

## ARTICLE VI

### ON-PREMISE EXTERIOR SIGNS

#### SEC. 601 PURPOSE.

In the interest of promoting the public convenience, comfort, prosperity and general welfare of the residents of Wadsworth Township, these regulations provide for the use, location and size of signs. More specifically, the purposes of these regulations are to:

- A. Provide reasonable, yet appropriate, conditions for signage for residents, residential developments, institutions, businesses, and nonresidential establishments.
- B. Ensure that signs are located and designed to maintain a safe and orderly pedestrian and vehicular environment and eliminate any confusion or hazardous conflict between traffic control signs and devices, and other signs authorized by these regulations.
- C. Minimize the negative consequences of excessive numbers or size of signs.
- D. Provide review procedures that enable the Township to comprehensively evaluate the appropriateness of a sign to the site, building and surroundings.
- E. Prohibit all signs not expressly permitted by this Chapter.
- F. Outdoor advertising is governed by the Ohio Revised code and as such is not addressed in this Article.

#### SEC. 602 DEFINITIONS.

1. On Premise Exterior Signs (hereafter called sign). A sign that contains a message related to the business or profession conducted and/or to the commodity, service, or entertainment sold or offered upon the premises where said sign is located.
2. Roof Sign. As used in this zoning resolution, a roof sign shall refer to a sign that extends above the parapet or roof line of the building to which the sign is affixed.
3. Freestanding Sign. As used in this zoning resolution, a freestanding sign shall refer to any sign that is detached from a building but is permanently anchored.

4. Portable Sign. A freestanding sign not permanently anchored, affixed, or secured to either a building or the ground, such as, but not limited to, “A” frame, “T” shaped or inverted “T” shaped sign structures.
5. Sign Area. The entire area within a circle, globe, or polygon enclosing the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem, lettering only, or any figure of similar character, together with any frame, or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such a sign from the background against which it is placed. The sign area shall be considered to be the largest area that any sign would project on a plane. Where a sign has two or more faces, the area of all faces shall be included in determining the area of the sign, except where two such faces are placed back-to-back and are at no point more than eighteen (18) inches from one another, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of one face if the two faces are of equal, or as the area of the large face if the two faces are of unequal area.
6. Wall Graphics Sign. Any sign or graphic design that is placed directly upon a building’s surface including signs or lettering attached to windows.
7. Off-Premise Sign. Any sign containing a message not related to the business or activity upon which premises the sign seen is placed.
8. Temporary Sign. As used in the zoning resolution, a temporary sign shall refer to a sign erected temporarily as defined in subsequent sections.
9. Nonconforming Sign. A sign that does not conform to this zoning resolution as written, or a sign that legally existed prior to enactment of this zoning resolution or amendments thereto.
10. Permanent Sign. A sign that is permanently anchored to the ground with a foundation secured below the frost line.

**SEC. 603      RELATIONSHIP TO BUILDING CODE.**

No provisions of this chapter shall nullify any portion or requirements of the Building Code, except as to the specific definitions, prohibited locations, and size limitations as listed herein.

**SEC. 604      RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT SIGNS.**

Only the following types, sizes and locations of signs shall be permitted in residential districts:

1. One non-illuminated permanent sign with a surface area not exceeding two (2) square feet.

2. One sign, with a surface not exceeding twenty-five (25) square feet for the following uses in a residential district:
  - a. Cemetery;
  - b. Church, or other place of public religious worship;
  - c. Private or governmentally owned and/or operated park playground, golf course or other recreational facility;
  - d. Governmentally owned or operated building or facility
  - e. Facility providing the following services:
    1. Medical care
    2. Hospital
    3. Clinic
    4. Convalescent home
    5. Sanitarium
    6. Home for the aged
    7. Philanthropic institution
    8. Child care center
    9. Bed and breakfast
  - f. Public, private or parochial school.
  - g. Subdivision signs are not to exceed twenty-five (25) square feet in area and are not to exceed six (6) feet in height.
  - h. Developers shall be permitted one temporary ground sign at the entrance to a residential subdivision, planned neighborhood development, or planned residential development. When a lot fronts on more than one street, one additional ground sign shall be permitted along each street frontage that equals or exceeds 300 feet. Signs shall not exceed twenty five (25) square feet, and shall not exceed nine (9) feet in height. Such sign shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way and twenty five (25) feet from a side lot line. Such a sign shall be erected and maintained only during the period of time that the subdivision/development is under construction.
  - i. Temporary Sign (No Permit Required). Each unit shall be permitted to erect either a temporary window sign or ground sign in the front yard. Such temporary sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet and shall not exceed a height of four (4) feet. A temporary ground sign shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet from a public right-of-way and

twenty five (25) feet from a side lot line. Such temporary signs shall be displayed no more than three times per calendar year for a total of no longer than thirty (30) days.

**SEC. 605 C-1 LOCAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SIGNS.**

Only the following types, sizes and locations of signs shall be permitted in the C-1 Local Commercial District:

1. Wall signs must be fixed flat against the wall of a building or on the face of a marquee wall. No sign may extend above or beyond the building wall or project more than one (1) foot from the front of the structure.
2. A total sign area of two (2) square feet shall be permitted for each lineal foot of building frontage on the principal street. On a corner lot the area may be computed on the basis of the longer building frontage. Maximum total is not to exceed two hundred (200) square feet.
3. Freestanding signs shall be permitted provided they are ground mounted and not placed upon a pole that allows the bottom of the sign to project more than twelve (12) inches above ground level.
4. Portable signs. Portable signs in commercial and industrial districts are permitted but must comply with all conditions of this chapter. Portable signs may not exceed forty (40) feet in size. A portable sign may not be placed on a given property for more than fifteen (15) days in any one year.
5. Developers shall be permitted one temporary ground sign at the entrance to a commercial subdivision or planned commercial development. When a lot fronts on more than one street, one additional ground sign shall be permitted along each street frontage that equals or exceeds 300 feet. Signs shall not exceed twenty five (25) square feet, and shall not exceed nine (9) feet in height. Such sign shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way and twenty five (25) feet from a side lot line. Such a sign shall be erected and maintained only during the period of time that the subdivision/development is under construction
6. Temporary Sign (No Permit Required). Each unit shall be permitted to erect either a temporary window sign or ground sign in the front yard. Such temporary sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet and shall not exceed a height of four (4) feet. A temporary ground sign shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet from a public right-of-way and twenty five (25) feet from a side lot line. Such temporary signs shall be displayed no more than three times per calendar year for a total of no longer than thirty (30) days.

**SEC. 606 C-2 HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SIGNS.**

Only the following types, sizes and locations of signs shall be permitted in the C-2 Highway Interchange Commercial District:

1. Wall signs must be fixed flat against the wall of a building or on the face of a marquee wall. No sign may extend above or beyond the building wall or project more than one (1) foot from the front of the structure.
2. A total sign area of two (2) square feet shall be permitted for each lineal foot of building frontage of the principal street. On a corner lot the area may be computed on the basis of the longer building frontage. Maximum total size is not to exceed two hundred (200) square feet.
3. One freestanding sign with a sign area not to exceed one (1) square foot for each foot of building frontage on a principal street. Maximum total size for a sign may not exceed fifty (50) square feet or exceed a maximum height of twenty (20) feet.
4. One ground mounted sign shall be permitted provided they not placed upon a pole that allows the bottom of the sign to project more than twelve (12) inches above ground level.

**SEC. 607 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT SIGNS.**

Only the following types, sizes and locations of signs shall be permitted in the industrial District:

1. A total sign area of three (3) square feet for each lineal foot of building frontage on each street, up to a maximum total area of all permitted signs for any establishment of four hundred (400) square feet.
2. One freestanding sign with a sign area not to exceed two (2) square feet for each foot of building frontage on a principal street is permitted. The total maximum size of the sign shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet with a maximum height not to exceed twenty (20) feet.
3. Portable signs in commercial and industrial districts are permitted but must comply with all conditions of this chapter. Portable signs may not exceed forty (40) feet in size. A portable sign may not be placed on a given property for more than fifteen (15) days in any one year.
4. Developers shall be permitted one temporary ground sign at the entrance to an industrial subdivision or planned industrial development. When a lot fronts on more than one street, one additional ground sign shall be permitted along each street frontage

that equals or exceeds 300 feet. Signs shall not exceed twenty five (25) square feet, and shall not exceed nine (9) feet in height. Such sign shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way and twenty five (25) feet from a side lot line. Such a sign shall be erected and maintained only during the period of time that the subdivision/development is under construction

5. Temporary Sign (No Permit Required). Each unit shall be permitted to erect either a temporary window sign or ground sign in the front yard. Such temporary sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet and shall not exceed a height of four (4) feet. A temporary ground sign shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet from a public right-of-way and twenty five (25) feet from a side lot line. Such temporary signs shall be displayed no more than three times per calendar year for a total of no longer than thirty (30) days.

**SEC. 608 FOR SALE /FOR RENT SIGNS IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS.**

One for sale or for rent sign, not exceeding twenty (20) square feet in area, pertaining to the premises upon which it is displayed, may be erected or placed on a given property but shall be removed forthwith when the premises are sold or rented.

**SEC. 609 NON-AFFECTED SIGNS.**

Signs required by law and necessary to the public safety and welfare.

**SEC. 610 TOTAL SIGNAGE AREA.**

Total signage area for any panel in a commercial zoning district for both wall signs and freestanding signs will not exceed two hundred (200) square feet.

**SEC. 611 NON-CONFORMING SIGNS.**

Any non-conforming sign removed, terminated, or discontinued for any reason for a period of two years or more shall not be restored or replaced by any type of sign unless the sign is in conformance with the appropriate district regulations of this chapter and other provisions of this resolution as may be applicable. For purposes of this section pole and frame replacement shall constitute sign removal and must comply with this chapter.

**SEC. 612 REVIEW PROCESS**

Application for Zoning Certificates for signs shall be submitted according to the following procedure:

1. The application for Zoning certificate for signs shall include the following information:
  - a. A plot plan and building elevations drawn to scale showing the locations and dimensions for all business signs, existing and proposed; and,
  - b. A description and drawings indicating the lighting of the proposed sign where permitted, herein.
2. The application shall be made to the Wadsworth Township Zoning Inspector.

**SEC. 613 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS.**

All signs are subject to the following regulations:

1. No sign or outside lighting shall flash, be animated, rotate, or have the appearance of moving, except signs that depict the time, temperature, current weather shall be permitted;
2. No sign shall contain banners, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or similarly fixed or moving devices;
3. No freestanding sign shall be located on or over public property;
4. All electrical wiring serving freestanding signs must be underground;
5. No freestanding sign may be erected closer than forty (40) feet to any intersection with the exception of those signs incidental to the legal process and necessary to the public welfare or wall signs attached to the building of businesses closer than forty (40) feet to an intersection;
6. All signs erected with-in one hundred (100) feet of any intersection must be constructed so as not to obstruct traffic sight lines;
7. No sign shall be located in or project into a public right-of-way;
8. No illuminated sign shall produce glare that is visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent properties.
9. All signs within 660 feet of the right-of-way of Interstate 76 are subject to regulation by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) under Ohio Revised code Chapter 5516 and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. Zoning Certificate for signs within 660 feet of this right-of-way shall not be issued without evidence that a permit has first been issued by ODOT; or notice from ODOT that a permit is not necessary.

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