

Sign Ordinance Chapter 151.060, Approved 8-19-2024

§ 151.060 SIGNS.

(I) GENERAL REGULATIONS

- (1) No sign shall hereafter be located, erected, moved, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, converted, or structurally altered without a LUCR except those signs described in this Chapter that do not require a LUCR, being in conformity with the provisions of this chapter.
- (2) Signs in compliance with the requirements of the size and location requirements as described herein after submission of a LUCR application shall be approved by the Zoning Administrator.
- (3) A decision of the Zoning Administrator may be appealed to the Planning Commission. These requirements may be waived by the Planning Commission upon special request and after a hearing before the Planning Commission and upon proof being presented to the Planning Commission that such signage will not be to the detriment of the best interests of the people of the village.
- (4) A decision of the Planning Commission may be appealed to the Village Board.

(II) DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

- 1) *"Sign"* any object, device, display, structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors, fastened to the ground or not, including a banner intended to be hung either with or without a frame, that is used to advertise, identify, display, direct, or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination, or projected images.
- 2) *Sign, Abandoned.* "Abandoned sign" means any sign, sign message, or sign frame and its supporting equipment that is in disrepair, no longer in use by the occupying business, nonfunctioning, not in compliance with Village or state electrical code, or a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the general public.
- 3) *Sign, Advertising.* "Advertising sign" means a sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, activity, or entertainment not necessarily conducted, sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located.
- 4) *Sign, Billboard.* "Billboard sign" means a sign advertising a business not at that location.
- 5) *Sign, Construction.* "Construction sign" means a sign that advertises contractors or others associated with the construction or remodeling of a residential or commercial building.
- 6) *Sign, Mural.* "Mural Sign" means any type of display or artistic endeavor painted on or otherwise affixed directly to any side(s) of a building or structure that includes a text or business logo that is intended for advertising purposes.
- 7) *Sign, Opinion.* "Opinion Sign" means a sign that expresses non-commercial opinions about issues generally. Political Signs left up after the election are not considered Opinion Signs.
- 8) *Sign, Real Estate.* "Real Estate sign" means an on-premises sign serving to designate the location and/or direction of property for sale, lease, or rent, an open house event for said property, including for a residential or commercial development.
- 9) *Sign, Real Estate Directional Sign.* "Real Estate Directional Sign" means an off-premises sign indicating the presence of a nearby property listed for sale, lease, or rent, an open house event for

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said property, including for a residential or commercial development.

- 10) *Sign, Nonconforming*. "Nonconforming sign" means any sign that does not comply with the terms of this chapter.
- 11) *Sign, Political*. "Political sign" means any sign urging the election or defeat of any candidate seeking any elective office or urging the passage or defeat of any ballot measure, this definition does not include any billboard owned or maintained by a commercial firm or advertising company.
- 12) *Sign, Portable*. "Portable sign" means a sign that is to be displayed only during business hours which is not permanently attached to the ground or a building and is of an A frame, hinged or sandwich type design. For the purposes of this title, "permanently attached" includes such means of attachment as bolts, concrete footings or foundations, or similar such devices.
- 13) *Sign, Temporary*. "Temporary sign" means a sign that is intended to be displayed only for a short time which is not permanently attached to the ground or a building and which does not fit the definition of a portable sign. For purposes of this title, "permanently attached" includes such means of attachment as bolts, concrete footings or foundations or similar such devices. All signs on wheels are temporary signs. Inflatable and banner signs shall be considered temporary signs.

(III) RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS.

All signs are prohibited in the residential and agricultural areas except the following which do not require a LUCR:

- (1) Signs for home based business establishment not to exceed 20 square feet;
- (2) Real estate signs not to exceed eight square feet in area which advertise the sale, rental, or lease of the premises upon which such signs are temporarily located;
- (3) Name, occupation, and warning signs not to exceed two square feet located on the premises;
- (4) Bulletin boards for public, charitable, or religious institutions not to exceed 24 square feet in area located on the premises;
- (5) Memorial signs, tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection affixed flat against a structure not to exceed 8 square feet;
- (6) Official signs, such as traffic-control, parking restrictions, information, and notices;
- (7) Opinion signs. Not to exceed 24 sq ft.

(IV) COMMERCIAL, LOW IMPACT COMMERCIAL, & INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

Business related signs are permitted in the Commercial, Low Impact Commercial and Industrial Areas subject to a LUCR application and the requirements described below.

- (1) Signs that are flat on the building with a maximum of 32 square feet per sign, and a maximum number of signs for each wall space such that the total signage area shall not exceed 25% of the area of the total wall space exclusive of window and door areas;
- (2) Signs protruding from the building with a maximum of six square feet in size with a maximum of 3.6 feet of distance from the building; and
- (3) Freestanding signs are permitted when a building is set back 20 feet from the lot line. They are not to exceed six feet in height or a total of 24 square feet. There shall be a minimum spacing of 10 ft between signs.
- (4) A commercial sign and its location, once approved by a LUCR, can have periodic changes to shape

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and/or language without further review if they do not exceed 24 square feet in size or contain lighting. This provision does not apply if the business changes at that location.

(5) Items posted in the windows of commercial establishments are not considered signs for the purposes of this ordinance and do not need a LUCR.

(6) Signs with flashing, strobing, or exterior lighting will need Planning Commission approval.

(V) TEMPORARY SIGNS.

Only the temporary signs or banners (not to exceed 20 square feet) that are listed below are allowed without a LUCR. Other temporary signs conforming to the appropriate size and location requirements are allowed after application through a LUCR, and when authorized by the Zoning Administrator.

(1) Temporary signs: (not to exceed 20 square feet) advertising on-premises sale of agricultural products in the Agricultural Area;

(2) Real estate signs: not to exceed 8 square feet in area which advertise the sale, rental, or lease of the premises upon which such signs are temporarily located;

(3) Political signs: during the election cycle, and up to one week after election date;

(4) Directional Real Estate signs: (not more than two directional signs total per property advertised) with permission of the property owner where the sign is located;

(5) Directional garage sale signs, not to exceed 4 square feet, with permission of the property owner where the sign is located,

(6) Holiday and celebration signs;

(7) Traffic control and other Village regulatory and information signs;

(8) On premises signs advertising garage sales, not to exceed 20 square feet;

(9) Temporary signs (not to exceed 20 square feet) advertising on-premises sale of homeowner personal property in the residential area.

(10) Construction signs during construction activities and up to 30 days following completion.

(11) Commercial portable signs when displayed during hours of business operation.

(12) Temporary signs and directional signs for nonprofit organization functions, and other community events.

(13) Up to two portable directional off premises business signs not to exceed 8 square feet are allowed on private property during business hours for businesses located within 2 miles of the Village limits.

(VI) ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

The Zoning Administrator shall have primary responsibility for the enforcement of these regulations and the issuance of LUCR permits as required herein.

A. It shall be the responsibility of the Zoning Administrator to inspect the erection of signs and ensure that all signs are in compliance with these requirements.

B. If the Zoning Administrator determines that a sign is not in compliance with our ordinance and the sign owner fails to comply with, or disagrees with, the Zoning Administrator's analysis, the issue shall be brought to the Planning Commission for review as outlined in Section One of this Chapter.

C. In addition to the penalties provided pursuant to Section 151.999, unauthorized signs not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter that are located within the right-of-way may be

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removed by the Village. Any sign not recovered by the sign owner within seven days after removal may be disposed of by the Village.

(VII) EXISTING SIGNS.

Signs lawfully existing at the time of adoption or amendment of this chapter may be continued although the use, size, or location does not conform with the provisions of this chapter. However, it shall be deemed a nonconforming use or structure, and the provisions of §151.061 of this chapter shall apply.

(VIII) PENALTY

See § 151.999.

(1999 Code, § 151.55) (Ord. 123, passed 12-10-1984)

Cross-reference:

Public nuisances enumerated, see § 92.03