may be an integral part of a building. Structures that perform a separate use, such as a telephone booth, bus shelter, recycling or used goods container, etc., shall not be considered a sign structure. Sign structures shall be the minimum necessary to support the sign and shall not depict any product being advertised.
- (28) "Street" means a public or private way open to the general public for the purpose of vehicular traffic, including all classes of roadways and easements.
- (29) "Temporary sign" means a nonpermanent sign intended for use for a short period of time, which includes election signs, construction signs, real estate signs, grand opening signs, community event signs and residential yard sale signs.
- (30) "Under common ownership" describes a situation where one person, corporation, legal entity or related legal entities owns contiguous properties occupied by closely related businesses in which case these businesses will be considered to be one business, operating on one property for the purpose of applying this chapter (i.e., a car dealership may cover multiple contiguous parcels and have several related businesses on these parcels but shall be considered to be "under common ownership" for the purpose of interpreting the provisions of this chapter).
- (31) "Vehicular signs" are signs affixed or painted on work vehicles, tractor-trailers, busses, vans or other vehicles.

33.57.030 Certificate of compliance.

A certificate of compliance for a sign is used to track sign installations for record keeping and to ensure all signs erected after passage of this chapter are in conformance with the chapter. No sign may be erected within the areas of the County under Clallam County jurisdiction without a certificate of compliance obtained from the Clallam County Department of Community Development unless it is a temporary sign or an exempt sign (CCC 33.57.080). No nonconforming sign maintenance, except exchanging the area of existing advertising copy for a business not changing land use category or repainting to freshen faded or damaged advertising copy shown on the face of the sign for a business not changing land use category or changing lighting tubes/bulbs with bulbs of the same or lesser intensity, is allowed without a certificate of compliance.

33.57.040 Commercial and Industrial sign standards.

There are only four (4) basic types of signs that are used by business and industry. Those four (4) types include signs that are attached to the building (facade), signs that are set apart from the building (freestanding/monument), vehicular signs and temporary signs that are needed when certain conditions are met. Any sign that cannot be configured to qualify as one of these four (4) sign types and is not an exempt sign is prohibited in all zones. The time, place, number and manner regulations of these four (4) types of signs is as follows:

- (1) The total area of signage attached to any face of the building(s) in one or more facade signs shall not exceed the square footage limit for a facade signage of one square foot of sign area for each linear foot of building frontage facing a single public or private road. No facade sign may extend above the primary roofline or project more than eight (8) feet from the roofline edge of the building. For multiple-business complexes each business within a plaza may have one facade sign attached to the commercial structure that is limited to one square foot of sign area per linear foot of each businesses building frontage.
- (2) A freestanding sign or monument sign within a commercial or industrial zone shall be limited to one sign for each area of land under common ownership that is not the site of a multiple-business complex. This one sign (either freestanding or monument) shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of sign area and shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height above grade. For multiple-business complexes, one freestanding sign or one monument sign may be used to advertise the plaza or complex name and the businesses within the complex. This sign shall be limited to one sign not exceeding the signage area limit of 100 square feet and whose height shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height above grade.
- (3) Vehicular signage visible from a State scenic and recreational highway shall be limited to thirty-two (32) square feet and vehicular signage shall be set back from the lot line or right of public use line that fronts on the State scenic and recreational highway a minimum of fifty (50) feet. Firm identification signage and other signage at the minimum sizes required by State or federal law on commercial/industrial vehicles shall not be calculated as part of the thirty-two (32) square foot signage limitation. Work vehicles making a delivery or making a service call away from the home base of the business are not subject to this provision, as the purpose of this provision is to prevent vehicular signs from being used as a form of long-term freestanding sign. Likewise, local franchise holders for national moving van companies are not subject to the square footage limitation of this provision, as the local franchise holder has no control over the size of signage on the vehicles.
- (4) When the conditions for a temporary sign are met, one temporary sign may also be allowed on a commercial/industrial property. Conditions present to qualify for a temporary sign would include the sale of property/business, a grand opening, construction of a business, and when advertising a community event. Such signage is limited to one unlit thirty-two (32) square foot sign that shall not exceed five (5) feet in height above grade.
- (5) Externally illuminated signs shall not exceed background area average illumination levels when measured five (5) feet beyond any vertical surface of the sign; lighting fixtures shall be carefully located, aimed and shielded so that light is only directed on to the sign surface with a light source that is not directly visible from the adjacent roadway. Internally illuminated signs using 800 milliamp ballasts shall not have lamps spaced closer than twelve (12) inches apart or if using 425 milliamp ballast shall not be closer than six (6) inches apart.

(6) Commercial/Industrial zoning includes the following zoning districts

Zone Name	Zoning Symbol
Light Industrial	LI
Industrial	M
Commercial	GC
Tourist Commercial	TC
Western Region Rural Center	WRC
Urban Center	UC
Urban Regional Commercial	URC
Urban Neighborhood Commercial	UNC
Rural Center	CEN
Rural Limited Commercial	RLC
Rural Neighborhood Commercial	RNC
Carlsborg Commercial	CC
Rural Village	RV
Rural Commercial	RC
Sequim General Retail District	S(GC)
Sequim Light Manufacturing	S(LM)
Sequim Bypass Commercial	S(BC)
Sequim Neighborhood Commercial	S(NC)

33.57.050 Residential/Resource zoning district sign standards.

There are only four (4) basic types of signs that are used in residential/resource zones. Those four (4) types include signs that are attached to the building (facade), signs that are set apart from the building (freestanding/monument), vehicular signs and temporary signs that are needed when certain conditions are met. Any sign that cannot be configured to qualify as one of these four (4) sign types and is not an exempt sign is prohibited in all zones. The time, place, number and manner regulations of these four types of signs is as follows:

- (1) Freestanding, monument and facade signage in Residential/Resource zoning districts, regardless of use, is limited to one unlit sign of one type with a maximum of six (6) square feet of signage; and provided, that within a Commercial Forest zoning district (CF) the maximum sign size is twenty (20) square feet of signage.
- (2) If the one sign allowed is a freestanding sign or monument sign, it shall not exceed five (5) feet in height above grade and shall be unlit.
- (3) Vehicular signage visible from a County road or State scenic and recreational highway shall be limited to a total of thirty-two (32) square feet and vehicular signage shall be set back from the lot line or public right of use line that fronts on the State scenic and recreational highway a minimum of 100 feet. On parcels that predate the effective date of this chapter that cannot meet the 100-foot vehicular sign setback due to lack of lot depth, vehicular signs can be parked within twenty (20) feet of the lot line farthest from the scenic and recreational highway. Firm identification signage and other signage at the minimum sizes required by State or federal law on commercial/industrial vehicles shall not be calculated as part of the thirty-two (32) square foot signage limitation. Work vehicles making a delivery or making a service call away from the home base of the business are not subject to this provision, as the purpose of this provision is to prevent vehicular signs from being used as a form of long-term freestanding signs.
- (4) When the conditions for a temporary sign are met, one temporary sign may also be allowed on a Residential/Resource property. Conditions present to qualify for a temporary sign would include property/home sale and when advertising a community event. Such signage is limited to one unlit six (6) square foot sign for a property/home sale, construction sign and community event and shall not exceed five (5) feet in height above grade.
- (5) Residential/Resource Zoning includes the following zoning districts

Zone Name	Zoning Symbol
Urban Moderate Density	MD
Urban Very Low/Urban Low Density	VLD/LD
Urban Low Density	LD
Urban Very Low Density	VLD
Urban Residential Low	URL
Urban Residential High	URH
Rural Low Mixed	RLM
Rural Character Conservation 3	RCC3
Rural Character Conservation 5	RCC5
Quillayute Residential	QR
Western Regional Rural	RW1

Zone Name	Zoning Symbol
Rural	R1
Rural Suburban Community	RSC
Western Regional Rural Moderate	RW2
Rural Moderate	R2
Western Regional Rural Low	RW5
Rural Low	R5
Rural Very Low	R20
Commercial Forest/Mixed Use 5	CFM5
Commercial Forest/Mixed Use 20	CFM20
Commercial Forest	CF
Agricultural Retention	AR
Public Land	P
Airport Overlay District	AO
Open Space Overlay/Open Space Corridors	OS
Sequim Urban Residential – I	S(R-I)
Sequim Urban Residential – II	S(R-II)
Sequim Urban Residential – III	S(R-III)
Sequim Urban Residential – IV	S(R-IV)
Sequim Mixed Use	S(MU)

33.57.060 Exempt signs.

The following types of signs shall be exempt from the standards established within this code and from the certificate of compliance requirements of this chapter; provided, that any standards in this section are met:

- (1) Official notices authorized by a court, public body or public safety official, provided they are removed within seven (7) days after conclusion of the subject of notification;

- (2) Directional, warning or information signs authorized by federal, State or municipal governments or signs required by law not exceeding 200 square feet of sign area and twenty (20) feet in height. Directional signs located within State or County right-of-way shall be administered by State standards for directional signs and, if within Clallam County right-of-way, shall be administered by the Motorist Informational Sign Ordinance, Chapter 9.21 CCC;
- (3) Memorial plaques, building identification signs and building cornerstones which are cut or carved into a masonry surface or when made of noncombustible material and made an integral part of the building or structure. Plaques, tablets, or inscriptions indicating the name of a building, its date of erection, or other commemorative information, which are an integral part of the building structure or are attached flat to the face of the building, and which are not illuminated, except incidentally from light sources used for other purposes;
- (4) Sculptures, murals, landscape features, fountains, mosaics, religious symbols, and design features which do not incorporate advertising or identification;
- (5) The flag of a government or noncommercial institution such as a school;
- (6) Traffic or pedestrian control signs or signals, or signs indicating scenic or historic points of interest which are erected by, or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his/her public duty;
- (7) Exterior signs or displays not visible from streets or ways open to the public;
- (8) "No trespassing," "no dumping," "no parking," "private," and other informational warning signs which shall not exceed four (4) square feet in surface area and eight (8) feet maximum height above grade;
- (9) Commercial or residential address signs with lettering not exceeding twelve (12) inches in height and newspaper boxes located within ten (10) feet of an existing commercial/industrial building; and
- (10) Election signs no greater than thirty-two (32) square feet in area and five (5) feet in height above grade.

33.57.070 Prohibited signs.

The following signs or displays are prohibited, except as otherwise specifically allowed within this chapter. Prohibited signs are subject to removal by the County at the owner's or user's expense.

- (1) Signs which, by reason of their size, location, movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination may be confused with or construed as a traffic control sign, signal, or device, or the light of an emergency or radio equipment vehicle; or which obstruct the visibility of any street sign or signal device;
- (2) Signs identifying activities, products, businesses or services which have been discontinued for more than six (6) months on the premises upon which the signs are located;
- (3) Private signs on public utility poles;
- (4) Portable signs, due to fact that they are often placed where they block safety sight lines of motorists pulling into or out from a business or within safety sight triangles on corner lots;

- (5) Signs erected, altered or relocated without a permit issued by the County or any other governmental agency that requires a permit under law;
- (6) Signs that rotate or have a part or parts that move or revolve shall not be permitted in any zone except for the face of a clock less than six (6) square feet in size;
- (7) Signs or advertising displays consisting of clusters of posters, banners not affixed to a building wall, pennants, ribbons, streamers, strings of lights other than holiday lights used exclusively for decorative purposes, spinners, twirlers or propellers, flashing signs, rotating or blinking lights, chasing or oscillating lights, light projections on other natural or manmade surfaces, television type video, flares, balloons, inflatable signs, bubble machines and similar devices of carnival nature, or containing elements creating sound greater than 40 decibels as measured from the nearest adjacent property or business boundary shall not be permitted in any zone;
- (8) Signs within the public right-of-way unless erected by Clallam County or the State of Washington.

33.57.080 Nonconforming signs.

It is the intent of this section to ensure that nonconforming signs of exceptional size and height are reduced in size and height in accord with this section and to ensure that nonconforming signs are retrofitted into conforming signs as expeditiously and fairly as possible while avoiding any unreasonable invasion of established property rights. The following standards apply to nonconforming signs:

(1) *Residential/Resource Zones.*

- (a) Existing, legally erected, nonconforming freestanding signs greater than 128 square feet in area and/or taller than fifteen (15) feet shall be reduced to this standard (128 square feet in area/fifteen (15) feet in height).
- (b) A property whose commercial use predates the existence of a zoning code in Clallam County shall be able to retain one existing, legally erected, nonconforming freestanding sign between thirty-two (32) square feet and 100 square feet in area and fifteen (15) feet in height but any sign larger than this standard shall be reduced to this standard. All existing, legally erected, nonconforming facade signage may be retained but shall not be enlarged in area or changed in location.
- (c) All existing, legally erected, nonconforming, freestanding signs not covered in subsections (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section which are greater than twenty (20) square feet in area and/or taller than five (5) feet shall be reduced to this standard.

(2) *Commercial/Industrial Zones.*

- (a) Existing, legally erected, nonconforming, freestanding signs greater than 128 square feet in area and/or taller than fifteen (15) feet shall be reduced to this standard (128 square feet in area/fifteen (15) feet in height).

(b) A property with one or more existing, legally erected, nonconforming, freestanding sign(s) larger than 128 square feet covered by subsection (2)(a) of this section, that also has a secondary sign larger than thirty-two (32) square feet but smaller than 128 square feet may retain such secondary, existing nonconforming, freestanding sign; provided, that if it is greater than sixty-four (64) square feet in size and fifteen (15) feet in height then it must be reduced to this standard.

(c) A property with no existing, legally erected, nonconforming, freestanding sign(s) larger than 128 square feet may retain one existing, legally erected, nonconforming freestanding sign between thirty-two (32) square feet and 100 square feet in size and fifteen (15) feet in height but any sign larger than this standard shall be reduced to this standard if a single sign or the standards below if more than one sign exceeds this standard.

(d) All existing nonconforming, freestanding signs not covered in subsections (2)(a), (2)(b) or (2)(c) of this section shall be reduced to the new sign standard of thirty-two (32) square feet in area and ten (10) feet in height.

(e) All existing, legally erected, nonconforming facade signage erected prior to the passage of the 1993 sign code may be retained but shall not be enlarged in area or changed in location.

(3) Clallam County passed a comprehensive sign code in 1993. Since the 1993 sign code did not require nonconforming signs to come into compliance, all owners of legally erected, nonconforming signs have already had at least seven (7) years to amortize their signs. Nonconforming signs which must be brought into conformance with the area and/or height standards of this chapter may elect to do so after an amortization period that begins either, on the date of the original sign building permit and runs for a term of one year for every \$1,000 of project value claimed on the original sign building permit, or alternatively, two (2) years from the effective date of this chapter whichever is greater.

(4) Any sign which was nonconforming under the sign code adopted in 1993 (formerly Chapter 9.26 CCC) or under this code that has been enlarged shall be subject to conformance with the standards of this code without the amortization periods provided in subsection (3) of this section for legally established nonconforming signs after the notice specified in this title is provided to the owner. If the enlarged portions of the sign are not removed within the period specified in the notice, the entire sign becomes a prohibited sign subject to immediate conformance with the area and height requirements of this code.

(5) Any sign erected after the passage of the 1993 sign code (formerly Chapter 9.26 CCC) that was a prohibited sign under the 1993 sign code shall be subject to removal by the County after the notice specified in this title is provided to the owner.

(6) Properties with nonconforming signage shall only be allowed to erect new or replacement signage requiring a certificate of compliance after bringing an equivalent number of nonconforming signs on the property into conformance with the standards of this chapter.

(7) A change in commercial or industrial land use as determined from review of land uses listed for each zone or change in a conditional use or a change of use under Section 3405 of the Uniform Building Code shall require all signage to come into conformance with the new sign standards of this chapter.

(8) Nonconforming signs which have had the entire sign face area taken down to the ground as a result of natural disaster or which are removed as a result of loss of lease or are removed as a result of a construction project shall not be re-erected without bringing them into conformance with this chapter. No work on an undamaged, existing nonconforming sign that brings such sign into greater conformance with this code shall be considered to be a sign removal requiring conformance with the standards for new signage.

(9) A sign or sign structure removed by the County shall be held not less than thirty (30) days after notice to the owner by the County during which period it may be recovered by the owner upon paying the County for cost of removal and storage, and upon payment of any imposed fine. If not recovered within the thirty (30) day period, the sign or sign structure is hereby declared abandoned and title thereto shall be vested in the County for disposal in any manner permitted by law.

(10) All existing illuminated signs, other than facade signs, located in Rural Commercial, Rural Limited Commercial and Rural Neighborhood Commercial zoning districts and which:

- (a) Are within 600 feet of the outer boundary of a designated scenic and recreational highway; and
- (b) Do not advertise a business that is open during the entire time the sign is illuminated, shall be allowed a five (5) year amortization period after which lighting to these signs must be set by timer to be off when the business closes in order to further the goal in CCC 33.57.010(1)(c).

(11) To encourage the retrofit of nonconforming signs to the standards of this chapter, Clallam County establishes an incentive program to assist owners of such signs. The County will make available, on a competitive basis, the total sum of \$30,000 for a program to assist the owners of nonconforming signs to replace or retrofit such signs into a sign that meets the standards of this code. The \$30,000 County funding set aside for this program may also be used as a match to scenic byway grant funding available to remove outdoor advertising signs.

33.57.090 Signage visible from a scenic highway.

A permit or other written approval is required from the Washington State Department of Transportation prior to review of certain types of sign permits by Clallam County for those areas within 600 feet of a designated scenic and recreational highway to show conformance with the Scenic Vistas Act and the Highway Advertising Control Act (Chapter 468-66 WAC).

33.57.100 Variances.

Applications for a variance from the standards established by this code shall be processed as Type III permits as set forth in Chapter 26.10 CCC and the review criteria outlined in Chapter 33.30 CCC, Variances. Variances shall not be permitted for modification to the number of signs and sign types specified in this chapter. Sign size variances shall not exceed 10 percent of the standard required unless it can be demonstrated that the sign qualifies as a community landmark sign and must show that the increase is required to allow the sign owner to purchase a

standardized sign required by a national manufacturer who does not offer signs in a conforming size. A sign size (area) variance of less than 10 percent in area that meets the preceding criteria shall be processed as a Type II administrative variance as set forth in Chapter [26.10](#) CCC. Sign height variances over the 10 percent limit are available to those business owners that can demonstrate that their nonconforming sign qualifies as a community landmark sign. A community landmark sign must predate the effective date of this code by at least 20 years, have advertised the same business under the same name for all of that time, have become an important cultural landmark to County residents and would be difficult to retrofit to the nonconforming sign standard without destroying the unique character of the sign.

33.57.110 Review of Administrator's action (appeals).

Any person aggrieved by the granting, denying or rescinding of a decision of the Administrator made under this chapter may seek review from the Hearing Examiner in accordance with Chapters [33.33](#) and [26.10](#) CCC. The request must be in writing setting forth the basis of the appeal and must be accompanied by the appropriate fees outlined in Chapter [5.100](#) CCC.

33.57.120 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this chapter or the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

The Clallam County Code is current through Ordinance 983, passed April 5, 2022.

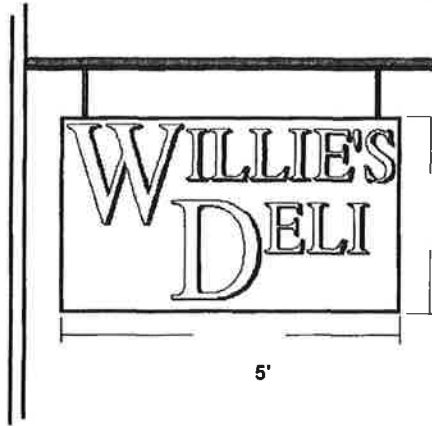
Disclaimer: The Commissioner's Office has the official version of the Clallam County Code. Users should contact the Commissioner's Office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

Note: This site does not support Internet Explorer. To view this site, Code Publishing Company recommends using one of the following browsers: Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.

County Website: www.clallam.net

Code Publishing Company

APPENDIX B

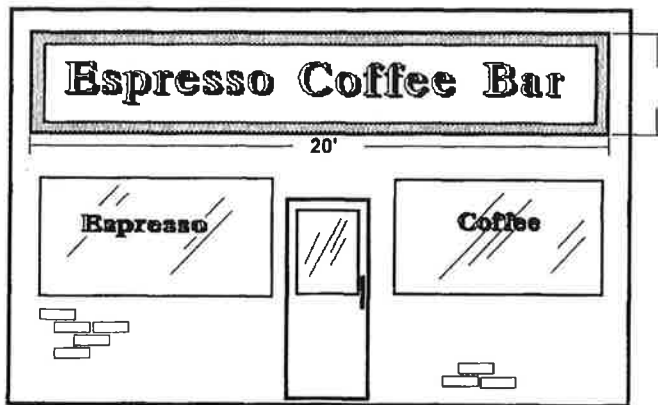


FREESTANDING SIGNS

The area of freestanding signs shall be calculated by multiplying the length of the face by the height. In this example, the length, 5 feet, multiplied by the height, 3 feet, produces an **area of 15 square feet** (Additional signage on the reverse face is not counted).

FACADE SIGNS, A and B.

A.



B.



FACADE SIGNS shall be calculated based upon the total mounted area, including border, if any. In example A, the length, 20 feet, is multiplied by the height, 2 feet, to produce a **total area, including the border, of 40 square feet**. Where the mounted area includes only letters, as in example B, the area shall be calculated based on the whole letter block, including any elevated or dropped letter blocks. Any backlit facade area will count as additional square footage of signage.

CHAPTER 14.36 - SIGN CODE

14.36.010 - Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to enhance the aesthetic and commercial appeal of the City by establishing standards and regulations for the design, placement, size and maintenance of all exterior signs and sign structures which convey a commercial message and aid the general public in locating businesses, goods, and services. The intent of the Sign Code is to differentiate between the intensities of various commercial and industrial zones as well as the pedestrian character of the Central Business District and Commercial Neighborhood Zones and the automobile-oriented character of other commercial and industrial zones. Commercial message signs are not allowed in residential zones, except as provided for residential trailer parks and bed and breakfasts in Chapters 17.13 and 17.18 PAMC. Residential structure and subdivision identification signs permitted in Titles 16 and 17 PAMC are not considered commercial message signs and, therefore, are not regulated under the Sign Code. It is further the purpose of this chapter to protect the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City and ensure vehicular and pedestrian safety by prohibiting flashing, rotating, fluttering, mobile, and similar signs or devices that may distract or change locations and thereby endanger the traveling public.

(Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2152 § 1, 7/1/1981)

14.36.020 - Definitions.

- A. Except where specifically defined herein, all words used in this chapter shall carry their customary meanings. Words used in the present tense include the future, and the plural includes the singular. The word "shall" is mandatory; the word "may" denotes a use of discretion in making a decision. The words "used" or "occupied" shall be considered as though followed by the words "or intended, maintained, arranged, or designated to be used or occupied".
- B. *Banner, festive.* A piece of manmade or natural cloth or fabric, displaying a distinctive non-commercial design and securely attached by two or more edges to a building or poles.
- C. *Billboard.* An off-premise outdoor advertising sign containing a commercial message unrelated to any use or activity of the property on which the sign is located. See also PAMC 17.95.140.
- D. *Display surface.* That part of a sign structure used to display an integrated advertising message.
- E. *Fluttering device.* Pennants, flags flyers, ribbons, balloons, or other fluttering devices or strings of such devices, which are used to attract attention for commercial purposes.
- F. *Marquee or awning.* A permanent covering structure projecting horizontally from and attached to a building, affording protection from the elements; including but not limited to fire-resistive cloth awnings and mansard roofs.
- G. *Person.* Any individual, corporation, association, firm, partnership, and the like, singular or plural.
- H. *Right-of-way.* A dedicated or owned right-of-way of the City, between the outer boundaries thereof, within which may be located a street, highway, sidewalk, alley, avenue, or other structure used for pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or a utility structure or appurtenance. A right-of-way or easement is included within the definition of "Right-of-way", whether such right-of-way or easement is currently used or not.
- I. *Shopping mall.* For the purpose of this chapter, a shopping mall is a group of stores and businesses operating by formal agreement under one management and with an association responsible for marketing and promotion activities of the businesses as an entity, generally occurring in one building, but occasionally occurring in more than one building, on a site that is developed and operated as a single, integrated entity.
- J. *Sidewalk.* That portion of the right-of-way, if any, which is designed for pedestrian use, adjacent and parallel to a street. "Sidewalk" includes the area which would otherwise be a planting strip, if the area is either covered with cement or is otherwise used for pedestrian travel.
- K. *Sign.* Any letters, figures, design, symbol, trademark, or device intended to attract attention for commercial purposes to any activity, service, place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine, or merchandise, and including display surfaces and supporting structures thereof.
- L. *Sign area.* The area of the sign shall be the sum of each display surface, including both sides of a double-faced sign, as determined by circumscribing the exterior limits on the mass of each display erected on one sign structure with a circle, triangle, or quadrangle connecting all extreme points. Where a sign is composed of two or more individual letters mounted directly on a wall, the total display surface, including its background, shall be considered one sign for purposes of calculating sign area. The structure supporting a sign is not included in determining the area of the sign unless the structure is designed in a way to form an integral part of the display.
- M. *Sign, A-frame.* A small portable sign consisting of two identically sized surfaces permanently joined at the top and capable of opening to an inverted "V" of

fixed maximum width so that the sign supports itself and looks like a capital "A" when viewed from a point perpendicular to the display surfaces.

- N. *Sign, auto-oriented.* A sign designed to identify a business or commercial activity to a person traveling in an automobile or other motorized vehicle on the adjacent street.
 - O. *Sign, banner.* A piece of manmade or natural cloth or fabric, conveying a commercial message or attracting attention for commercial purposes and securely attached by two or more edges to a building or poles.
 - P. *Sign, building-mounted.* A single or multiple faced sign, which is permanently attached to a building and which is also known as an attached sign, since it is attached or mounted on a building.
 - Q. *Sign, freestanding.* A single or multiple faced sign, supported from the ground by one or more columns, uprights, or braces.
 - R. *Sign, marquee or awning.* Any sign attached to, supported by, or incorporated in a marquee or awning.
 - S. *Sign, mobile.* Any sign that is not permanently attached to a building or the ground including A-frame signs, sawhorse signs, trailer-mounted signs, vehicle-mounted signs, pole temporary attachments, and large inflated displays.
 - T. *Sign, pedestrian.* A small sign designed to identify a business or commercial activity to a person walking nearby the location of the business.
 - U. *Sign, projecting.* Any sign other than a wall sign which extends more than 12 inches from the façade of the building to which it is attached.
 - V. *Sign, roof.* Any sign erected upon, against, or directly above a roof or on top of or above the parapet of the building.
 - W. *Sign, rotating.* Any sign which rotates on a fixed axis.
 - X. *Sign, temporary.* A sign constructed of cloth, canvas, cardboard, wallboard, or other light material, intended to be displayed for a limited period of time as specified in this chapter.
 - Y. *Sign, wall.* Any sign attached to and supported by the wall of a building or the wall of a structure, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of said wall.
 - Z. *Sign, window.* Any sign located inside and affixed to or within three feet of the window panes of a building, whether temporary or permanent.
 - AA. *Street.* A public right-of-way which affords a primary means of access to abutting property.
 - BB. *Street frontage.* The side of a building facing the street.
 - CC. *Surface area or façade.* The surface area or façade shall be the area of that continuous exterior front, side, or back surface of a building, including doors and windows, but excluding any roof area.
 - DD. *Visible sign area.* The total of all sign faces visible from any one location.
- (Ord. 3329 § 1, 4/25/2008; Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 10/11/2002; Ord. 2452 § 1, 7/30/1989; Ord. 2182 § 1, 12/15/1981; Ord. 2152 § 2, 7/1/1981)

14.36.030 - Applicability.

This chapter shall regulate signs throughout the City of Port Angeles in all nonresidential zones as designated in Ordinance No. 1709 and as set forth in the Official Zoning Map for the City, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended.

(Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2152 § 3, 7/1/1981)

14.36.040 - Permit.

- A. *Required.* No person shall erect, relocate, or otherwise construct or alter any sign in the City without complying with this chapter and, when required, obtaining a sign permit from the Building Division of the City of Port Angeles. A separate permit shall be required for each sign for which a permit is required.
- B. *Permit application.* Each permit application shall be filed with the Building Division by the property owner, lessee, contract purchaser, or other person entitled to possession of the property, or by an authorized agent, on a form provided by the City, and shall contain and include the following:
 - 1. Building name and location.
 - 2. Building owner and lessee; sign owner and sign lessee; name of business; primary product and/or service.
 - 3. Location of existing and proposed signs.
 - 4. Descriptions of signs, including dimensions, materials, and copy material.
 - 5. Required fee.
 - 6. Name, address, and telephone number of the sign installer.

7. Notarized statement that the building owner or an authorized representative will remove the sign within one year if the business becomes non-operating.
 - C. *Permit fee schedule.* A permit fee in an amount as shall from time to time be set by the City Council by resolution shall be paid to the Building Division.
 - D. *Activities exempt from the permit requirements.* The following activities shall not require a permit:
 1. The changing of advertising copy or message on a lawfully erected painted or printed sign, theater marquee, or similar signs specifically designed for the use of changeable copy.
 2. Maintenance or cleaning of a sign, and repainting existing copy of a permitted sign or legal nonconforming sign, provided the repainting of a legal nonconforming sign does not occur after the amortization period.
- (Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2542 § 2, 7/30/1989; Ord. 2152 § 4, 7/1/1981)

14.36.050 - Exempt signs.

The following signs are exempt from the permit requirements of this chapter:

- A. Official traffic signs, directional signs, banners, signals, business directory maps, kiosks, and public notices erected by public authorities.
- B. Informational service signs, such as "customer parking", "driveway entrance" and "exit", not to exceed six square feet, provided, however, that although these signs are exempt, an electrical permit may be required for installation.
- C. Signs identifying public conveniences, such as restrooms, telephones, bus stops, and taxicab stands, not to exceed three square feet.
- D. Informational warning signs, such as "no trespassing", "no dumping", "no parking", not to exceed eight square feet.
- E. Building address identification numbers are to be no more than 12 inches in height, nor less than six inches in height. Number material must contrast with wall color they are mounted on.
- F. A permanent building identification, including building plaques, cornerstones, name plates, and similar devices.
- G. Temporary political signs, provided such signs are not located in public rights-of-way and are removed within 14 days after the election.
- H. Temporary decorations customarily displayed at special holidays, such as Christmas and Independence Day, provided they are removed within 14 days after the holiday.
- I. Seasonal decorations, festive banners, and other distinctive noncommercial displays affixed to light poles, or other public standards, by the City or nonprofit organizations.
- J. One temporary real estate sign for each street frontage located on the premises for sale, lease, or rent, not exceeding eight square feet; provided that it is removed 14 days after the sale, lease, or rent of the premises. Two A-frame temporary real estate open house signs not located in the public right-of-way and not exceeding eight square feet in total sign area for each sign, provided that the signs are removed when the house is not open to the public.
- K. One temporary sign for each street frontage denoting the architect, engineer, or contractor, placed upon work under construction, not to exceed eight square feet; provided it is removed 14 days after completion of construction.
- L. Any sign located within a building not visible from the street or sidewalk, provided, however, that although these signs are exempt, an electrical permit may be required for installation.
- M. Sculptures, fountains, mosaics, murals, not incorporating advertising or identification of a business.
- N. Sandwich board signs worn by a person while walking the public ways of the City.
- O. Signs painted directly on windows, and inside window signs, except as the type of sign may be specifically prohibited by PAMC 14.36.080.
- P. Traditional theater marquees, not exceeding 260 square feet, provided, however, that although these signs are exempt, a building permit and an electrical permit may be required for construction.
- Q. *Barber poles.* Although these signs are exempt, an electrical permit is required for installation.
- R. Temporary community service signs which are erected by community service organizations, are intended to record and display the progress toward a community goal or announce a coming community event, do not exceed 200 square feet, are installed pursuant to a building permit, are removed within 14 days after the event, and are not up for more than three months in any calendar year or in any six-month period commencing at the date of installation; except that this section shall not allow the type of signs that are specifically prohibited by PAMC 14.36.080, except further that for the purposes of this section, community service signs shall not be considered billboards.
- S. Signs mounted on public transit vehicles and facilities.

(Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2542 § 3, 7/30/1989; Ord. 2182 § 2, 12/15/1981; Ord. 2152 § 5, 7/1/1981)

14.36.060 - Requirements applicable to all nonexempt signs.

- A. *Sign illumination.* Illumination from or upon any sign shall be shaded, shielded, directed or reduced as to avoid undue brightness, glare or reflection of light on private or public property in the surrounding area, and so as to avoid unreasonably distracting pedestrians and motorists. "Undue brightness" is illumination in excess of that which is reasonably necessary to make the sign reasonably visible to the average person on an adjacent street or recognized pedestrian or marine route.
 - B. *Content.* Content of commercial signs shall be limited to identification of business, major enterprise, product or service. A sign may utilize changeable copy; provided that the copy is limited to identification of products sold and services offered or contains a community service message; and provided further that any sign authorized in this chapter shall be allowed to contain non-commercial copy in lieu of any other copy and that content of non-commercial signs shall not be regulated or limited pursuant to this chapter or any other ordinance of the City of Port Angeles, nor shall any such ordinance be so construed.
 - C. *Compliance with other ordinances.* Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to modify or in any other manner alter the requirement that any sign comply with all other ordinances of the City as they may now exist or hereafter be amended; except that content of non-commercial signs shall not be regulated or limited by any such ordinance, nor shall any such ordinance be so construed.
- (Ord. 2649 § 1, 8/20/1991; Ord. 2152 § 6, 7/1/1981)

14.36.070 - Permitted signs.

- A. *Signs in the Central Business District (CBD) Zone.* Signs in the CBD zone shall comply with the requirements of this subsection. Each individual business with street frontage may have a total sign area of all non-exempt signs not to exceed 20 percent of the surface area of the building façade occupied by the business, or 200 square feet, whichever is less, and up to 90 percent of the sign may be on a part of the same façade not occupied by the business. When a building is located on more than one street frontage, each visible building façade shall be considered separately. Such signs may be wall signs, marquee signs, pedestrian signs, freestanding signs, projecting signs, or any combination thereof, subject to the following standards:
 1. *Wall signs.* Wall signs shall be mounted parallel to the building façade and shall project no more than 18 inches from the wall on which they are attached.
 2. *Marquee or awning signs.* A sign may be mounted on the front or front outer top edge of a marquee or awning, parallel to the street frontage; provided that the sign shall not exceed a vertical distance of two feet above the front outer top horizontal edge of the marquee or awning and all supporting mechanisms are concealed from view; or a sign may be mounted on the side of a marquee or awning, provided it does not extend above the top of the side. A sign may be mounted on top of a marquee or awning, provided that it does not project more than four and one-half feet from the building façade. A sign that projects below the marquee or awning shall comply with the requirements of PAMC_14.36.070(A)(3) (pedestrian signs). The sign area for a back-lit marquee or awning sign comprised of individual letters, figures, design, symbol, or trademark painted or mounted and projecting less than three inches from the surface of the marquee or awning shall not include the lighted background that is outside the area that circumscribes the exterior limits of the dimensions of the sign. The horizontal clearance between the curb line and every surface and part of a marquee shall be not less than two feet. Marquee placement shall be per Section 3205 of the Uniform Sign Code and shall be at least eight feet above the ground or pavement below.
 3. *Pedestrian signs.* A pedestrian sign attached to the underside of a marquee or awning shall be at a right angle to the plane of the building façade and not extend beyond the outer edge of the marquee or awning. A clearance of not less than eight feet from the underlying sidewalk shall be maintained. Said sign shall not exceed six square feet in sign area per side.
 4. *Freestanding signs.* Where all portions of a building are located more than 15 feet from the street right-of-way the building may have one freestanding sign in addition to the signs allowed on the building, provided that it shall not exceed 25 square feet in sign area per side or 20 feet in height. If the building has frontage on two or more streets and the building is more than 40 feet from those streets, the building may have one freestanding sign that shall not exceed 100 square feet of sign area per side or a total of 200 square feet of sign area, whichever is less, or 30 feet in height; provided that the sign area shall be considered part of the total sign area of the building and deducted equally from the allowable sign area of the façades that are more than 40 feet from the street; and further provided that the sign area of the freestanding sign shall not exceed the total sign area allowed the building.
 5. *Projecting signs.* Projecting signs may be mounted at a right angle to the plane of the building façade, provided the sign shall not extend more than four and one-half feet beyond the façade of the building. Further provided that signs occurring under marquees or awnings shall be governed by the requirements for pedestrian signs in PAMC_14.36.070(A)(3). Projecting signs not occurring under marquees shall maintain a clearance of not less than eight feet from the underlying sidewalk.

6. *Upper floor businesses.* The total sign area for a business occupying an upper story of a building with street frontage shall not exceed 20 percent of the building facade occupied by the business, or 200 square feet, whichever is less. An upper floor business or businesses may have one sign on the street upstairs businesses, provided that said sign shall not exceed six square feet.
7. *Multiple businesses, arcades, and galleries.* The total sign area of two or more businesses sharing a common facade with at least one business not having a street frontage shall not exceed 20 percent of the surface area of the common facade. One additional sign, not exceeding six square feet, listing all of the businesses may be provided.
8. *Sign area on alleys.* Each individual business with alley frontage may have a total sign area of all signs not to exceed ten percent of the surface area of the building facade on the alley occupied by the business; provided, however, that individual businesses without street frontage may have 20 percent or 200 square feet, whichever is less. Alley signs shall be mounted parallel to the building facade and project no further than 12 inches from the wall on which the sign is attached.
9. *Sign area on side walls.* Signs may be mounted on exposed side walls of buildings, which walls do not have street frontage, in accordance with subsection (A) of this section; provided, that only the area of the exposed wall shall be considered the surface area of the facade.
10. *Shopping malls.* The total sign area for a shopping mall facade shall not exceed 20 percent of the facade or 300 square feet, whichever is less. Signs may be placed on any facade of a shopping mall, provided the maximum allowable sign area of that facade is not exceeded, and the sign is part of a master sign permit in the name of the manager of the mall that identifies all of the signs for the shopping mall. Where all portions of the shopping mall are more than 15 feet from the street right-of-way, one freestanding sign per street frontage, with a maximum of two such signs per site, may be installed, provided that each sign shall not exceed 20 feet in height and 200 square feet in total area, or 100 square feet in area per side; provided, however, that for those signs containing over 100 square feet of sign area, the display surfaces shall be parallel and back-to-back to each other, and further provided that the sign area shall be included in the total permitted sign area for the facade on that same street frontage.
11. *Non-building business.* The total sign area for a business in which no portion of the business occurs within a building shall not exceed 64 square feet per street frontage and shall be located on the property of the business. Non-building business signs may be freestanding, provided that each sign shall not exceed 20 feet in height and 32 square feet in sign area per side; provided that there shall not be more than one freestanding sign per street frontage.
- B. *Signs in the Commercial Arterial (CA) Zone.* Signs in the CA zone shall comply with requirements of this subsection. Signs may be lighted but not intermittent or flashing type. All signs over ten square feet in area shall be restricted to territory no closer than 100 feet from all residential property in a residential zone. Maximum height shall be 35 feet. Such signs may be wall signs, marquee signs, pedestrian signs, freestanding signs, projecting signs, fluttering devices, or any combination thereof, subject to the following standards:
1. *Building-mounted signs.* Building-mounted signs may be placed on any wall not facing an adjacent residential zone. Building-mounted signs may not extend above the top of the eaves or parapet and may not be located on a roof. For buildings occupied by a single business, the total building-mounted sign area shall not exceed 20 percent of the area of the building elevation facing a public street to a maximum of 250 square feet on each building elevation which faces a public street. In buildings occupied by more than one business, the total building-mounted sign area for each business shall not exceed 20 percent of that business's portion of the building elevation facing a public street to a maximum of 250 square feet.
 2. *Freestanding signs.* One and one-quarter square feet of freestanding visible sign area shall be allowed for every one lineal foot of arterial street frontage of the site, provided that the maximum area of any freestanding sign face does not exceed half of the maximum visible sign area. The maximum visible sign area for a particular site shall be as follows:

EXPAND

Site Area	Maximum Visible Sign Area
Less than .50 acre	100 square feet
.50 to .99 acre	200 square feet

Site Area	Maximum Visible Sign Area
1 to 1.99 acres	300 square feet
2 to 2.99 acres	400 square feet
3 acres or more	500 square feet

3. *Off-premise signs.* One off-premise sign containing a commercial message unrelated to any use or activity of the property on which the sign is located, including billboards and other outdoor advertising signs not exceeding 300 square feet in total sign area and 35 feet in height, may be permitted on any site that does not contain any sign for businesses located on said site, subject to approval of a conditional use permit. No billboard or other off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be located within 1,000 feet of another such sign that is on the same side of the street.
4. *Shopping malls.* The total sign area for a shopping mall facade shall not exceed 20 percent of the facade or 300 square feet, whichever is less. Signs may be placed on any facade of a shopping mall, provided the maximum allowable sign area of that facade is not exceeded and the sign is part of a master sign permit in the name of the manager of the mall that identifies all of the signs for the shopping mall. Where all portions of the shopping mall are more than 15 feet from the street right-of-way, one freestanding sign per street frontage, with a maximum of two such signs per site, may be installed, provided that each sign shall not exceed 20 feet in height and 200 square feet in total area, or 100 square feet in area per side. For such signs containing over 100 square feet of sign area, the display surfaces shall be parallel and back-to-back to each other, and the sign area shall be included in the total permitted sign area for the facade on that same street frontage.
5. *Fluttering devices.* Pennants, flags, flyers, ribbons, balloons, or other fluttering devices or strings of such devices, which are used to attract attention to outdoor sales lots of new and used dealerships of automobiles, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, tractors, and boats, are allowed, provided such devices are not made of conductive material such as mylar which can cause an electrical shock or shortage.
- C. *Signs in the Community Shopping District (CSD) Zone.* Signs in the CSD zone shall comply with the requirements of this subsection. Signs may be lighted but not intermittent or flashing type. All signs over ten square feet in area shall be restricted to territory no closer than 100 feet from all residential property in a residential zone. Maximum height shall be 30 feet. Such signs may be wall signs, marquee signs, pedestrian signs, freestanding signs, projecting signs, or any combination thereof, subject to the following standards:
 1. *Building-mounted signs.* Building-mounted signs may be placed on any wall not facing an adjacent residential zone. Building-mounted signs may not extend above the top of the eaves or parapet and may not be located on a roof.
 - a. For buildings occupied by a single business, the total building-mounted sign area shall not exceed ten percent of the area of the building elevation facing a public street to a maximum of 175 square feet on each building elevation which is adjacent to a public street.
 - b. In buildings occupied by more than one business, the total building-mounted sign area for each business shall not exceed ten percent of that business's portion of the building elevation facing a public street to a maximum of 175 square feet.
 - c. *Sign area on alleys.* Each individual business with alley frontage may have a total sign area not to exceed ten percent of that business' portion of the building elevation adjacent to the alley to a maximum of 175 square feet. Alley signs shall be mounted parallel to the building facade and project no further than 12 inches from the wall on which the sign is attached.
 - d. *Sign area on side walls.* Signs may be mounted on exposed side walls of buildings, which walls do not have street frontage, may have a total sign area not to exceed ten percent of that business' portion of the building elevation visible from a public street to a maximum of 175 square feet; provided, that only the area of the side wall visible from the public street shall be used in calculating the sign area.
 2. *Freestanding signs.* One and one-quarter square feet of freestanding visible sign area shall be allowed for every one lineal foot of arterial street frontage of the site, provided that the maximum area of any freestanding sign face does not exceed half of the maximum visible sign area. The maximum visible sign area for a particular site shall be as follows:

EXPAND

Site Area	Maximum Visible Sign Area
Less than .5 acre	50 square feet
.50 to .99 acres	75 square feet
1 to 1.99 acres	100 square feet
2 to 2.99 acres or more	125 square feet
3 acres or more	150 square feet

3. *Off-premise signs.* Off-premise signs, including billboards, shall be prohibited within the Community Shopping District Zone.

D. *Signs in the Commercial Neighborhood (CN) Zone.* Signs in the CN zone shall comply with the requirements of this subsection. Signs may be lighted, but not intermittent or flashing type, and shall not exceed 100 square feet in total sign area. All signs over ten square feet in area shall be restricted to territory no closer than 100 feet from all residential property in a residential zone. Maximum height shall be 20 feet. Off-premise signs, including billboards, shall be prohibited within the Commercial Neighborhood Zone.

E. *Signs in the Commercial Office (CO) Zone.* Signs in the CO zone shall comply with the requirements of this subsection. Signs may be lighted, but not intermittent or flashing type, and shall not exceed 50 square feet in total sign area, provided, however, if the site area is 14,000 square feet or more, then signs shall not exceed 100 square feet in total sign area. No more than 50 square feet of lighted sign area may face residential property in a residential zone located directly across a street. All freestanding signs shall not exceed five feet in height. Building-mounted signs shall not exceed 20 feet in height. Off-premise signs, including billboards, shall be prohibited within the Commercial Office Zone.

F. *Signs in the Industrial Park (IP) Zone.* Signs in the IP zone shall comply with the requirements of this subsection.

1. One building-mounted sign, not to exceed one square foot for each one horizontal lineal foot of the building wall or 300 square feet, whichever is less, shall be permitted for each building elevation facing a public or private street.
2. One freestanding sign, not to exceed 35 square feet in area and 15 feet in height, shall be permitted for each business site.
3. Public and private directional, traffic, and warning attached and detached signs shall not exceed six square feet in area.
4. Signs may be lighted, but not intermittent or flashing.
5. Off-premise signs, including billboards, shall be prohibited within the Industrial Park Zone.

G. *Signs in the Industrial Light (IL) Zone.* Signs in the IL zone shall comply with the requirements of this Subsection.

1. One building-mounted sign, not to exceed one square foot for each one horizontal lineal foot of the building wall or 300 square feet, whichever is less, shall be permitted for each building elevation facing a public or private street.
2. One freestanding sign, not to exceed 35 square feet in area and 15 feet in height, shall be permitted for each business site.
3. Public and private directional, traffic, and warning attached and detached signs shall not exceed six square feet in area.
4. Signs may be lighted, but not intermittent or flashing.
5. One off-premise sign containing a commercial message unrelated to any use or activity of the property on which the sign is located, including

billboards and other outdoor advertising signs not exceeding 300 square feet in total sign area and 35 feet in height, may be permitted on any site that does not contain any sign for businesses located on said site, subject to approval of a conditional use permit. No billboard or other off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be located within 1,000 feet of another such sign that is on the same side of the street.

H. Signs in the Industrial Heavy (IH) Zone. Signs in the IH zone shall comply with the requirements of this Subsection.

1. One building-mounted sign, not to exceed one square foot for each one horizontal lineal foot of the building wall or 400 square feet, whichever is less, shall be permitted for each building elevation facing a public or private street.
2. One freestanding sign, not to exceed 100 square feet in area and 35 feet in height, shall be permitted for each business site.
3. Signs may be lighted, but not intermittent or flashing.
4. One off-premise sign containing a commercial message unrelated to any use or activity of the property on which the sign is located, including billboards and other outdoor advertising signs not exceeding 300 square feet in total sign area and 35 feet in height, may be permitted on any site that does not contain any sign for businesses located on said site, subject to approval of a conditional use permit. No billboard or other off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be located within 1,000 feet of another such sign that is on the same side of the street.

I. Signs in the Public Buildings and Parks (PBP) Zone. Signs in the PBP zone shall comply with the requirements of this subsection. One building-mounted sign per building shall be permitted, provided that the sign does not exceed 100 square feet in total sign area and is unlighted, and provided further that intermittent or flashing lights lighted signs are prohibited. One freestanding sign per site shall be permitted, provided that the sign does not exceed 100 square feet in total sign area. Signs shall be placed so as not to impact a facing residential zone. Maximum height shall be 20 feet. Off-premises signs, including billboards, shall be prohibited within the Public Buildings and Parks Zone.

J. Temporary commercial event signs. The total sign area of temporary commercial event signs that are intended to advertise a special event such as a new business grand opening, going-out-of-business sale, or similar special sales event shall not exceed 100 square feet for a business, provided the temporary commercial event signs are removed within one day after the event and are not up for more than one month commencing at the date of installation and not up for more than three months in any calendar year, except that this section shall not allow the type of signs that are specifically prohibited by PAMC 14.36.080.

K. A-frame signs. One A-frame sign shall be permitted per site as a freestanding sign. An A-frame sign shall be no larger than ten square feet per side with the top of the sign no higher than 44 inches nor lower than 30 inches from ground level and the width of the sign no greater than 32 inches. A-frame signs shall not be located in public rights-of-way, except where a building is built to the front lot line and provided the sign owner obtains a right-of-way use permit and identifies the specific sign in, and names the City as an insured on, the sign owner's insurance policy. A-frame signs shall not be located in a vision clearance area as described in PAMC 17.94.090.

(Ord. 3329 § 2, 4/25/2008; Ord. 3179 § 1, 12/17/2004; Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2542 § 4, 7/30/1989; Ord. 2182 § 3, 12/15/1981; Ord. 2152 § 7, 7/1/1981)

14.36.080 - Prohibited signs.

The following signs are prohibited:

- A. All signs illuminated by, or containing, blinking, flashing, intermittent, or moving lights and all flashing, rotating, or intermediate lights in, on, or around windows, rooflines, or building exteriors, provided that electronically changing message and digital time/temperature signs, which do not change the message more than once per 30 seconds, and the moving hands of a clock, as otherwise allowed under this chapter, shall not be prohibited, and provided further that this section shall not prohibit seasonal decorations.
- B. All roof-mounted signs, including any signs painted directly on the roof surface.
- C. Fluttering devices, except as permitted in PAMC 14.36.070.B.5, provided that such fluttering devices may be displayed to make notice of the opening of a business for a period not to exceed ten days, and provided further, that this section shall not prohibit seasonal decorations, festive banners, or other distinctive noncommercial displays affixed to light poles or other public standard by the City or nonprofit organizations.
- D. Billboards and other off-premise outdoor advertising signs, except in compliance with PAMC 14.36.070.B, G and H, provided that such signs shall not be directed toward, with the intention of being viewed from, any shoreline that is subject to Chapter 15.08 PAMC.
- E. Temporary signs located on or resting against a motor vehicle, trailer, bicycle, planter, or decorator card for the purpose of advertisement or directing people to a business.
- F. All signs which purport to call attention to a business or building with words such as "look", "stop", "slow down", or other words of like import or which are similar to traffic signals or signs.
- G. All moving rotating, or animated signs, except barber poles.

- H. All signs which no longer serve an ongoing business.
 - I. All signs which have no permanent attachment to a building or the ground, including but not limited to A-frame signs, sandwich board signs, pole attachments, and other mobile signs, provided that signs painted on vehicles which are not parked in a manner directing people to a business are not prohibited, and provided further that A-frame signs as exempted in PAMC 14.36.050.J, or permitted in PAMC 14.36.070.K, and sandwich board signs as exempted in PAMC 14.36.050.N, are not prohibited.
 - J. Projecting signs that project further than four and one-half feet from the building facade; provided that signs occurring under marquees or awnings shall be governed by the requirements for pedestrian signs in section 14.36.070.A.3.
 - K. Banner signs in the CBD Zone.
 - L. All signs not specifically addressed herein and contrary to the provisions of this chapter.
- (Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2542 § 5, 7/30/1989; Ord. 2182 § 4, 12/15/1981; Ord. 2152 § 7, 7/1/1981)

14.36.090 - Removal of prohibited and nonconforming signs.

- A. The Building Division shall notify the business owner and the sign owner or lessee and the owner of the property of each sign that is either a prohibited or nonconforming sign under the terms of this chapter.
 - B. Signs advertising a business no longer operating must be removed upon closure of the business. Signs advertising a product no longer being sold on the premises must be removed upon cessation of the sale of the product. A freestanding sign support structure that supported a sign that advertised a business no longer functioning shall be removed within one year of closure of the business. An extension of this time period may be requested by appeal to the Community and Economic Development Director. Such extension shall only be considered for conforming sign structures when use of the structure is imminent and/or retention is deemed to be valuable to the integrity of the site. Failure to remove a sign or freestanding support as required by this section is a violation of this chapter. In the event of such violation, the City shall have all rights and remedies available at law. In addition, and not in limitation of its rights and remedies otherwise available at law, the City, in its discretion, may remove the sign or cause it to be removed and place a lien against the property for the cost of such removal.
 - C. Any sign which is of a type of sign permitted under PAMC 14.36.070, but which does not conform to the specific requirements for that type of sign, and which was legally erected before November 15, 2002, shall be classified as legal nonconforming and may remain in use.
- (Ord. 3515 § 1, 10/21/2014; Ord. 3389 § 2, 1/30/2010; Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2604 § 1, 7/14/1990; Ord. 2580 § 1, 4/25/1990; Ord. 2542 § 6, 7/30/1989; Ord. 2182 § 5, 12/14/1981; Ord. 2152 § 9, 7/1/1981)

14.36.095 - Maintenance.

- A. Signs shall be maintained to protect the public safety, present a well kept appearance, and prevent deterioration, such that the sign is maintained in its original condition.
 - B. A permit shall be required for structural and electrical modification, but not normal repair and maintenance.
 - C. The Building Division shall notify the business owner and the sign owner or lessee and the owner of the property of each sign that is not maintained per subsection A.
 - D. Any sign which is not properly maintained may be subject to abatement as a nuisance.
- (Ord. 3478 § 4, 5/21/2013; Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002)

14.36.100 - Variances.

- A. When the strict enforcement of these regulations may impose an excessive hardship upon any applicant, depriving him of signage rights extended to other parties under this chapter, then a variance from these regulations may be requested.
- B. Variance applications shall be made to the Board of Adjustment.
- C. A variance application shall be submitted on a form obtained from the Department of Community Development. It shall be made by the owner or lessee of a sign or the owner of the property and shall be acknowledged by the owner of the property, if other than the applicant.
- D. Upon receipt of an application satisfying the requirements of this section, the Department of Community Development shall route the same to all appropriate Departments. Each Department shall submit to the Department of Community Development recommendations and comments regarding the application. The Department of Community Development shall prepare a report to the Board of Adjustment summarizing the factors involved, the recommendations of other

Departments, and the Department of Community Development recommendation and findings. A copy of the report shall be mailed to the applicant and copies shall be made available, at cost, for use by any interested party.

E. Upon receipt of an application satisfying the requirements of this section, the Department of Community Development shall schedule a public hearing before the Board of Adjustment. Notice of such public hearing shall be posted at the site of the proposal by the Department of Community Development at least ten days prior to the hearing and published three times at least three days apart in a newspaper of general circulation, except that the final notice to be published in the newspaper shall not be more than three days prior to the date of the hearing.

F. Prior to making a recommendation on an application for a variance, the Board shall hold at least one public hearing. The Board's determination for approval, denial, or approval with modifications or conditions shall be recorded in the minutes in written form with findings based upon compliance with subsections 1. and 2. of this subsection F., as follows:

1. Every variance shall comply with at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The size of the building is such that the 20 percent maximum permitted sign area would result in a sign that is too small to read from either side of the public rights-of-way adjacent to the building façade or from recognized pedestrian or marine routes;
 - b. The location of the building and entrance is such that the proposed sign would not be readable from public rights-of-way or recognized pedestrian or marine routes;
 - c. The building façade or other features, such as marquees, is such that no practical location in which to construct a conforming sign exists.
2. Every variance shall comply with all of the following criteria:
 - a. The variance shall not be detrimental to the public interest;
 - b. The variance shall not be detrimental to abutting properties;
 - c. The variance shall not be inconsistent with the purpose of this chapter.

(Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2152 § 12, 7/1/81)

14.36.110 - Notice.

Any notice required to be given by this chapter shall be given either to the owner or lessor of a sign, or to the owner of the property on which the sign is located. In the event notice is given to the owner or lessor of a sign, the notice shall be given either by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the name of the owner or lessor, as shown on the application for a sign permit. If there is no application for a sign permit on file with the City, the notice shall be given, either by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person in whose name the property stands, according to the records of the Clallam County Assessor.

(Ord. 2152 § 11, 7/1/1981)

14.36.120 - Enforcement.

- A. It shall be the duty of the Building Division to enforce all provisions of this chapter.
- B. No oversight or dereliction on the part of the Building Division or any official or employee of the City vested with the duty or authority to issue permits or licenses, nor issuance of a license in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, shall legalize, authorize, waive or excuse the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, nor shall it estop the City from enforcing the terms of this chapter. Any permit or license issued in violation of this chapter shall be null and void.
- C. In the event any person, firm, or corporation shall use, erect, construct, move, or alter, or attempt to use, erect, construct, move, or alter any sign in violation of the provisions of this chapter, the same is declared a public nuisance, against which the City may prosecute an action in a court of competent jurisdiction seeking an injunction against the continuation of such nuisance.

(Ord. 3126 § 1 (part), 11/15/2002; Ord. 2152 § 12, 7/1/1981)

14.36.130 - Violation—Penalty.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00, or 90 days in jail, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Chapter 16.75

SIGN REGULATIONS

Sections:

- 16.75.010 Intent**
- 16.75.020 Definitions and abbreviations**
- 16.75.030 Applicability**
- 16.75.040 Administration**
- 16.75.050 Prohibited signs**
- 16.75.060 General sign provisions**
- 16.75.070 Permitted signs**
- 16.75.080 Sign type standards**
- 16.75.090 Residential district sign standards**
- 16.75.100 Temporary signs**
- 16.75.110 Legal nonconforming signs**
- 16.75.120 Enforcement and sign removal**
- 16.75.130 Severability**

16.75.010 Intent.

The intent of this chapter is to promote public health, safety, and welfare through a comprehensive system of reasonable, effective, consistent, content-neutral, and nondiscriminatory sign standards and requirements, including the following purposes:

- A. Promote the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan;
- B. Promote economic vitality of the city's business districts and corridors;
- C. Ensure that signs are compatible with the desired character and identity of Lacey and its various districts and corridors;
- D. To recognize free speech rights by regulating signs in a content-neutral manner;
- E. To promote the free flow of traffic and protect pedestrians and motorists from injury and property damage caused by, or which may be fully or partially attributable to, cluttered, distracting, and/or illegible signage;
- F. To prevent property damage, personal injury, and litter from signs which are improperly constructed, poorly maintained, or of flimsy materials;
- G. To protect property values, the local economy, and the quality of life by preserving and enhancing the appearance of the streetscape;

- H. To provide consistent sign design standards;
- I. To promote signs that are designed appropriate to the site's existing and planned context, including the size and characteristics of the site, the speed limit of the fronting street, and the envisioned character of the applicable area per adopted plans;
- J. To provide an improved visual environment for the citizens of and visitors to the city and to protect prominent viewsheds within the community; and
- K. To enable the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations. (Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.020 Definitions and abbreviations.

For the purpose of this chapter, definitions as defined in Chapter [16.06](#) LMC and certain abbreviations, terms, phrases, words and their derivatives shall be construed as specified in this section.

- A. "Awning" is a temporary shelter supported entirely from the exterior wall of a building.



- B. "Banner" is a flexible substrate on which copy or graphics may be displayed. For the definition of a projecting banner, see subsection [FF](#) of this section.



C. "Billboard" is a sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.



D. "Bulletin board" means a sign so designed that the message may be changed by removal or addition of specially designed letters that attach to the face of the sign.

E. "Business sales event" means a special sales event put on by a private business. Examples could include a special seasonal or holiday-oriented sales event or a once-a-year sales event. See LMC [16.75.100\(C\)\(2\)](#) for signage associated with business sales events.

F. "Canopy" means an overhead structure attached to a building that provides weather protection for pedestrians. Awnings and marquees (defined herein) are different types of canopies.

G. "Construction sign" means any sign used to identify the architects, engineers, contractors or other individuals or firms involved with the construction of a building and announce the character of the building or the purpose for which the building is intended.

- H. "Copy" means the graphic content or message of a sign.
- I. "Departure" means a city approved alternative way to meet specific design standards set forth in this chapter. See LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) for general information and procedures associated with departures.
- J. "Digital sign" means a changeable copy sign that uses a matrix of illumination elements, such as light emitting diodes (LED), liquid crystal display (LCD), plasma display, individual light bulbs, or other digital or analog electronic media to display or project copy which can be modified by electronic processes.



- K. "Directional sign" means signs erected by the city on arterial streets directing the public to public, civic or nonprofit facilities.
- L. "Dwell time" means the amount of time a particular image is on display.
- M. "Fade" means a mode of message transition on a digital sign accomplished by varying the light intensity, where the first message gradually reduces intensity to the point of not being legible and the subsequent message gradually increases intensity to the point of legibility.
- N. "Flashing sign" means any sign which contains an intermittent or flashing light source or which includes the illusion of intermittent or flashing light by means of animation or an externally mounted intermittent light source. Excluded from the definition are public service signs.
- O. "Feather sign" means a vertical portable sign that contains a harpoon-style pole or staff driven into the ground for support or supported by means of an individual stand.



P. "Freestanding sign" means any sign which is supported by one or more uprights or braces in or upon the ground.



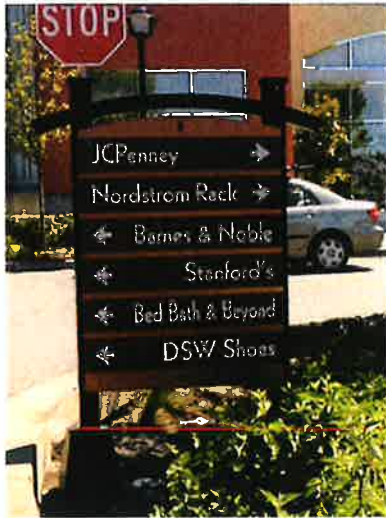
Q. "Garage sale signs," i.e., yard sales, moving sales, patio sales, means temporary signs used to announce a sale of used items at a residence.

R. "Grade" means the elevation or level of the street closest to the sign to which reference is made, as measured at the street's centerline, or the relative ground level in the immediate vicinity of the sign.

S. "Grand opening displays" means temporary signs, posters, banners, strings of lights, clusters of flags, balloons and searchlights used to announce the opening of a completely new enterprise or the opening of an enterprise under new management.

T. "Height" or "height of sign" means the vertical distance from the grade to the highest point of a sign or any vertical projection thereof, including its supporting columns.

U. "Internal wayfinding sign" means a sign used to aid customers in circulation within parking lots of commercial uses.



V. "Legal nonconforming sign" means a sign which on the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter was lawfully maintained and had been lawfully erected in accordance with the provisions of any prior sign ordinance or code but which sign does not conform to the applicable limitations established by this chapter; or on or after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter was lawfully maintained and erected in accordance with the provisions of this chapter but which sign, by reason of amendment of the ordinance codified in this chapter after the effective date thereof, does not conform to the applicable limitations established by the amendment of this chapter.

W. "Marquee" is a permanent roofed structure attached and supported by the building.



X. "Mobile sign" means a sign made of any material which by its design is readily movable and is equipped with wheels, casters or rollers or which is not permanently affixed to the ground, structure or building. (Also includes signs mounted upon the tops of vehicles.)

Y. "Monument sign" is a ground-mounted sign which is higher than three feet above the average ground elevation and which is attached to the ground by means of a wide base of solid appearance.



Z. "Multiple building complex" means a group of structures housing at least one retail business, office, commercial venture or independent or separate part of a business which shares the same lot, access and/or parking facilities.

AA. "Multiple occupancy building" means a single structure housing more than one retail business, office or commercial venture.

BB. "Nit" means a photometric unit of measurement referring to luminance. One nit is equal to one cd/m^2 .

CC. "Off-premises sign" means a permanent sign not located on the premises of the use or activity to which the sign pertains.

DD. "Political sign" means a sign advertising a candidate or candidates for public elective office, or a political party, or sign urging a particular vote on a public issue decided by ballot.

EE. "Projecting sign" means a sign attached to a building or other structure and projecting away from the structure more than twelve inches.



FF. "Projecting banner sign" means a banner as defined in subsection [B](#) of this section that is supported by poles or brackets which project away from a structure more than twelve inches.



GG. "Public service signs" means an electronically or electrically controlled public service sign or portion of a larger sign which conveys only information such as activities, events, time, date, temperature, atmospheric condition or news of interest to the general public where different alternating copy changes are shown on the same lamp bank matrix.

HH. "Real estate or property for sale, rental or lease sign" means any sign pertaining to the sale, lease or rental of land or buildings.

II. "Sandwich board sign" means a temporary sign made of metal, wood, chalkboard, or white board that is not permanently attached to the ground and generally oriented to pedestrians.



JJ. "Searchlight" means an apparatus containing an electric light and reflector on a swivel for projecting a far-reaching beam in any desired direction.

KK. "Sign" means any commercial communication device, structure or fixture that is intended to aid an establishment in identification and to advertise and/or promote a business, service, activity or interest. For the

purpose of this chapter, a sign shall not be considered to be building or structural design, but shall be restricted solely to graphics, symbols or written copy that is meant to be used in the aforementioned way.

LL. "Sign area" means the entire area of a sign on which copy is to be placed, as set forth in LMC [16.75.060\(B\)](#).

MM. "Special event signs" means temporary signs used to announce a public special event, such as a circus, a carnival, or festival, or a business sales event. See LMC [16.75.100\(C\)](#) for applicable standards.

NN. "Temporary sign" means any sign, banner, pennant, valance, flags (not intended to include flags of any nation, state, city or other governmental agency or nonprofit organization), searchlights, balloons or other air-filled or gas-filled figures or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard or other light materials, with or without frame, intended to be displayed for a limited period of time only. Different types of temporary signs and banners included in this category are: construction, grand opening displays, real estate, special event, political, sandwich board, and garage sale.

OO. "Wall" means any member or group of members which defines the exterior boundaries of a building and which has a slope of sixty degrees or greater with the horizontal plane. The height of a wall shall be measured as the two-dimensional height from the average finish grade of the particular architectural building elevation adjacent to the wall to the finish roof plane.

PP. "Wall sign" means any sign attached to or painted directly on the wall, or erected against the wall of a building being parallel or approximately parallel to said wall; and does not exceed a distance of twelve¹ inches from said wall.



(Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.030 Applicability.

A. *Applicability.* This chapter applies to all signs, of whatever nature and wherever located, within the city.

B. *Interpretation.* This chapter is not intended to and does not restrict speech on the basis of its content, viewpoint, or message. Any classification of signs in this chapter that permits speech by reason of the type of sign, identity of the sign user, or otherwise, shall also be interpreted to allow noncommercial speech on the sign. No part of this chapter shall be construed to favor commercial speech over noncommercial speech. To the extent any provision of this chapter is ambiguous, the term shall be interpreted not to regulate on the basis of the content of the message.

C. *Exemptions.* The following signs do not require a sign permit (unless noted), nor shall the area and number of such signs be included in the area and number of signs permitted for any site or use. This shall not be construed as relieving the owner of the sign from the responsibility of its erection and maintenance and its compliance with the provisions of this chapter or any other law or ordinance:

1. The flag, emblem or insignia of a nation or other governmental unit or nonprofit organization subject to the guidelines concerning their use set forth by the government or organization which they represent. Flag poles require a building permit for structural review and are limited to the maximum height restrictions of the underlying zoning district.
2. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, stained glass windows and dates of erection when cut into the surface or the facade of the building or when projecting not more than two inches.
3. Traffic or other municipal signs, signs required by law or emergency, railroad crossing signs, legal notices, and any temporary, or nonadvertising signs as are authorized under policy approved by the city council.
4. Signs of public utility companies indicating danger or which serve as an aid to public safety or which show the location of underground facilities or of public telephones.
5. Flush mounted wall signs, used to identify the name and address of the occupant for each dwelling provided the sign does not exceed two square feet in sign area.
6. Signs located in the interior of any building or within an enclosed lobby or court of any building or group of buildings, which signs are designed and located to be viewed exclusively by patrons of such use or uses.
7. Decorations or such signs in the nature of a decoration, clearly incidental and customary and commonly associated with any national, local or religious holiday.
8. Painting, repainting or cleaning of an advertising structure or the changing of the advertising copy of message thereon shall not be considered an erection or alteration which requires a sign permit unless a structural change is made.
9. Sculptures, fountains, mosaics and design features which do not incorporate advertising or identification.
10. "No trespassing," "no dumping," "no parking," "private," signs identifying essential public needs (i.e., restrooms, entrance, exit, telephone, etc.) and other informational warning signs, which shall not exceed three square feet in surface area.
11. Directional signs erected by the city on arterial streets directing the public to public, civic, or nonprofit facilities. Such signs shall be erected at the discretion of the director of public works and shall be subject to city design guidelines. In addition, the city may allow the erection of directional signs as are necessary to designate commercial areas or significant tourist sites within the city, consistent with the city's wayfinding program.
12. Kiosks and other related informational signs that are placed along internal walkways that are designed specifically to be viewed by pedestrians and not intended to function as advertising to motorists on nearby public streets. (Ord. 1454 52 (part), 2015).

16.75.040 Administration.

A. *Permits and Fees Required.*

1. Subject to the exemptions set forth in LMC 16.75.030(C), no sign governed by the provisions of this code shall be erected, altered or relocated by any person, firm or corporation without a permit issued by the city.
2. Fees for sign permits shall be established by resolution of the city council.
3. Sign permits are subject to limited administrative review pursuant to Section 1C of the Development Guidelines and Public Works Standards (<http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/city-government/city-departments/public-works/plans-and-documents/library/development-guidelines>). Exception: For applications that include a departure, see subsection C of this section.

B. *Permit Applications.* Applications for permits shall contain the name and address of the owner and user of the sign, the name and address of the owner of the property on which the sign is to be located, the location of the sign structure, drawings or photographs showing the design and dimensions of the sign and details of its proposed placement and such other pertinent information as the administrator of this code may require to ensure compliance with this code and other applicable ordinances. Permit applications shall be available for inspection by the public upon request. Upon completion of a permit application, the application should be acted on within two weeks unless there is a requirement for further time associated with an underlying land use application.

C. *Departures.* This chapter provides for a number of specific departure opportunities to sign design standards. The purpose is to provide applicants with the option of proposing alternative design treatments provided such departures meet the applicable departure criteria set forth for the applicable particular departure opportunity. Specifically:

1. *Departures are voluntary.* This provision allows the flexibility for applicants to propose alternative designs on a voluntary basis.
2. *Applicability.* Departure opportunities are available only to specific standards that allow for departures.
3. *Procedures.* Permit applications that include departure requests are subject to limited administrative review pursuant to Section 1C of the Development Guidelines and Public Works Standards. Departure requests, at the discretion of the administrator, may be referred to the hearing examiner.
4. *Approval Criteria.* Project applicants must successfully demonstrate to the administrator how the proposed departure meets the applicable criteria that apply to the specific standard.
5. *Documentation.* The administrator shall issue a written decision including findings documenting how the departure meets or exceeds the applicable criteria.

D. *Administrator.*

1. *Appointment--Powers and Duties Generally.* The administrator of this code shall be the director of community and economic development. The administrator is authorized and directed to enforce and carry out all provisions of this code, both in letter and spirit, with vigilance and with all due speed. To that end, the

administrator is authorized to formulate procedures consistent with the purposes of this code. The administrator is further empowered to delegate the duties and powers granted to and imposed upon the director of community and economic development under this code. As used in this code, "administrator of this code" or "administrator" shall include the director of community and economic development's authorized representative.

2. *Inspection Authority.* The administrator is empowered to enter or inspect any building, structure or premises in the city upon which, or in connection with which, a sign, as defined by this code, is located, for the purpose of inspection of the sign, its structural and electrical connections and to ensure compliance with the provisions of this code. Such inspections shall be carried out during business hours, unless an emergency exists. (Ord. 1539 §123, 2019; Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.050 Prohibited signs.

A. *Sign Location Restrictions.* Except where specifically authorized by this chapter, signs are prohibited in the locations set forth below. Prohibited signs are subject to removal (except legal nonconforming signs as defined by this chapter) by the city at the owner's or user's expense.

1. Any temporary or permanent freestanding sign located within or projecting over a city right-of-way or within five feet of a city right-of-way. Sandwich board signs and feather signs meeting the provisions of LMC 16.75.100(H) and (I) are an exception;
2. Any sign attached to any public utility pole, structure or street light, tree, fence, fire hydrant, bridge, curb, sidewalk, park bench, statue, memorial, or other location on public property, except those signs approved as part of a special event permit on city property or banner signs permitted by the city on light poles in certain zones within the city. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person from holding a sign while located on city property so long as the person holding the sign is located on public property determined to be a traditional public forum and does not block ingress and egress from buildings or create a safety hazard by impeding travel on sidewalks, bike and vehicle lanes, and trails;
3. Any sign which, by reason of its location, will obstruct the view of any authorized traffic sign, signal, or other traffic control device or which by reason of shape, color, or position interferes with or could be confused with any authorized traffic signal or device;
4. Any sign that interferes with safe sight distance at an intersection;
5. Any sign which is placed so as to prevent or inhibit free ingress to or egress from any door, window, or any exit way required by the Building and/or Fire Code currently in effect;
6. Any commercial, advertising, or business sign that is not located on the premises of the business to which it refers.

7. Signs located on roofs, except that departures per LMC 16.75.040(C) will be considered where signs are placed in an architectural space that is specifically incorporated into the roof design and does not project higher than the peak of the roof; and
8. Any sign mounted, attached, or painted on a trailer, boat, or motor vehicle when parked, stored, or displayed conspicuously on private premises in a manner intended to attract attention of the public for the purpose of advertising or identifying the business premises. This provision excludes signs indicating the name of the owner or business that are permanently painted or wrapped on the surface of the vehicle, adhesive vinyl film affixed to the interior or exterior surface of a vehicle window, or signs magnetically attached to motor vehicles or rolling stock that are actively used in the daily conduct of the business. Such vehicles shall be operable and parked in a lawful or authorized manner.

B. *Sign Display Restrictions.*

1. *Purpose.* The purpose of this subsection is to regulate the manner in which signs convey their messages by specifying prohibited display features that create distractions to the traveling public and create visual clutter that mars the natural and architectural aesthetics of the city.
2. *Applicability.* The display features set forth below are prohibited. Prohibited signs are subject to removal (except legal nonconforming signs as defined by this chapter) by the city at the owner's or user's expense.
 - a. Any digital sign except for those associated with freestanding signs per LMC 16.75.080(A)(7);
 - b. Any sign or lighting device, whether on the exterior of a building or on the inside of a window, which is visible beyond the boundaries of the lot or parcel, or from any public right-of-way, with intermittent, flashing, rotating, blinking or strobe light illumination;
 - c. Any sign with an exposed light source, except for neon incorporated into the design of the sign;
 - d. Any sign which emits sound, odor, smoke, laser or hologram lights, or other visible matter, including any sign that uses motion picture projection;
 - e. Any sign animated by any means, including fixed aerial displays, balloons, pennants, spinners, including strings of flags, streamers, tubes, or other devices affected by the movement of the air or other atmospheric or mechanical means, except when used for a grand opening display or special event signage per LMC 16.75.100(B) or (C);
 - f. Any sign in which the sign body or any portion of the sign rotates, moves up and down, or any other type of action involving a change in position of the sign body or any portion of the sign, whether by mechanical or any other means, except when used for a grand opening display or special event signage per LMC 16.75.100(B) or (C);
 - g. Changeable copy signs, except as provided for in LMC 16.75.030(C) for exempt signs and 16.75.080(A)(7) for freestanding signs; and
 - h. Mannequins holding a sign or displaying advertising, whether stationary or animated.

C. *Other Prohibited Signs.* Prohibited signs are subject to removal (except legal nonconforming signs as defined by this chapter) by the city at the owner's or user's expense. The following signs or displays are prohibited:

1. Mobile signs;
2. Strings of banners, pennants, and other graffiti-like material;
3. Freestanding signs except where permitted in LMC [16.75.080\(A\)](#), [16.75.090](#), or [16.75.100](#); and
4. Billboards. (Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.060 General sign provisions.

A. *Sign Message.* Any permitted sign may contain, in lieu of any other message or copy, any lawful noncommercial message, so long as the sign complies with the size, height, area, location, and other requirements of this division.

B. *Sign Area.* Sign area for all sign types is measured as follows:

1. The area of painted signs, individual letter signs, and other indirectly illuminated signs shall be calculated on the basis of the smallest rectangle, circle or spherical figure that will enclose the entire copy area of the sign. Any such calculation shall include the areas between letters and lines, as well as the areas of any devices, illuminated or nonilluminated, which are intended to attract attention.
2. Only one side of a double-faced or three-faced sign shall be included;
3. Four or more faced signs, spherical, free-form, sculptural or other nonplanar sign area is measured as fifty percent of the sum of the areas using only the four vertical sides of the smallest four-sided polyhedron that will encompass the sign structure, as shown in Figure 16.75.060(B). Signs with greater than four polyhedron faces are prohibited.

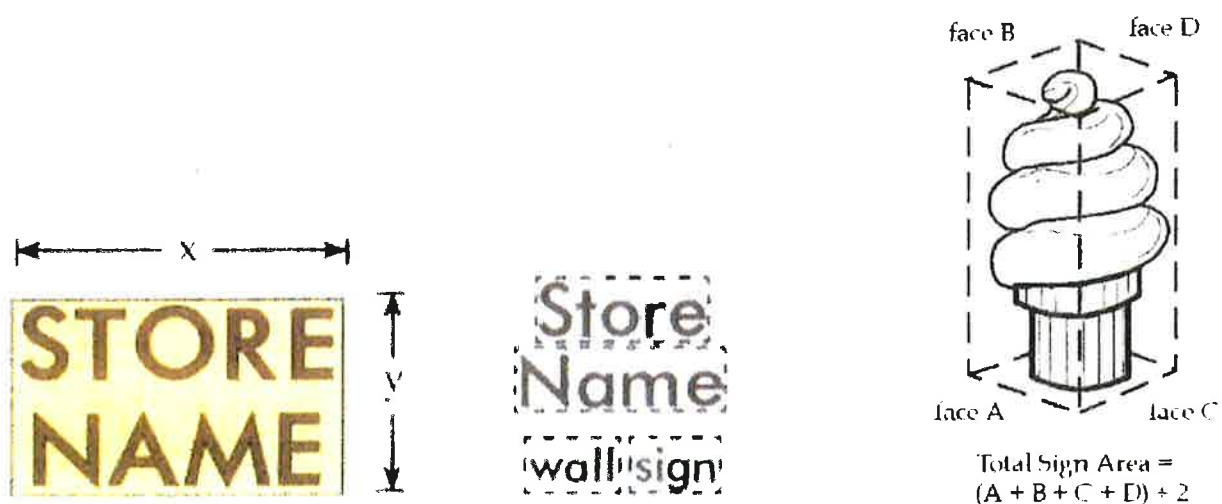


Figure 16.75.060(B). Clarifying sign area measurement

C. *Sign Illumination.* Illumination from or upon any sign shall be shaded, shielded, directed or reduced so as to avoid undue brightness, glare or reflection of light on private or public property in the surrounding area, and so as to avoid unreasonably distracting pedestrians or motorists. "Undue brightness" is illumination in excess of that which is reasonably necessary to make the sign reasonably visible to the average person on an adjacent street. Illumination, if used, shall be what is known as white or yellow and shall not be blinking, fluctuating or moving. Light rays shall shine only upon the sign or upon the property within the premises and shall not spill over the property lines, in any direction, except by indirect reflection.

D. *Sign Structure and Installation.*

1. *Structural Requirements.* The structure and erection of signs or flag poles within the city shall be governed by the city's adopted Building Code. Compliance with the Building Code shall be a prerequisite to issuance of a sign permit under this code.

2. *Electrical Requirements.* Electrical requirements for signs within the city shall be governed by the National Electrical Code. Compliance with the National Electrical Code shall be required by every sign utilizing electrical energy as a prerequisite to issuance of a sign permit under this code.

E. *Sign Maintenance and Inspection.*

1. *Maintenance.* All signs, including signs heretofore installed, shall be constantly maintained in a state of security, safety, appearance and repair. If any sign is found not to be so maintained or is insecurely fastened or otherwise dangerous, it shall be the duty of the owner and/or occupant of the premises on which the sign is fastened to repair or remove the sign within five days after receiving notice from the administrator. Where a sign is determined to be an immediate hazard by the administrator, the sign is subject to immediate repair or removal. The premises surrounding a freestanding sign shall be free and clear of rubbish and landscaping area maintained in a tidy manner.

2. *Inspection.* All sign users shall permit the periodic inspection of their signs by the city upon city request. (Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.070 Permitted signs.

This section identifies the permitted types of signs by use and/or district.

A. *Permitted Types of Signs by Use and/or District.* Permitted types of signs by use and/or district. An "X" in the table indicates that the particular type of sign is allowed for the applicable land use and/or zone. See applicable sign type provisions in LMC 16.75.080 for possible exceptions to the provisions below.

Table 16.75.070

Land Use and/ or Zone	SIGN TYPE					
	Freestanding LMC <u>16.75.080(A)</u>	Wall Sign LMC <u>16.75.080(B)</u>	Marquee/ Awning LMC <u>16.75.080(C)</u>	Projecting Sign LMC <u>16.75.080(D)</u>	Under- Canopy LMC <u>16.75.080(E)</u>	Internal Wayfinding LMC <u>16.75.080(F)</u>
Nonresidential Uses						
Any nonresidential use	X	X	X	X	X	X
Multi-occupancy building	X	X	X	X	X	X
Multi-building complex	X	X	X	X	X	X
Large shopping center	X	X	X	X	X	X
Freeway-oriented business	X	X	X	X	X	X
Residential Uses						
Single-family subdivision	X*					
Mixed residential or multifamily complex	X	X				X
Home occupation		X*				
Manufactured home subdivisions and parks	X*	X*				

X = Permitted sign

* Subject to the standards contained in LMC 16.75.090.

2. *Sign Form.* Freestanding signs shall be designed so they appear firmly anchored to the ground. This includes:

- a. Monument signs, as defined in LMC [16.75.020\(Y\)](#).
- b. Signs where the base (where the sign structure meets the ground plane) is at least forty percent of the width of the total sign width. Departures per LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) will be considered provided the sign includes design features that visually anchor it to the ground and the design of the sign meets other applicable standards.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(2).

Minimum ground anchoring provisions for freestanding signs.

3. *Permitted Number of Signs.* One sign is permitted per frontage, per property. Additional freestanding signs shall be permitted per Table 16.75.080(A)(3) below.

Table 16.75.080(A)(3).

For properties with more than five hundred feet of frontage, additional freestanding signs are permitted per the separation standards below.

Applicable Speed Limit	Minimum Separation
Less than 35 mph	150'
35--45 mph	200'



Figure 16.75.080(A)(3).

An example of a shopping center with a large frontage where multiple freestanding signs are allowed. The fronting street has a posted speed limit of thirty-five miles per hour, which requires a minimum sign separation of two hundred feet.

4. *Materials and Design.* Freestanding signs shall be designed as an integrated architectural feature of the site. Specifically:

- a. *Framing.* Freestanding signs must include design elements that effectively frame the sign on both sides (see Figures 16.75.080(A)(4)(c-1) and (c-2) for acceptable examples). Alternatively, signs that have a substantial framing element on one side, as illustrated in the examples in Figure 16.75.080(A)(4)(c-3), will meet this provision. Departures per LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) will be considered provided the design meets other provisions herein and integrates a distinctive, one-of-a-kind design that contributes to the visual character of the area.
- b. *Materials and Design.* Freestanding signs shall include durable high quality materials and a design that relates to and/or complements the design of on-site buildings and/or is coordinated with other site design elements (such as distinctive lighting, monuments, wayfinding signs). Figures 16.75.080(A)(4)(c-1) through (c-3) below all meet this requirement.
- c. *Top/Middle/Bottom.* Freestanding signs shall integrate a top, middle, and bottom element. The top could include a distinctive sign cap and/or include the name of a multi-tenant center. The middle can include a consistent framing technique for an individual sign or multiple signs in a multi-tenant center. The bottom could include a distinctive base design with special materials and/or design. See the figures below for examples that meet this requirement. These components are less critical for signs less than six feet tall, and thus exempt from this provision.

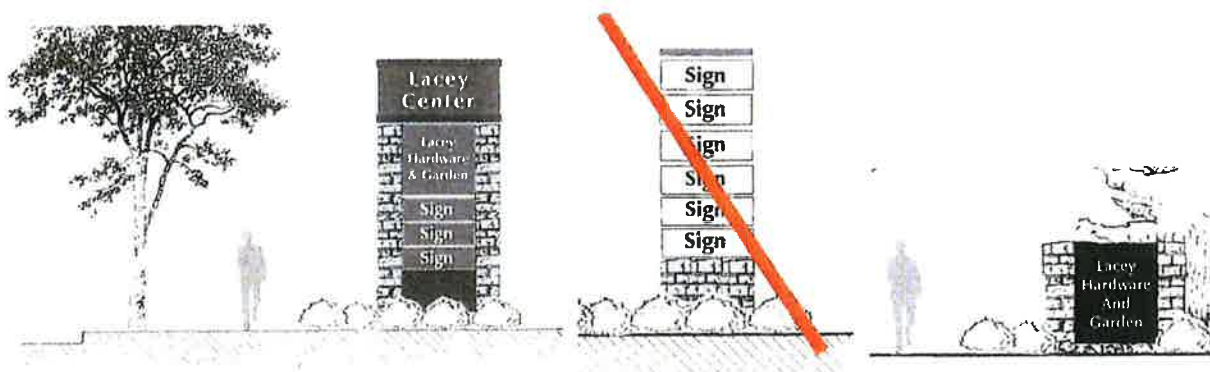


Figure 16.75.080(A)(4)(c-1).

Illustrating acceptable and unacceptable freestanding sign examples. The left image utilizes clearly identifiable top, middle, and bottom elements and meets the framing provision. The middle image includes a base, but insufficient top or framing element. The shorter sign to the right includes framing but is exempt from the top, middle, and bottom elements.



16.75.080(A)(4)(c-2)

Each of these three signs includes a frame and top/middle/bottom components, and features high quality materials that relate to and/or complement the design of on-site buildings and/or is coordinated with other site design elements.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(4)(c-3).

These signs feature substantial framing elements on one side, and thus meet the design provisions herein.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(4)(c-4).

Unacceptable signs. The far left sign includes a base and a frame, but no identifiable top. The middle and right signs fail to meet any of the design provisions above.

5. Location and Landscaping.

- a. *Setback.* All freestanding signs shall be located at least five feet from a public ROW unless a greater setback is specified herein.
- b. *Landscaping.* All signs shall include landscaping around the base of freestanding signs to enhance the character of street frontages. Specifically, at least one square foot of landscaped area shall be provided per one square foot of sign area. Utilize plants and a maintenance program to minimize conflicts with the sign.

c. *Base Height Provision.* The copy of all signage shall be at least one foot above grade. The purpose is to allow vertical space for the required landscape elements and enhance the visibility of sign copy. See Figure 16.75.080(A)(5).



Figure 16.75.080(A)(5).

Minimum base height for sign copy.

6. *Maximum Size and Height.* Table 16.75.080(A)(6) illustrates the maximum allowable sign area and height for all freestanding signs, except such signs for freeway-oriented businesses, as set forth in subsection [\(A\)\(10\)](#) of this section.

Table 16.75.080(A)(6). Maximum freestanding sign height and area

Total ROW Frontage of Parcel (on each street)	Allowable Sign Area (white/very light background)	Allowable Sign Area (shaded or dark background)	Maximum Height (white/very light background)	Maximum Height (shaded or dark background)
200 Feet	24 sq. ft.	40 sq. ft.	6 feet	7 feet
200--399 Feet	36 sq. ft.	54 sq. ft.	7 feet	8 feet
400--599 Feet	50 sq. ft.	70 sq. ft.	8 feet	9 feet
600--799 Feet	60 sq. ft.	80 sq. ft.	8 feet	10 feet
800--999 Feet	66 sq. ft.	88 sq. ft.	9 feet	12 feet
1,000 Feet and	72 sq. ft.	96 sq. ft.	9 feet	15 feet

Supplemental freestanding sign provisions:

a. Signs that employ shaded, opaque or dark background and light-colored lettering for at least fifty percent of the sign copy are allowed larger sign areas, as they are found to be less visually intrusive than signs incorporating white or very light-colored background. Using a CMYK color chart, signs that employ color numbers that add up to at least twenty (collectively) shall be considered as “shaded.” For example:

C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=20 = Shaded

C=10, M=0, Y=0, K=10 = Shaded

C=10, M=0, Y=0, K=0 = Not considered to be shaded

See Figure 16.75.080(A)(6)(a) below for examples.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(6)(a).

The black, dark, and shaded signs above qualify for the extra sign area and height specified in the shaded columns of Table 16.75.080(A)(6). The sign on the right with the white background is allowed (but doesn't qualify for the “bonus” sign area and height) and subject to the sign area/height in the unshaded columns above in Table 16.75.080(A)(6).

b. *Departures.* Applicants seeking a larger and/or taller sign may apply for a departure per LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) to allow for sign height and area up to fifty percent greater than specified above. In order to qualify for a departure, signs shall include a distinctive one-of-a-kind design that includes a high quality mixture of materials.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(6)(b).

The sign on the left is an example of a sign that meets basic standards, whereas the sign on the right uses a distinctive one-of-a-kind design and would qualify for a departure.

c. Center names for multi-tenant commercial centers (centers that include two or more tenants) are exempt from allowable sign area calculations specified above, provided the center name is distinct from the names of any tenants (for example, Joe's Center would be too closely related to a tenant named Joe's Books). Freestanding signs incorporating center names are allowed fifteen percent greater sign height than specified above.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(6)(c).

Examples of sign integrating center names (exempt from sign area calculations).

d. For those properties where more than one freestanding sign is allowed on a particular frontage per subsection [\(A\)\(3\)](#) of this section, one sign may be installed per standards specified per the total ROW

frontage of the parcel. The size and height of additional signs are based on the separation from the larger primary sign or other supplemental sign. For example, if a second sign is six hundred fifty feet from the larger primary sign, then it shall meet the standards for a sign that includes six hundred through seven hundred ninety-nine feet of total ROW frontage of parcel as set forth in the table above.

e. Large commercial shopping center signs and freeway-oriented signs (see subsections [\(A\)\(9\)](#) and [\(10\)](#) of this section) are exempt from the standards above.

7. *Digital Signage Integration.* Digital signage elements may be integrated into any freestanding sign permitted in this subsection, subject to the following provisions:

- a. Up to fifty percent of allowed sign copy area may be used for digital directory purposes. This would allow a multi-tenant center to rotate the names of businesses used in the freestanding signs, allowing greater visibility opportunities for individual businesses in the center.
- b. Up to thirty-three percent of allowed sign copy area may be used for changing message purposes. For single tenant signs, up to fifty percent of the allowed sign copy area may be used for changing message purposes.
- c. Where both a digital directory and changing message signage is included on one freestanding sign, such elements may collectively be used for up to sixty-seven percent of the total allowed sign copy area.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(7).

The sign above features digital directory signage (Tahitian Pearls, which occupies thirty-three percent of the sign copy) and digital signage that features changeable messages (bottom thirty-three percent of sign copy). The combined digital signage represents the maximum sixty-seven percent of the total sign copy area.

d. Any form of technology may be used for the sign elements described herein, provided they meet the following provisions:

(1) Maintain a ten-second minimum dwell time for the directory and any images. Changes in directory and images shall be a simple fade with a maximum transition time of two seconds. Animation, movement or video imaging is prohibited.

(2) *Brightness Limits.*

(a) Integrate automatic dimming capability that adjusts to the brightness of ambient light at all times of the day and night;

(b) Daytime, based on the time from sunrise to sunset as calculated for Lacey, WA: five thousand maximum nits (a measure of luminance that will keep signage balanced with surrounding landscape); and

(c) Nighttime, based on the time from sunset to sunrise as calculated for Lacey, WA: one hundred fifty maximum nits (a measure of luminance comparable to typical nighttime signage and in line with the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA).

(3) *Light Trespass Standards.* Adopt a trespass limit of one-tenth foot-candle at the property line of any park or residential property.

(4) Digital imagery may be used provided it meets the provisions of subsection (A)(7)(d)(1) of this section.

e. *Program Required.* Applicants proposing any forms of signage described above shall submit a program of their sign proposal describing how it will meet the applicable standards.

8. *Clutter Management Standards.*

a. *Purpose.* To reduce visual clutter along commercial corridors and improve sign legibility.

b. *Applicability.* The following standards apply to nondigital signage. The provisions shall serve as recommendations to be encouraged (not required) for digital signage copy to enhance legibility and minimize visual clutter.

c. *Sign Information Allowances.* The provisions herein use the street graphics approach to place limits on the amount of information used on signs based on applicable speed limit of the fronting street. Table 16.75.080(A)(8)(b) below identifies the permitted items of information that are allowed on a sign. Each word or graphic is considered an item of information. Each grouping of numbers is considered an item of information (for example, 867-5309 is considered two items of information). Shopping center names not related to an individual business are exempt from the information limit provisions herein.

Table 16.75.080(A)(8)(b). Sign information allowance table

	Items of Information				
	Sign Area				
Speed Limit	Up to 24 sf	24--35.9 sf	36--49.9 sf	50--80 sf	80 sf +
25 mph	18	20	22	26	30
30 mph	14	16	20	22	25
35 mph	12	14	16	18	20
40 mph	10	11	12	14	15
Freeway	10	10	10	10	10

Departures per LMC 16.75.040(C) will be considered allowing up to thirty-three percent more pieces of information on a sign provided the applicant demonstrates that the design of the sign in its context is legible and successfully employs techniques to minimize visual clutter.

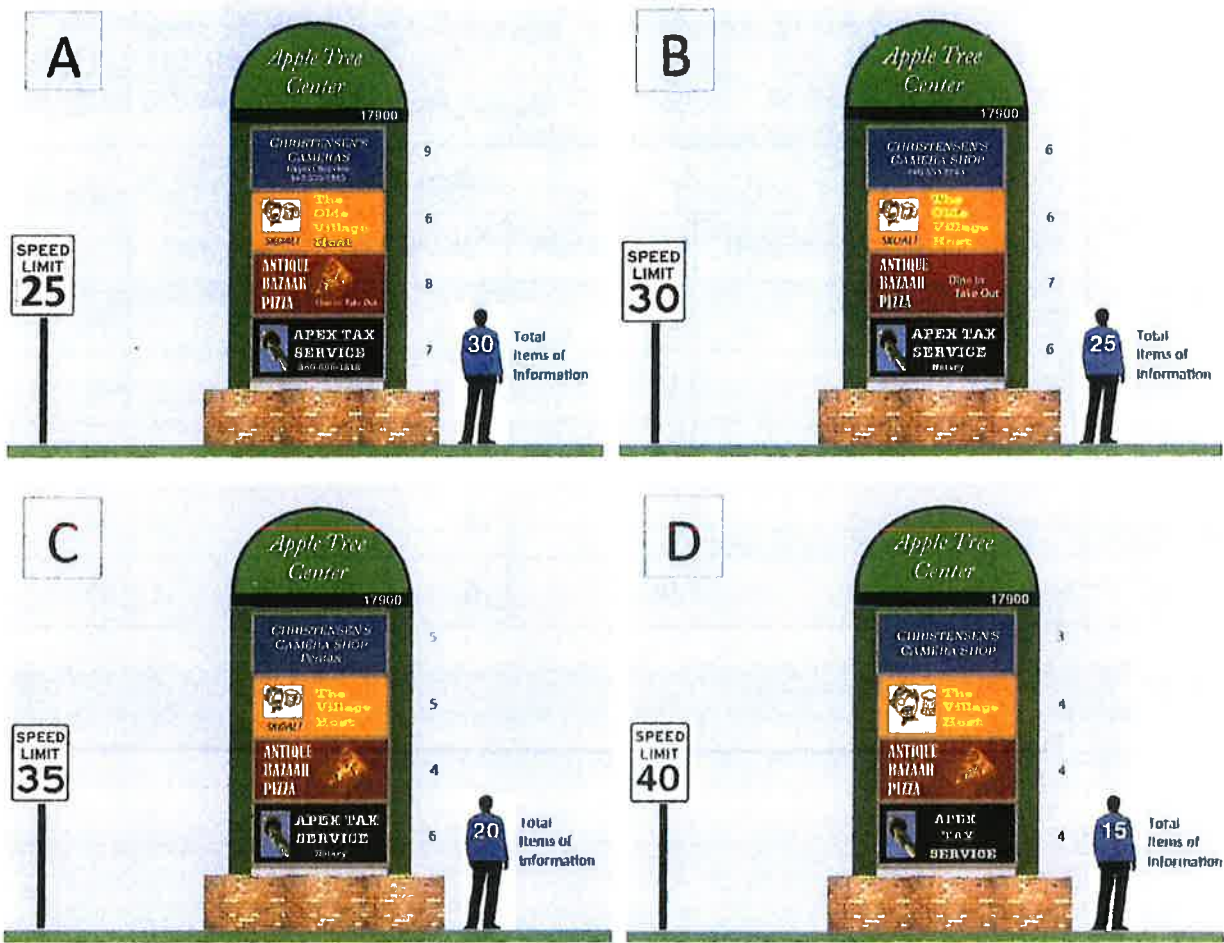


Figure 16.75.080(A)(8)(b-1).

Illustrating signs that conform to the sign information allowance provisions.



Figure 16.75.080(A)(8)(b-2).

An example of a twenty-four-square-foot sign in a thirty-five-mile-per-hour zone meeting the maximum twelve pieces of information requirement. Note that the center name "Lacey Place" does not count as an item of information.

9. *Freestanding Signs for Large Shopping Centers.* A shopping center or other large commercial complex constituting a commercial subdivision or subject to a binding site plan and being more than thirty acres in size and more than three hundred fifty thousand square feet in gross floor area of buildings is permitted one shopping center or commercial complex sign not exceeding thirty feet in height and three hundred square feet in sign area. If the site has a sign for a freeway-oriented business as permitted in subsection [\(A\)\(10\)](#) of this section that can be seen and provides reasonable identification from all arterial frontages adjacent to the site, that sign shall count as the shopping center or commercial complex sign and no such additional signs shall be permitted. Provided, however, if the administrator determines that the freeway-oriented sign does not provide reasonable identification from other arterial streets, both a shopping center or commercial complex sign and a freeway-oriented sign may be permitted. Signs under this provision will have a monument style. Provided, the community and economic development director shall have the authority to approve a modified sign design if, due to height or other design considerations, such a monument sign would be impractical or inappropriate. All such signs must be located at least twenty feet from all property lines and rights-of-way and subject to other applicable freestanding sign provisions above.

10. *Freestanding Signs for Freeway-Oriented Businesses.* Shopping centers and commercial complexes with significant freeway frontage are permitted freeway-oriented signs under the following criteria:

- a. Such shopping centers or other commercial complexes must have a minimum of one thousand one hundred feet of frontage along a freeway. A frontage road or other right-of-way between the site and the

freeway does not disqualify the site. Further, such shopping center or commercial complex must constitute a commercial subdivision or be subject to a binding site plan and must also be more than thirty acres in size and have more than three hundred fifty thousand square feet of gross floor area of buildings.

b. Such shopping centers may place one sign on the property for every one thousand one hundred feet of freeway frontage not to exceed three total signs for the individual shopping center.

c. A freeway-oriented sign shall not exceed thirty feet in height from the roadway curb elevation or development natural grade, whichever is higher. A freeway-oriented sign shall not exceed three hundred square feet in sign area. Such sign must be located at least twenty feet from all property lines and rights-of-way.

Departures per LMC 16.75.040(C) to the size and height of such freeway-oriented signs will be considered provided they meet the following criteria:

(1) Sign incorporates a distinctive one-of-a-kind design that complements the architectural design of the center building(s).

(2) Sign employs opaque or dark sign background with light-colored lettering.

(3) Sign is generally no taller than is physically necessary to be clearly visible from Interstate 5 traffic given the context of the site utilizing view corridors and gaps in the tree canopy to blend in with the natural and built environment.

d. Signs qualifying as freeway-oriented signs may be in addition to non-freeway-oriented signs identifying businesses.

e. Signs shall be fully enclosed with no exposed conduits or switchgear and any transformers associated with the sign shall be landscaped from view by the public.

11. *Address Numbers.* Legible address numbers are required on all freestanding signs. Such address numbers are exempt from sign area standards.

B. *Wall Signs.*

1. *Permitted Number of Signs.*

a. Tenants are allowed a maximum of one wall sign per facade that is visible from a street or customer parking lot.

b. Businesses may include additional smaller signs describing the types of products and/or services that the business offers, provided the sign areas collectively comply with maximum size requirements.

c. Commercial tenants on upper levels may include a wall sign placed on facade above the business provided the permitted sign area shall be shared with tenant below and the location/design meets the applicable standards in this subsection.

2. Location and Design.

- a. Wall signs shall be centered, proportional, and shaped to the architectural features of the buildings. Signage shall not exceed two-thirds of the width of the articulation interval (i.e., space between columns) or of the individual storefront. This standard also applies to upper level businesses.
- b. Wall signs shall not cover windows, building trim, an existing building name sign, or special ornamentation features. Preferred areas for installation of wall signs include blank areas above canopies, areas between vertical piers or columns, blank areas on a gabled roof, or upper reaches of a false-fronted building.
- c. Stacked words on wall signs are permitted. Generally, the primary business name should be provided on one line (though exceptions are permitted if they meet other applicable standards herein), with additional text on rows above and/or below providing supporting information about the business in smaller fonts.

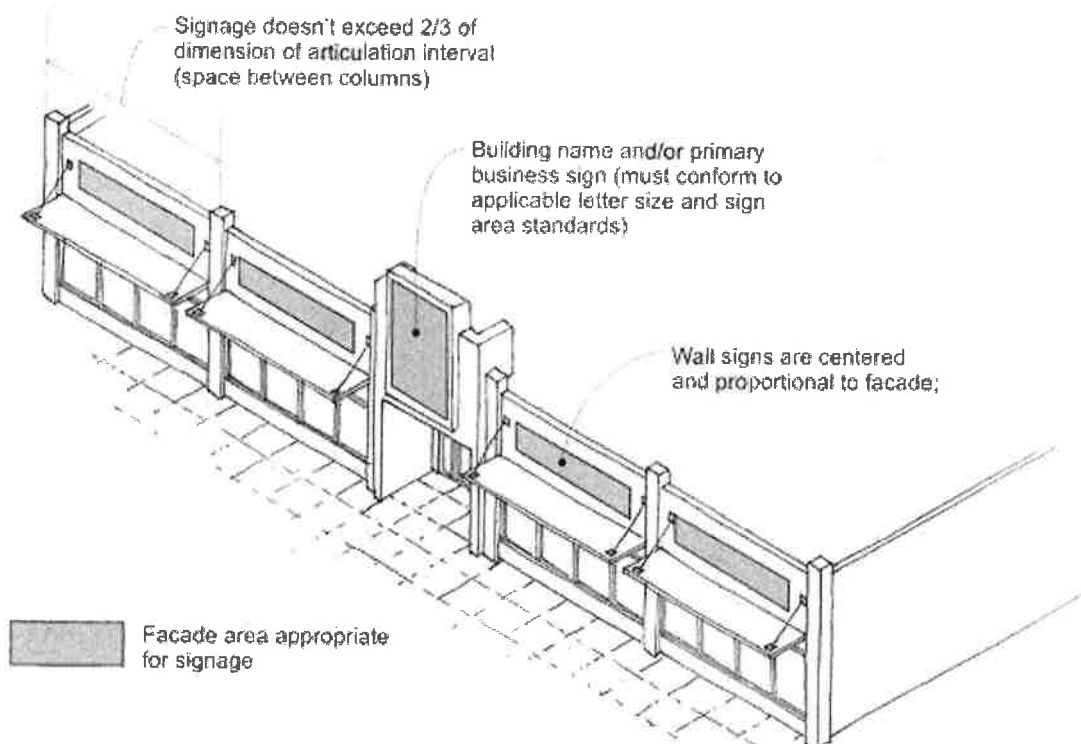


Figure 16.75.080(B)(2). Wall sign standards

3. *Maximum Size--Individual Retailers--Sign Area.* Table 16.75.080(B)(3) provides standards for the maximum amount of wall, canopy, or awning signage on each building elevation. For building elevations that include signage for upper level businesses, the standards shall apply to the entire building elevation.

Table 16.75.080(B)(3). Sign area standards for wall, canopy, or awning signs for each building elevation

Architectural building elevation wall area	Maximum sign surface area (for that wall area)
Below 200 sf	25% of the facade
200--349 sf	22.5% of the facade
350--499 sf	20% of the facade
500--999 sf	17.5% of the facade
999--1,499 sf	15% of the facade
1,500--1,999 sf	12.5% of the facade
Over 2,000 sf	10% of the facade

Departures per LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) for larger signs will be considered provided the sign does not feature internal lighting and meets other applicable standards herein.



Figure 16.75.080(B)(3-1). Acceptable wall sign examples.

Note the different styles of signs and use of stacked (both left images) and supplemental text (lower left).



Figure 16.75.080(B)(3-2). More acceptable wall sign examples

In the right image, the signs are centered on the articulation elements of the facade.



Figure 16.75.080(B)(3-3). Unacceptable wall sign example

Most or all of these signs clearly exceed two-thirds of the width of their respective individual storefronts.

4. *Maximum Height.* Wall signs may not extend above the building parapet, soffit, the eave line or the roof of the building.
5. *Mounting.*
 - a. Building signs should be mounted plumb with the building, with a maximum protrusion of one foot unless the sign incorporates sculptural elements or architectural devices.
 - b. The sign frame shall be concealed or integrated into the building's architectural character in terms of form, color, and materials.

6. *Building Name Signs.* Signs that advertise the name of the building and not associated with the name of any individual business are exempt from the sign area standards set forth in Table 16.75.080(B)(3) above.

Standards. Signs shall be placed near the top of the facade and generally centered on the architectural features of the building. Departures per LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) will be considered provided the sign is located in a place that is independent from individual businesses on the building and helps to provide identity for the particular building.

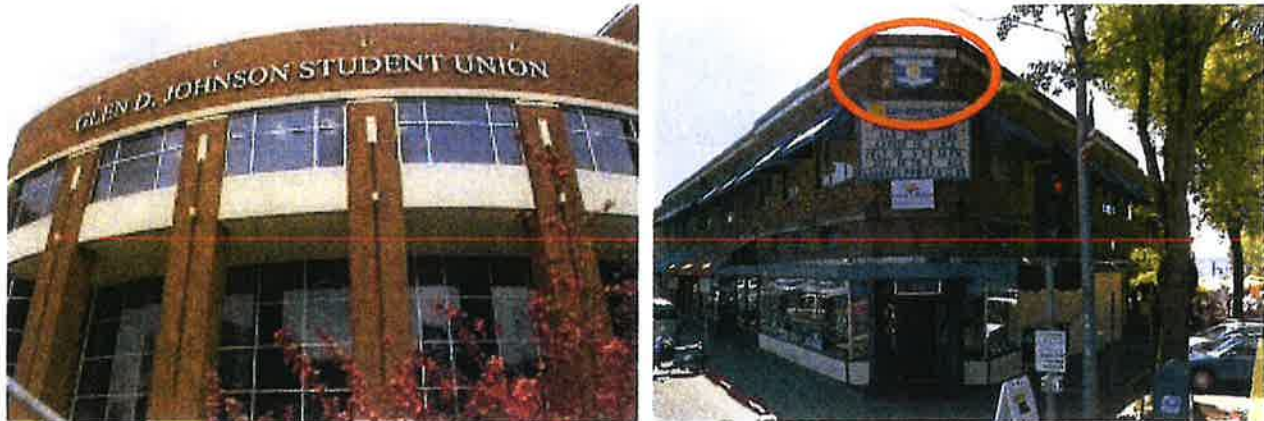


Figure 16.75.080(B)(6). Building namesigns

The left image is a good example. The image on the right shows an unacceptable example where new signage blocks the original building name sign (circled on top).

C. *Marquee and Awning Signs.* Marquee or awning signs may be used in place of permitted wall signs (except where otherwise specified herein), provided they meet the following conditions:

1. *Permitted Number of Signs.* Tenants are allowed a maximum of one marquee or awning sign per facade that is visible from a street or customer parking lot. Exception: Where an individual business uses multiple awnings or marquees, additional signs may be included on these provided they meet other applicable standards herein.
2. *Sign Area.* See Table 16.75.080(B)(3) above for maximum sign area.
3. *Sign Width.* Signage shall not exceed two-thirds of individual awning or marquee width.
4. *Letter Height.* The lettering height shall be proportional to the architectural features of the building. For example, it shall not be so large that it blocks windows or other significant architectural features of the building.
5. *Vertical Clearance.* Signs shall be placed a minimum of eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway.
6. *Location.* Marquee signs may be placed on the front, above, or below the marquee.
7. *Content.* For individual storefronts that include multiple awnings or marquees, secondary business signage may be included on the additional signs. For example, where the primary sign might advertise the

name of a bakery, the secondary signs could advertise coffee, ice cream or other types of products sold by the business, provided they are sized smaller than the primary business sign and meet other standards herein.

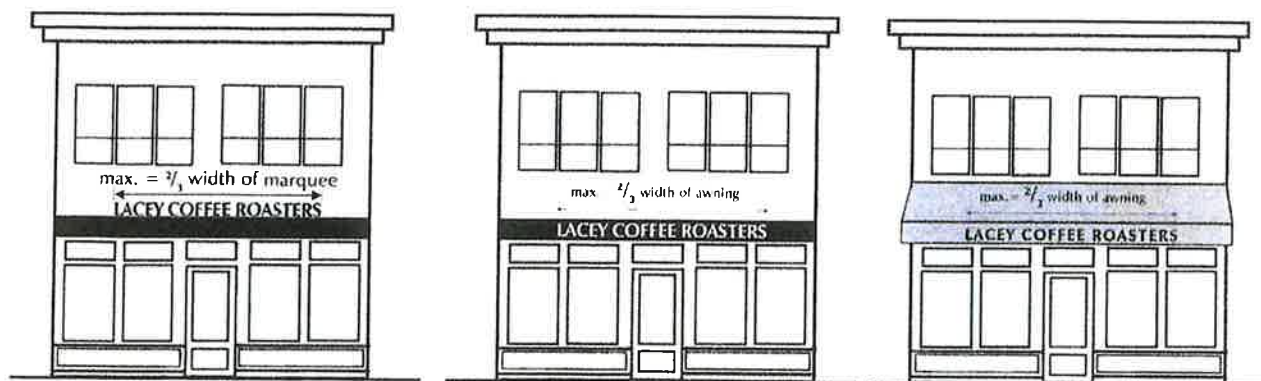


Figure 16.75.080(C)(6-1). Marquee and awning sign examples and standards



Figure 16.75.080(C)(6-2). Marquee and awning sign example

D. *Projecting Signs*. Projecting signs meeting the following conditions are allowed for commercial uses adjacent to and facing a street. They may be used in addition to wall, marquee, and/or awning signs provided they meet the applicable standards below.

1. *Permitted Number of Signs*.

a. *Projecting Signs*. Tenants are allowed a maximum of one projecting sign per facade that is visible from a street or customer parking lot. Departures per LMC [16.75.040\(C\)](#) for additional projecting signs may be permitted along a building elevation provided:

- (1) They are separated enough to avoid visual clutter, and do not conflict with wall, marquee, and/or awning signs or other significant architectural features of the building.
- (2) Additional sign(s) are noticeably smaller in size than the primary business identification projecting sign.

- (3) Additional sign(s) advertise other products or aspects of the business and are not merely a second business sign.
 - b. *Projecting Banner Signs.* Multiple projecting banner signs may be integrated on the building provided they are aligned with facade articulation elements (such as vertical columns or piers). See Figure 16.75.080(D-4) for an example.
- 2. *Sign Area.* Projecting signs are not based on sign area standards, but on the dimensional standards below. Projecting signs may be either vertically or horizontally oriented. Projecting banner signs must all be vertically oriented.
 - a. *Projection.*
 - (1) Horizontally oriented signs: no more than eight feet;
 - (2) Vertically oriented signs: no more than forty-two inches for single-story buildings; no more than five feet for multi-story buildings;
 - (3) Signs may project into public rights-of-way for storefront buildings, but shall not extend over the curb into the travel lane.
 - b. *Height.*
 - (1) Horizontally oriented signs: no more than three feet;
 - (2) Vertically oriented signs: shall not extend above the building parapet, soffit, the eave line or the roof of the building, except for theaters, hotels, large-scale retail uses (over fifty thousand square feet floor area), place names for large retail centers (over seventy-five thousand square feet floor area), or places of public assembly.
 - c. Departures per LMC 16.75.040(C) to the provisions in subsections (D)(2)(a) and (b) of this section will be considered provided the sign design is compatible with the design of the building in terms of location, scale, and design elements, does not create a public safety hazard, and provides a positive contribution to the streetscape.
- 3. *Vertical Clearance.* Signs shall be placed a minimum of eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway.
- 4. *Location.* Projecting signs shall not be located directly over windows or in conflict with other signs or architectural features of the building.

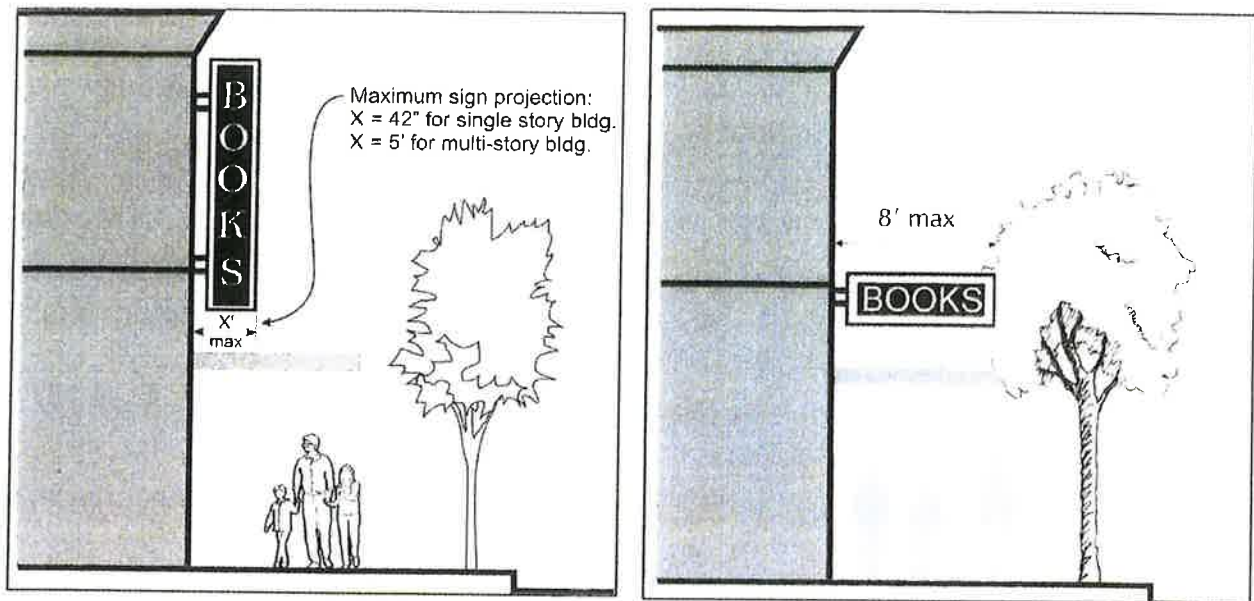


Figure 16.75.080(D-1). Standards for vertically (left) and horizontally oriented (right) projecting signs



Figure 16.75.080(D-2). Projecting sign examples

The example on right includes two complementary projecting signs that are separated enough that they don't conflict or cause visual clutter. The second sign is smaller and advertises the lounge that is within the restaurant.



Figure 16.75.080(D-3). Unacceptable projecting signs

Examples both include signs that project over the roofline. In the right example there are far too many signs. The extra signs also conflict visually and create unwanted sign clutter.

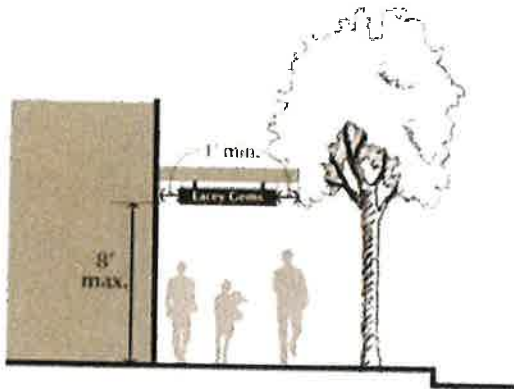


Figure 16.75.080(D-4). Projecting banner sign examples

Note how the signs are aligned with the vertical piers of each building and feature consistent bracket design.

E. *Under-Canopy Signs.* Under-canopy signs are placed under awnings, marquees or canopies and placed perpendicular to the storefronts and thus oriented to pedestrians on the sidewalk or an internal walkway. Applicable standards:

1. *Permitted Number of Signs.* Tenants are allowed a maximum of one under-canopy sign per facade that is visible from a street or customer parking lot. Exception: For businesses with multiple entries onto a sidewalk or walkway, one under-canopy sign shall be permitted for each entrance.
2. *Sign Width.* Under-canopy signs shall have one foot minimum between the sign and the outer edge of the marquee, awning, or canopy and between the sign and the building facade.
3. *Sign Height.* Under-canopy signs shall not exceed two feet in height.
4. *Vertical Clearance.* Signs shall be placed a minimum of eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway.



16.75.080(E) Under-canopy standards and example

F. *Internal Wayfinding Signs.*

1. *Purpose.* To aid visitors in finding the location of a business, use or building.
2. *Sign Content.* Signs may include only the name of the business, use, or building together with the directional guidance information.
3. *Location.* Signs may be located on internal walkways or landscape islands provided they do not inhibit pedestrian movement along the pathway.
4. *Size.* Signs may be up to five feet in height and contain no more than fifteen square feet in sign area.
5. *Design.* Signs shall be designed in a uniform manner (within individual subdivision or center) using consistent background color typeface colors. Dark background colors with light colored text are preferred. See Figure 16.75.080(F) for an example.



16.75.080(F) Internal circulation sign examples

Note the consistent design themes using dark backgrounds with light-colored text.

(Ord. 1539 §125, 2019; Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.090 Residential district sign standards.

A. *Nonresidential Uses within Residential Districts.* Each use is permitted one monument sign as described in Table [16.75.080\(A\)\(6\)](#). Internally lit signs in residential districts are prohibited.

B. *Home Occupations.* Home occupation signs relate to home occupation as defined in the zoning ordinance. The sign shall be flush-mounted and shall not exceed two square feet in area, and cannot be internally illuminated, but may be indirectly illuminated.

C. *Single-Family Subdivisions and Manufactured Home Parks or Subdivisions.* Two signs may be permitted per entrance from an access street, provided said signs do not exceed eighteen square feet in sign area each and five feet in height. Such signs can be low profile monument or fence-mounted, and can be placed anywhere on the property along access streets, not necessarily at entrances.

D. *Multifamily Complex.* Multifamily complexes shall be permitted freestanding, wall, and internal wayfinding signage in accordance with LMC 16.75.080. (Ord. 1539 §126, 2019; Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.100 Temporary signs.

The following signs are classified as temporary (nonpermanent). Temporary signs are permitted subject to the applicable limitations:

A. *Construction Signs.* A sign permit is required. Such signs may be displayed only after a building permit is obtained and during the period of construction on the construction site. Only one such sign is permitted per construction project for each public street upon which the project fronts. The applicable limits are as follows:

1. In all zones other than single-family residential zones, no construction sign shall exceed thirty-two square feet in sign area (printed copy on one side only) or ten feet in height, nor be located closer than ten feet from the property line or closer than thirty feet from the property line of the abutting owner.
2. In single-family residential zones, no construction sign shall exceed thirty-two square feet in sign area (printed copy on one side only) or ten feet in height, nor be located closer than ten feet from the property line of the abutting owner.

B. *Grand Opening Displays.* No sign permit is required. Such temporary signs, posters, banners, strings of lights, clusters of flags, balloons or other air- or gas-filled figures, and searchlights are permitted for a period of seven days only to announce the opening of a completely new enterprise or the opening of an enterprise under new management. All such materials shall be removed immediately upon the expiration of seven days. Such displays are permitted only in districts where the enterprise so advertised is allowed under district zoning regulations. Searchlights may be permitted by any business or enterprise provided the beam of light does not flash against any building or does not sweep an arc of forty-five degrees from vertical.

C. *Special Event Signs.*

1. *Public Special Event.*

- a. Special event signage as defined in LMC 16.75.020(MM) is allowed subject to the standards contained in this chapter.
- b. No sign permit is required.
- c. *Period of Display.* Such signs may be displayed thirty days prior to an event and must be removed within seven days after the event's conclusion.

d. *Standards.* Such temporary signs shall not be larger than four square feet. Said signs shall not be located in the right-of-way, posted or attached to telephone poles, power poles or other public utility facilities. The event committee for which the sign is displayed shall be responsible for its removal and subject to the penalties as provided in this code. Searchlights may be permitted by any business or enterprise provided the beam of light does not flash against any building or does not sweep an arc of forty-five degrees from vertical.

2. *Business Sales Event.*

a. A sign permit is required, specifying event periods and other information ensuring conformance with the standards herein.

b. *Period of Display.* No more than thirty days in a calendar year. This may include up to four events in a calendar year provided the total number of days the sales event signage is displayed for does not exceed thirty.

c. *Standards.* Sales event signage may include posters, banners, strings of lights, clusters of flags, balloons or other air- or gas-filled figures. Such displays are permitted only in districts where the enterprise so advertised is allowed under district zoning regulations.

D. *Real Estate Signs.* No sign permit is required. All exterior real estate signs must be of wood or plastic or other durable material. The permitted signs, with applicable limits, are as follows:

1. *Residential "For Sale" and "Sold" Signs.* Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage not to exceed five square feet in sign area, placed wholly on the property for sale, and not to exceed a height of seven feet.

2. *Residential Directional "Open House" Signs.* Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage on the premises for sale and three off-premises signs. However, if a real estate broker has more than one house open for inspection in a single development or subdivision, he/she is limited to four off-premises "open house" signs in the entire development or subdivision. Such signs are permitted only during daylight hours and when the real estate broker is in attendance at the property for sale. No such sign shall exceed five square feet in sign area.

3. *Undeveloped Commercial and Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs.* One sign per street frontage advertising undeveloped commercial and industrial property for sale or rent. The sign shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in sign area and seven feet in height.

4. *Developed Commercial and Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs.* One sign per street frontage advertising a commercial or industrial building for rent or sale is permitted while the building is actually for rent or sale. If one face of the building is less than ten feet from the building line, the sign shall be placed on the building or in a window. The sign shall not exceed seven feet in height and, if freestanding, shall be located more than fifteen feet from any abutting property line or a public right-of-way line. Said sign shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in sign area.

5. *Undeveloped Residential Property "For Sale" Signs.* One sign per street frontage advertising undeveloped residential property for sale is permitted not exceeding thirty-two square feet in sign area. Said sign must be placed more than thirty feet from the abutting owner's property line and may not exceed a height of seven feet.

6. Subdivisions approved after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter are permitted one cluster of flagpoles (not to exceed five flagpoles) in front of sales offices to advertise the new development.

E. *Political Signs.* No sign permit is required. Political signs or posters may be placed upon private property only and shall not be larger than ten square feet of sign area and shall not be posted or attached to telephone poles, power poles or other public utility facilities. Such signs must be removed seven days after the election in which the candidate or issue advertised on a sign has been determined. For a successful candidate in a primary election the sign may remain until the final election, but shall be removed within seven days after the election. The candidate or committee for which the sign is displayed shall be responsible for its removal and/or is subject to the penalties as provided in this code.

F. *Community Banners or Cloth Signs.* Such signs may be permitted and extend across a public street by permission of the city manager or appointed representative. Such signs may only be placed at city-designated locations and erected by city personnel.

G. *Banners.* Such signs may be permitted on private property. Banners may be used to advertise a sale, other special events, or for new businesses waiting for a permanent sign. Notification to the city is required prior to hanging the banner. This notification shall include acknowledgement of the banner requirements, the dates the banner will be used and location of the banner. Businesses are only allowed one banner per wall with a maximum of two banners per business at any one time. All banners must comply with the following:

1. *Maintenance Standards.* All banners must be legible, made of durable materials, and must be well maintained.
2. *Time Limitation.* Banners are limited to two thirty-day placements per calendar year.
3. *Location on Property.* Banners must be located completely on a wall, and tacked down on four corners. Banner size shall be regulated to a maximum of ten percent of the architectural elevation per wall.

H. *Sandwich Board Signs.* Only businesses that cater to pedestrians such as: restaurants, retail businesses that sell clothing, gifts, accessories, small markets, or other similar uses as determined by the director of community and economic development shall be allowed to have sandwich board signs. Such signs shall only be pedestrian-oriented in nature and businesses will only be allowed a maximum of one sandwich board sign. These signs are subject to the following conditions:

1. *Notification.* Notification to the city is required prior to displaying a sandwich board sign. This notification shall include acknowledgement of the sandwich board sign requirements, list of materials used, and rendering of the sign, including the dimensions. Liability for all sandwich board signs placed in the right-of-way is that of the business placing the sign.

2. **Size.** The area of the sign shall not exceed nine square feet per side in size and shall not be wider than three feet.
3. **Maintenance Standards.** Signs shall be constructed out of materials able to withstand typical Northwest weather. Such materials may be metal, finished wood, chalkboard, white board or plastic; signs and copy shall be of professional quality. Owners of sandwich board signs shall be required to keep their signs in a legible, intact, and well maintained manner.
4. **Display Time.** Signs may only be displayed during business hours. If business hours continue past daylight hours, precautions should be taken to place the sign in a location where it is readily visible after dark. This shall not be construed to allow the wiring of a sign for lighting.
5. **Location.** Signs may be located no further than twelve feet from the entrance to the business. Such signs shall not be placed in a location which is within the vision triangle or any location which will impede vehicular traffic. Further, such signs shall not be placed in a manner which will block or otherwise obstruct the safe use of sidewalks, building entrances or stairs by pedestrians, including pedestrians who are visually impaired or otherwise handicapped.

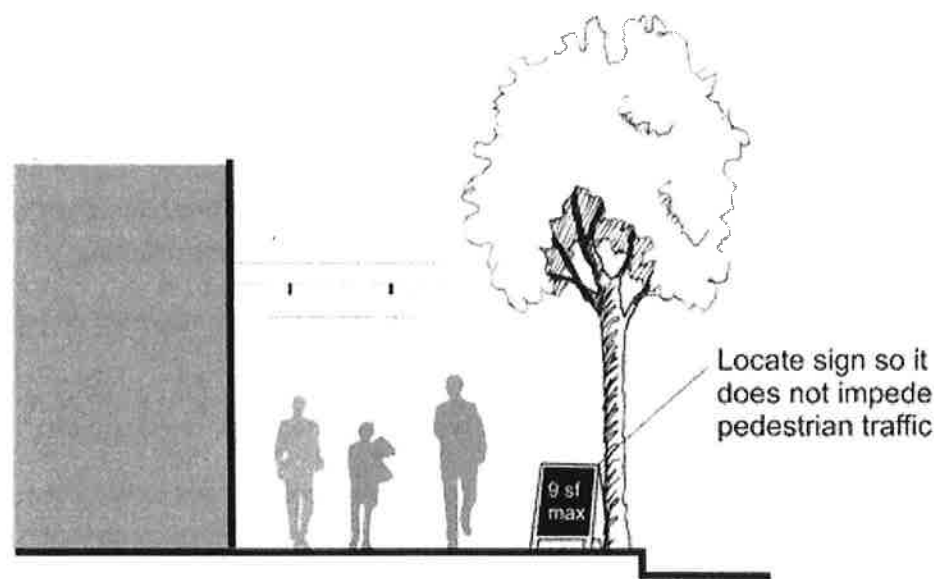


Figure 16.75.100(H-1). Sandwich board sign standards

Exception. For multi-tenant centers where most businesses are located more than twelve feet from the public ROW, center owners or their representatives may apply for a permit to depart from this standard, provided the following provisions are met:

- a. A maximum of one sign per one hundred feet of ROW frontage;
- b. Signs may be placed in the public ROW on one side of sidewalk in a manner that allows a minimum of five feet of horizontal clearance for pedestrians.

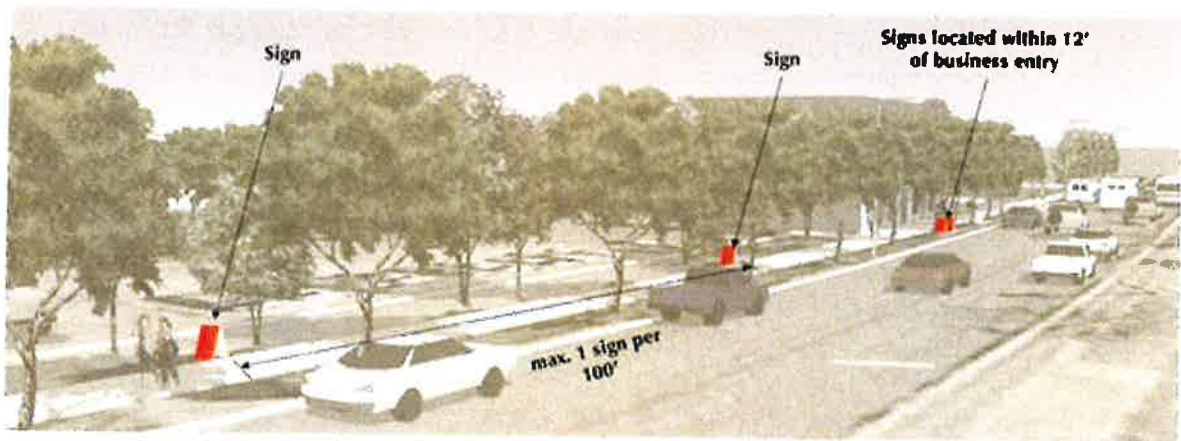


Figure 16.75.100(H-2). Illustrating sandwich board sign provisions

The first two signs on the left are more than twelve feet from their respective business entries, but allowed per the exception provision above. The cluster of sandwich board signs in the distance to the right are all within twelve feet of their respective business entries.

- I. *Feather Signs.* Feather signs are prohibited except where used for a grand opening event and/or business sales event (subsections B and (C)(2) of this section) or by permit for multi-tenant centers meeting the criteria below.
 - a. Applicants: multi-tenant center owners or their representatives. Number of signs permitted: a maximum of one sign per one hundred feet of ROW frontage;
 - b. *Location of Signs.* Signs may be placed outside the public ROW on the back side of the sidewalk, as shown in Figure 16.75.100(I).
 - c. Maximum height of signs: thirteen feet.
 - d. The use of consistent size and shape of feather signs is encouraged where more than one sign is permitted.

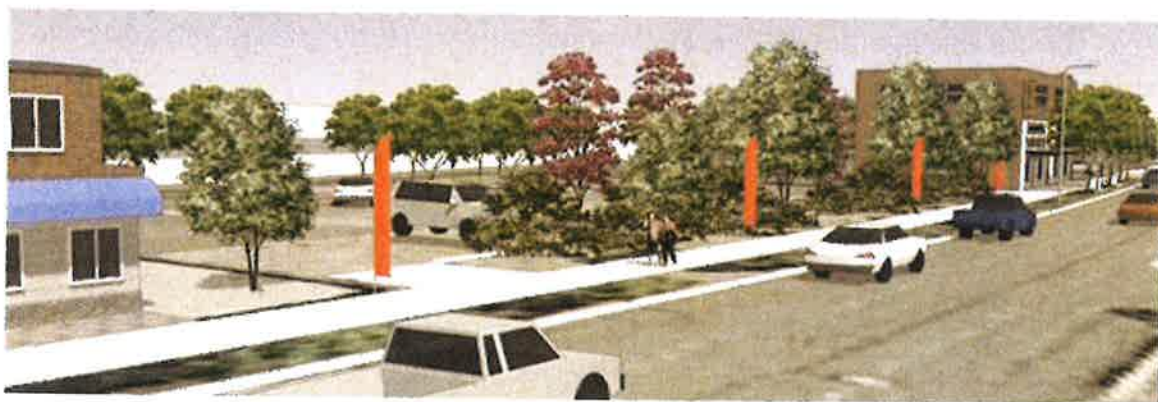


Figure 16.75.100(I).

Where permitted for multi-tenant centers, feather signs shall be placed at intervals of no more than one sign per one hundred lineal feet of frontage and located behind the sidewalk.

J. *Garage Sale (Yard Sales, Moving Sales, Patio Sales)*. No sign permit is required. Such sign shall be limited to one sign on the premises and three off-premises signs. No such sign shall exceed four square feet in sign area. The sign or signs may be displayed only during the sale and must be removed the day the sale ends. The person or persons for which the sign or signs are displayed shall be responsible for its removal and/or are subject to the penalties as provided in this code.

K. *Seasonal Sales*. No sign permit is required. Vendors who receive a temporary business license as defined in LMC 5.12.015 for seasonal or temporary sales activities (e.g., Christmas trees) are permitted one sign not to exceed twenty square feet in sign area. This sign shall be mounted to the booth or trailer used for temporary sales. (Ord. 1539 §127, 2019; Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.110 Legal nonconforming signs.

Legal nonconforming signs may remain in use only under the following conditions:

- A. No such sign shall be changed in any manner that increases the noncompliance of such sign with the provisions of the ordinance codified in this chapter established for signs in the district in which the sign is located.
- B. The burden of establishing a sign to be legally nonconforming under this section rests upon the person or persons, firm or corporation claiming legal status for a sign.
- C. When a sign is structurally altered, it ceases to be a legal nonconforming sign and must conform with the provisions of this chapter. "Structural alteration" means any action that changes the height, size, or shape of the sign or any action that affects the base or support(s) of the sign.
- D. When a business or activity containing a legal nonconforming sign is enlarged or remodeled to a value of fifty percent or more of existing value of real property improvements, then such sign must be brought into conformity with this chapter.
- E. When a business or activity containing a legal nonconforming sign changes the type of the business, then such sign must be brought into conformance with this chapter.
- F. *Violations*. Any violation of this chapter shall immediately terminate the right to maintain a nonconforming sign. (Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.120 Enforcement and sign removal.

- A. *Termination of Illegal Signs*. The right to maintain any sign shall terminate and shall cease to exist whenever the sign is:

1. *Abandoned.* No persons shall maintain or permit to be maintained on any premises owned or controlled by such persons any sign which has been abandoned.
2. *Damaged or destroyed beyond fifty percent.* The determination whether a sign is damaged or destroyed beyond fifty percent shall rest with the code administrator and shall be based upon the actual cost of replacing said sign; and/or
3. Structurally substandard under any applicable ordinance of the city to the extent that the sign becomes a hazard or a danger.

B. *Removal of Unlawful Signs.*

1. Any unlawful permanent type sign which has not been removed within thirty days after conviction of violation or imposition of civil penalty may be removed by the city and the costs charged to the violator. If removal costs have not been paid and the sign reclaimed within thirty days of its removal by the city, the city may sell or otherwise dispose of the sign and apply the proceeds toward costs of removal. Any proceeds in excess of costs of removal shall be paid to the owner of the sign.
2. Signs which the city finds upon public streets, sidewalks, right-of-way or other public property or which wherever located present an immediate and serious danger to the public because of their unsafe condition may be immediately removed without prior notice.
3. Any unlawful temporary or portable type sign located on private property which has not been removed after twenty-four hours from notification may be removed by the city. The sign may be reclaimed by the owner after a civil penalty of \$100.00 has been paid. If the sign has not been reclaimed within thirty days of its removal by the city, the city may sell or otherwise dispose of the sign and apply the proceeds toward costs of the removal. Any proceeds in excess of costs of the removal shall be paid to the owner of the sign.
4. Neither the city nor any of its agents shall be liable for any damage to the sign when removed under this section.

C. *Violation--Penalty.*

1. Violation of the provisions of this code or failure to comply with any of its requirements shall constitute a misdemeanor and such violation shall be punished as provided by the statutes of the state of Washington for the commission of a misdemeanor. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.
2. The erector, owner or user of an unlawful sign or the owner of the property on which an unlawful sign is located and who maintains such violation may each be found guilty of a separate offense and suffer the penalties herein provided. (Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

16.75.130 Severability.

- A. If any section, sentence, clause, phrase, word, portion, or provision of this chapter is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any

other section, sentence, clause, phrase, word, portion, or provision of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

B. The invalidation of the application of any section, sentence, clause, phrase, word, portion, or provision of this chapter to a particular property or structure, or any particular properties or structures, by any court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the application of such section, sentence, clause, phrase, word, portion or provision to any other property or structure not specifically included in said invalidation. (Ord. 1454 §2 (part), 2015).

1 Code reviser's note: Ord. 1454 sets this distance from the wall at fifteen inches. This distance has been changed to twelve inches to reflect the intent of the city.

The Lacey Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 1619, passed April 7, 2022.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Lacey Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

Note: This site does not support Internet Explorer. To view this site, Code Publishing Company recommends using one of the following browsers: Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.

City Website: www.ci.lacey.wa.us

Code Publishing Company