

**CHAPTER 1155**  
**Sign Requirements**

<b>1155.01</b>	<b>Purpose; signs regulated.</b>	<b>1155.07</b>	<b>Additional regulations.</b>
<b>1155.02</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>1155.08</b>	<b>License and permit requirements.</b>
<b>1155.03</b>	<b>Signs not requiring a permit.</b>	<b>1155.09</b>	<b>Construction, maintenance, and abandonment requirements.</b>
<b>1155.04</b>	<b>Specific signs requiring a permit.</b>		
<b>1155.05</b>	<b>Prohibited Signs</b>		
<b>1155.06</b>	<b>Signs permitted by sign district.</b>		

---

**1155.01 PURPOSE; SIGNS REGULATED.**

(a) It is the purpose of the sign regulations to enhance and protect the physical appearance and safety of the community, to protect property values and to promote the preservation of Springfield's areas of natural, historic and scenic beauty. It is further intended to reduce distractions and obstructions that may contribute to traffic accidents, reduce hazards that may be caused by signs projecting over public rights-of-way, provide for a reasonable opportunity for all sign users to display their messages without interference from other signage, and to provide for fair and equitable treatment of all sign users. This code addresses the current advertising, communication, and identification trends and needs of sign owners, sign viewers, and the community. This sign code is intended to protect public health, safety, and welfare and be consistent with applicable legal requirements. These regulations are intended to reduce visual clutter, unsafe distractions to the traveling public, and provide visual organization of sign structures by arranging sign types into approved sign districts that order property by context, land use, and thoroughfare characteristics.

(b) No sign shall be erected or altered in any manner without compliance with the regulations stated herein.

(c) These regulations are structured within the two general categories of temporary and permanent signs. Temporary signs are governed by the provisions of Subsection 1155.08(e) and are permitted in addition to permanent signs permitted under this Chapter. Permanent signs may be either off-premises or on-premises signs. Off-premises signs are governed by the provisions of Subsection 1155.04(a)(6). All on-premises signs are governed by the regulations of the sign district in which they are located.  
(Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

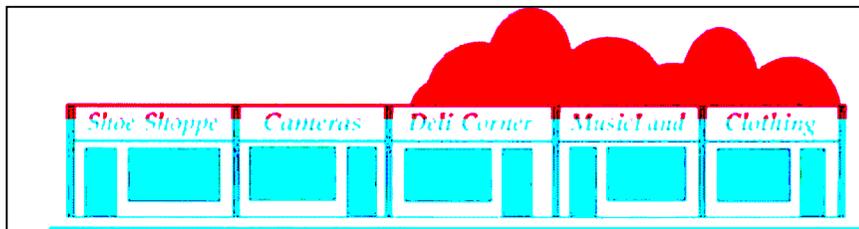
**1155.02 DEFINITIONS.**

The following definitions shall be applicable to the provisions of these sign requirements. The definitions contained in Chapter 1102 of this Code shall apply to all terms not defined in this chapter.

(a) (1) **Abandoned Sign.** A sign which continues to be in a state of structural,

mechanical, and or general disrepair and in violation of the Property Maintenance Code, Chapter 1305 for a period of 60 consecutive days after the City has notified the owner of the sign that the sign is in a state of structural, mechanical, and or general disrepair and in violation of the Property Maintenance Code, Chapter 1305.

- (2) **Alteration.** Any change to a sign that does not constitute repair.
- (3) **Animated sign.** A sign depicting action or motion through electrical or mechanical means.
- (4) **Architectural detailing.** Any construction appertaining to but not being an integral part of the sign, consisting of landscape or structural features that embellish the site in general. Architectural detailing includes, but is not limited to, aesthetic embellishments such as flower plantings, wood carving, wrought or cast iron ornamentation, stone or brick ornamentation, or metal work decoration.
- (5) **Awning sign.** A building sign place on the surface of an awning. (See graphic example below. Source: United States Sign Council)



- (b) (1) **Balloon.** An inflatable bag filled with gas and displayed in such a way as to attract attention to the premises on which it is located.
- (2) **Banner.** A sign on a strip of flexible material such as cloth, paper or plastic.
- (3) **Bench Billboard.** An off-premise sign on which poster panels, bulletins, and/or copy are mounted and which is designed to function and appear like a bench for seating.
- (4) **Billboard.** An off-premises sign on which poster panels or bulletins are mounted.
- (5) **Building sign.** Any sign which is in any way attached to a building or to an appurtenance of a building; excluding signs inside the building and banners.
- (c) (1) **Canopy sign.** A building sign attached to or in any way incorporated with the face or underside of a canopy, marquee, or any other similar building projection. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)

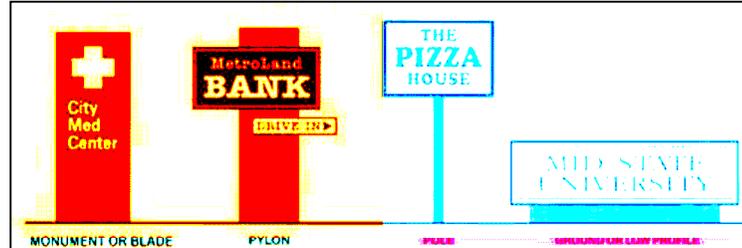


- (2) **Common sign.** A sign which serves two or more uses. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (3) **Construction sign.** A sign pertaining to the construction activities performed on a construction site and/or announcing the future use of the structure which is the subject of construction activities.
- (d) (1) **Development sign.** A sign identifying a large scale residential development.
- (2) **Digital Dynamic Display Sign (Single Color).** A sign whose informational content can be changed or altered on a fixed display surface composed of electrically illuminated or mechanically driven changeable elements. These signs display text and/or graphics in a single color on a black background. These signs may be capable of displaying more than one color, but only display a single color at a time. These signs are illuminated signs.
- (3) **Digital Dynamic Display Sign (Multi Color).** A sign whose informational content can be changed or altered on a fixed display surface composed of electrically illuminated or mechanically driven changeable elements. These signs display text and/or graphics and utilize multiple colors. These signs are illuminated signs.
- (4) **Directional sign.** A sign exclusively for the purpose of giving directions to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- (e) Reserved.
- (f) (1) **Fascia sign.** A single-faced building sign that is mounted on exterior wall of a building.
- (2) **Flag, public.** A public flag is any flag displaying the name, insignia, emblem or logo of the United States, the State of Ohio, the City or the flag of any other government.

- (3) **Free standing sign.** A sign which is supported by one or more up-rights or braces which are anchored in or on the ground, and which is not attached to any building or wall. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (g) Reserved
- (h) (1) **Hazardous sign.** A sign which, because of its construction or state of disrepair may fall or cause possible injury to passers-by, as determined by the Building Official; a sign which because of its location, color, illumination or animation, interferes with, obstructs the view of or is confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device or interferes with, misleads, or confuses traffic.
- (2) **Home Occupation Sign.** A fascia sign mounted on a residential building and advertising a home occupation conducted from the lot on which the residential building is located.
- (i) (1) **Illuminated sign.** A sign in which a source of light other than sunlight is used to make the message readable.
- (2) **Institutional sign.** A sign for a religious institution, educational institution, library, community center, civic, cultural or historic institution, nursing home, hospital or similar institution and the announcement of its service or activities.
- (3) **Integral sign.** A sign carved into stone, concrete or other building material, or made of bronze, aluminum or other permanent type of construction and made a part of the structure into which it is incorporated.
- (j) Reserved
- (k) Reserved
- (l) (1) **Large scale residential development.** A residential subdivision consisting of 10 acres or more or a development consisting of more than 29 dwelling units on a separate tract of two acres or more.
- (m) (1) **Monument sign.** There are three different types of monument signs described in this code, as follows:

- (2) Monument sign (Traditional): A sign which is mounted on a structure with an open area below the sign face that is less than 50% of the total height of the sign. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (3) Monument sign (Foundation): A sign permanently mounted or appearing to be mounted on a footer in the ground along its full length and is less than 10 feet in height. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (4) Monument sign (Monolith): A sign permanently mounted or appearing to be mounted on a footer in the ground along its full length and is more than 10 feet in height. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (n) (1) **Non-conforming sign.** A sign, other than a prohibited sign, that does not comply with the regulations of the sign district in which it is located by reason of these or any other regulations adopted after the erection of the sign.
- (2) **Nit.** The unit of measurement for the total amount of light emitted, or luminance, from a sign divided by the surface area of the sign (candelas per

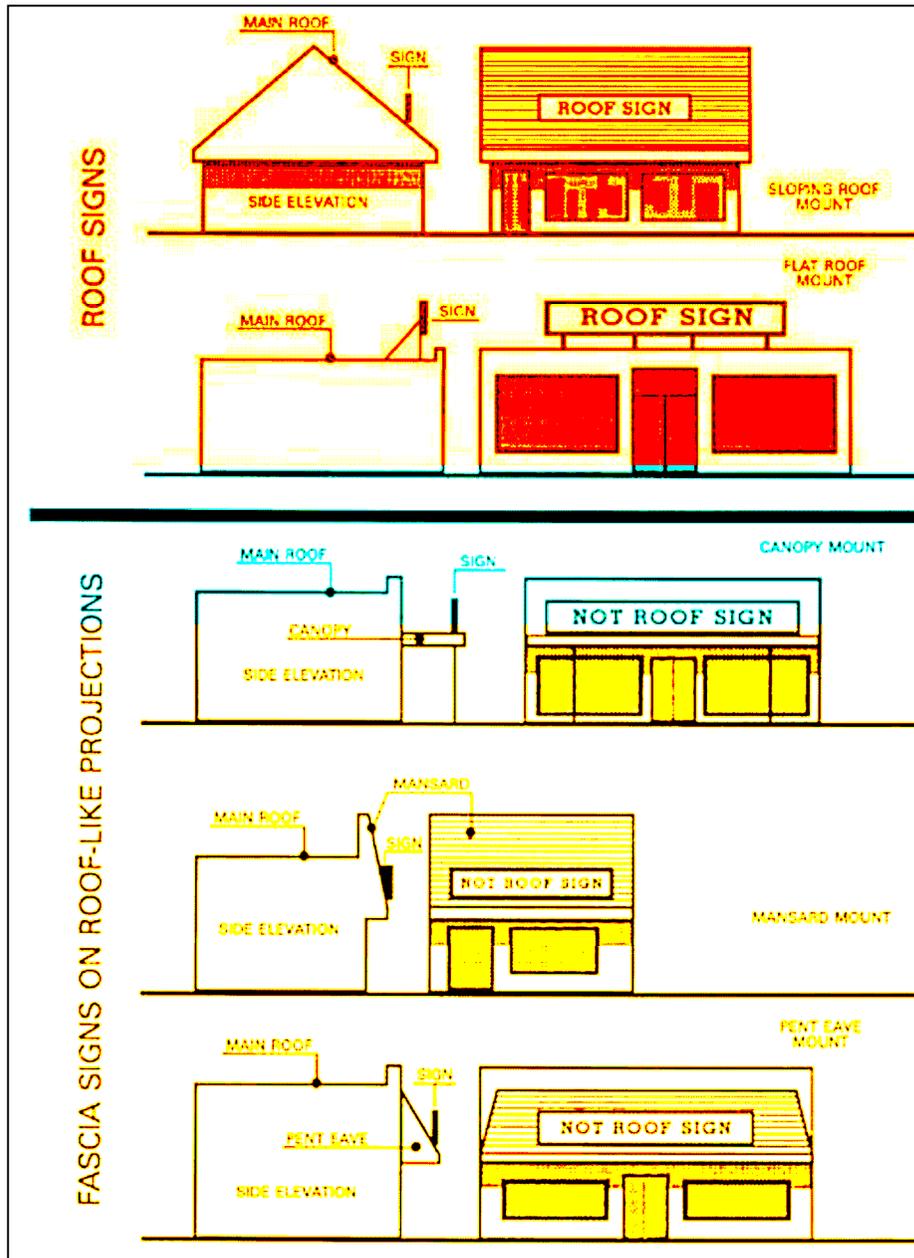
square meter (cd/m<sup>2</sup>). The “International System of Units” unit for luminance is candela per square metre (cd/m<sup>2</sup>). The common term for the same unit is the “nit”. Luminance is used in the video industry to characterize the brightness of displays.

- (o) (1) **Off-premises sign.** A sign which directs attention to an off-site use or to products or services sold elsewhere.
- (2) **On-premises sign.** A sign which directs attention to a use conducted on the lot on which the sign is located.
- (p) (1) **Painted sign.** A sign painted directly on an exterior surface of a building, other than on a window.
- (2) **Permitted sign.** A sign which is allowed in the sign district in which it is listed, subject to compliance with the requirements of the sign requirements.
- (3) **Portable sign.** A sign that is not designed to be anchored or secured to either a building or the ground.
- (4) **Prohibited sign.** A sign which are forbidden to be erected or displayed.
- (5) **Projecting Sign.** Any sign that is attached to a building wall and that extends away from (i.e., is not parallel to) the building wall, or any sign that is attached to a building wall and is parallel to the building wall but suspended more than six inches from the building wall, or any sign suspended beneath a canopy, ceiling, roof, or marquee, intended to be viewed by pedestrians from the sidewalk beneath the canopy, ceiling, roof, or marquee. A sign suspended beneath a canopy or a marquee near the traveled portion of the street is also a projecting sign though its message may not be visible to a pedestrian from the sidewalk. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (6) **Provisional sign.** A sign which is permitted in a sign district under certain circumstances.
- (7) **Public art.** Any work of art exposed to public view from any street right-of-way for the enjoyment of the public.
- (8) **Public sign.** A sign of a non-commercial nature and in the public interest erected by or upon the order or authorization of the City or other public agency. The term "public sign" includes but is not limited to a safety sign, zoning sign, memorial plaque, sign for structures or sites of historical interest.
- (q) Reserved.
- (r) (1) **Real estate sign.** A sign pertaining to the sale, the rental or lease of the

- premises or part of the premises on which the sign is located.
- (2) **Roof.** A roof is the outside surface of a building which is constructed at an angle of less than forty-five (45) degrees from the horizontal plane. The outside surface of a building which is constructed at an angle of forty-five (45) degrees or more from the horizontal plane is a wall and not a roof.
  - (3) **Roof sign.** A sign erected upon or above a roof of a building and affixed to the roof. (See graphic example below, Source: United States Sign Council)



- (s) (1) **Seasonal decoration.** A display pertaining to celebration of a religious or cultural holiday or commemoration of a historic event or personage, observed during a particular season of the year. A seasonal decoration is not a sign.
  - (2) **Sign.** Any communication, which is visible to the public from a street or public right-of-way, using graphics, symbols, reading matter, letters, numerals, pictorial representations, emblems, trademarks, inscriptions, color, illumination, geometric or non-geometric shapes or planes. The term "sign" does not include public art, sculptured landscaping, seasonal decorations, public flags, directional symbols on paved surfaces or messages painted on or otherwise permanently attached to the body of a motor vehicle or a trailer designed to transport freight.
  - (3) **Sign face.** The surface of the sign upon which is affixed reading material, letters, numerals, pictorial representations, emblems, trademarks, inscriptions and/or patterns.
  - (4) **Sign leg.** A sign supporting structure designed to rest upon the ground to support the sign rather than being imbedded in the ground.
  - (5) **Sign wall.** The wall of a building upon which a sign is mounted and which has a slope of forty-five (45) degrees or greater from the horizontal plane. See the definition of "roof."
  - (6) **Spinner.** A device shaped in a form similar to a propeller and designed to rotate in the wind to attract attention to the premises on which it is located.
  - (7) **Swinging sign.** A sign which, because of its design, construction, suspension or attachment is free to swing or move noticeably because of pressure from the wind.
  - (t) (1) **Temporary sign.** A nonpermanent sign not permanently affixed to the ground or a building. Banners, portable signs, trailer signs, and other similar nonpermanent signs are regulated as temporary signs.
  - (2) **Trailer Sign.** A sign mounted on wheels or sign legs. All trailer signs are temporary signs and are permitted and regulated as temporary signs.
  - (u) (1) **Use.** For the purpose of the sign requirements, use shall mean a principal use as defined in this code.
  - (v) Reserved.
  - (w) (1) **Window sign.** A building sign permanently affixed to a window, embedded in a window intended to communicate its message to passersby from the outside. The term "window sign" does not include merchandise or product displays, posters, and other signs located inside the building though visible through a window.
  - (x) Reserved.
  - (y) (1) **Yard sale sign.** A temporary sign for a yard sale or a garage sale.
  - (z) Reserved.
- (Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

### **1155.03 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT.**

The following signs may be erected without a permit in addition to the signage allowed in

each sign district. These signs shall not be applied toward the maximum sign area allowance specified in the districts, except as otherwise indicated in this subsection.

- (a) Construction signs. Non-illuminated construction signs not to exceed a total of 12 square feet, six square feet per sign face (for a double faced sign) in Residential Sign Districts and residentially zoned area and a total of 64 square feet, 32 square feet per sign face (for a double-faced sign) in other sign districts, shall be permitted for each lot. Such signs shall not exceed a height of five feet in a residential sign districts or 10 feet in other districts nor be closer than five feet to any property line unless located on the wall of a building, fence or protective barricade surrounding the construction. Construction signs shall be removed prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
- (b) Portable signs attached to or being held by a natural person.
- (c) Window signage not exceeding a maximum area of two square feet.
- (d) Public signs
- (e) Real estate sign. One non-illuminated real estate sign not to exceed twelve square feet, six square feet per sign face (for a double-faced sign), in residential districts or sixty-four square feet, thirty-two square feet per sign face (for a double-faced sign), in other districts, shall be permitted on each lot. Such signs shall not exceed a height of five feet in residential districts, 10 feet in other districts, nor be closer than five feet to any property line unless located on the wall of a building or fence. Such signs shall be removed within five days after the sale or lease of the property.
- (f) Posters and other non-permanent signs inside a building and showing through windows which are not window signs.
- (g) Yard sale signs located on the site of the sale; not to exceed a maximum number of two signs and a maximum area of four square feet for each sign.
- (h) A street address: The figures of such number shall be not less than three inches in length and shall be painted or shall be made of metal, porcelain or other durable material.
- (i) Signs, other than real estate signs, construction signs, monument signs, development signs, building signs and yard sale signs, which are erected on property used for residential purposes by the owners or occupants of such property; excepting, development signs and signs constructed with a sign board exceeding six square feet.

(Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

#### **1155.04 SPECIFIC SIGNS REQUIRING A PERMIT.**

The following specific signs may be erected in accordance with the requirements of Section 1155.06. These signs shall be applied toward the maximum sign area allowance specified in each sign district, except as otherwise indicated in this subsection.

- (a) Development sign. One foundation monument sign in Residential District or residentially zoned lots shall be permitted at each street entrance to a large scale residential development; provided the following requirements are met:
  - 1. The sign shall not exceed a total area of forty square feet, twenty square feet per sign face (for a double faced sign), nor a height of six feet. Architectural features of the sign shall not be included in calculating the sign area.

2. The distance between two development signs shall be no less than 150 feet as measured along the frontage of the lot.
  3. The sign shall not be located closer than 25 feet to a street right-of-way line.
  4. The area of a development sign may be increased by one square foot for every linear foot it is setback in excess of 25 feet.
- (b) Directional signs.
1. Such signs shall not exceed a total of four square feet or two square feet per sign face (for a double faced sign) in Residential District or residentially zoned lots, or a total of six square feet, three square feet per sign face (for a double faced sign), in all others.
  2. Larger directional signage may be permitted with a conditional use permit.
- (c) Institutional sign. A foundation monument institutional sign shall be permitted for uses listed in section 1155.02 (i) (2) Institutional sign shall not exceed a total of 48 square feet, 24 square feet per sign face (for a double faced sign), shall be permitted for each institution. Not more than one institutional sign may be permitted along each street providing access to the institution. No institutional sign shall exceed a height of five feet above grade. Architectural features of the sign shall not be included in calculating the sign area. The area of a institutional sign may be increased by one square foot for every linear foot it is setback in excess of 25 feet.
- (d) Integral signs. Integral signs existing prior to the adoption of these regulations shall not be applied toward the maximum sign area allowance for the building into which they are incorporated.
- (e) Additional real estate sign. In addition to the real estate signs described in this subsection, a nonresidential subdivision or development of greater than two acres in size may display not more than one additional, non-illuminated real estate sign. Such sign shall not exceed a total of 64 square feet or 32 square feet per sign face for a double-faced sign, nor a height of six feet and shall be removed upon the sale or lease of ninety-five percent of the lots or units in the subdivision or development. Such signs shall not be applied toward the maximum signage allowance specified in each sign district.
- (f) Off-premises signs.
1. Off-premises signs shall not be permitted in Residential, Mixed Neighborhood, and Downtown sign districts. Off-premises signs may be constructed as billboard signs or any other type of sign allowed in the sign district in which the sign is located.
  2. Not more than one off-premises sign may be erected or maintained per lot. Two or more uses may erect a common off-premises directional sign. No off-premises sign shall be erected closer than 300 feet to another off-premises sign.
  3. No off-premises sign shall be located on or within 200 feet of a Residential District or residentially zoned lot, a public parking area, school, religious institution, cemetery, public museum, or the administrative, legislative, or judicial offices of government institutions.
  4. An off-premises sign shall be permitted in addition to the on-premises signage permitted on a lot. However, the area of the off-premises sign shall be

- deducted from the total sign area allowed for the same type of on-premises sign.
5. Off-premises billboard signs shall not exceed a height of 35 feet above the height of the nearest street grade.
  6. With the exception of bench billboards which are regulated under subdivision J, below, all off-premises billboard signs shall be permitted a maximum area of 144 square feet or 72 square feet per sign face for a double-faced sign; however, off-premises billboard signs must comply with Subsection 1155.04(f)(4) hereof.
  7. Off-premises signs shall comply with all other sign requirements of the sign district in which they are located.
  8. Off-premises signs shall not be permitted in any OHP Historic Preservation Overlay District.
  9. Off-premises signs which otherwise comply with every other applicable provision of this Zoning Code shall be specifically permitted upon properties abutting any route within the City designated by the federal or state governments, or National Road Ohio Scenic Byway Advisory Group, or any like organization, as a "Scenic Byway."
  10. All bench billboards shall comply with the following:
    - A. Design Guidelines:
      - i. The length of the bench billboard shall not exceed six feet or 72 inches.
      - ii. The height of the bench billboard shall not exceed three and one half feet or 42 inches from the ground.
      - iii. Bench billboards shall not weigh more than 250 pounds.
      - iv. Seats – seat boards shall consist of two inch by six inch boards of metal, composite, or wood construction cut to appropriate lengths and sufficiently protected against weatherization.
      - v. Copy face – the back of the bench upon which sign copy may be attached may not exceed twelve square feet and is to be constructed of metal and/or a minimum one-half inch plywood. Exterior grade paint must be used for any painted surfaces.
      - vi. Support legs – Support legs and required armrests are to be constructed of concrete and/or metal.
      - vii. Armrests – Armrests shall be required on all bench billboards exceeding 36 inches in length and shall be placed in the center and ends of the bench. Armrests are to be constructed of metal, concrete, or wood.
      - viii. The bench billboard must be placed on a continuous permanent dust-free surface of sufficient size and composition to maintain the stability of the bench billboard. Bench billboards shall rest completely within the footprint of said surface.
      - ix. Bench billboards not firmly attached to the ground shall be constructed so as to be able to withstand a wind pressure of not less than 80 miles per hour without falling over or blowing away.

- B. A property owner may allow a bench billboard to be placed on private property subject to the following limitations:
    - i. A sign permit is required for each bench billboard.
    - ii. No bench billboard is permitted to be located within the public rights-of-way; except when the owner of the bench billboard has entered into a contract with the City of Springfield for placement of bench billboards upon public rights-of-way.
    - iii. Bench billboards to be placed on private property may be permitted only for those locations meeting the criteria for off-premises signs set forth in 1155.04(f) of this Zoning Code.
    - iv. Bench billboards shall be placed so as to not interfere with or obstruct the clear vision of pedestrians and motorists to detract approaching traffic at intersections; nor impeded the ability of pedestrians to travel along public rights-of-way.
  - C. All benches shall be maintained in accordance with the City’s Property Maintenance Code, Chapter 1305. Any bench billboard which has fallen into such a state of disrepair or has suffered such damage and wear so as to be not in compliance with the City’s Property Maintenance Code or is otherwise dangerous to use shall be promptly and without delay removed or repaired.
  - D. Bench billboards shall be removed promptly and without delay from locations when the sign permit for the bench billboard expires and no immediately succeeding permit is obtained.
  - E. Bench billboards may be located within the public rights-of-way only when the owner of the bench billboard has entered into a contract with the City of Springfield authorizing placement of the bench billboard upon public rights-of-ways. And when such location meets these requirements:
    - i. Bench billboards shall be placed on locations meeting the criteria for off-premises signs set forth in 1155.04(f)of this Zoning Code.
    - ii. Bench billboards shall be placed so as to not interfere with or obstruct the clear vision of pedestrians and motorists to detect approaching traffic at intersections; nor impede the ability of pedestrians to travel along public rights-of-way.
    - iii. No bench billboard shall contribute to visual clutter or create a dangerous distraction or obstruction for pedestrians and motorists.
  - (g) Temporary signs must be removed upon expiration of the temporary sign permit.
  - (h) Any other sign that is not listed in Section 1155.04 as a sign not requiring a permit.
- (Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

**1155.05 PROHIBITED SIGNS.**

Signs prohibited are:

- (a) Animated signs, except signs permitted in the Downtown Sign District.
- (b) Abandoned signs.
- (c) Balloons.

- (d) Hazardous signs, including portable signs attached to or being held by a natural person.
- (e) Non-public signs located on or over public rights-of-way except as hereinafter permitted in the Downtown Sign District, and except for bench billboard when the owner of the bench billboard has entered into a contract with the City of Springfield
- (f) Portable signs except for portable signs attached to or being held by a person and those portable signs for which a Temporary Sign Permit has been issued.
- (g) Roof signs.
- (h) Spinners and other similar devices.

(Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

### **1155.06 SIGNS PERMITTED BY SIGN DISTRICT.**

The locational and development regulations governing the sign districts identified on the Springfield Sign District overlay map to the City's zoning map are delineated in the following tables which are a part of this Section 1155.06.

- Map A: District Overlay Map
- Table B: Commercial Highway Sign District
- Table C: Commercial Arterial Sign District
- Table D: Mixed Neighborhood Sign District
- Table E: Mixed Urban Sign District
- Table F: Downtown Sign District
- Table G: Residential Sign Districts
- Table H: Manufacturing Sign District
- Table I: Green Space/Agricultural Sign District

- (a) G zoning district requirements. The following requirements shall apply to Zoning Code Section 1126 G districts: Institutional signs shall be permitted as regulated in Section 1155.04 (c) or any other sign approved by City Commission.
- (b) Non-conforming Residential Uses. Lawful, non-conforming residential uses shall be permitted those signs permitted to the residential sign district.

(Ord. No. 10-317. Passed 10-12-10.)

### **1155.07 ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.**

#### **(a) Dimensional requirements.**

- (1) **Maximum sign area.** The maximum number of signs and the maximum sign areas, as provided herein, shall be applied on a per lot basis (except in the RM-44A zoning district where they shall be applied on a per building basis.)
  - A. Free-standing and monument signs. An individual sign area allowance is the sum of the total areas of all the sign faces of that sign.
  - B. The building wall sign allowance shall be calculated based on the square feet of the wall on to which the sign will be placed. The wall sign maximum area allowance shall be determined as percentage of the overall wall area of the wall onto which the sign will be placed. In the case of two or more uses or occupants in a single building, the allowable maximum wall signage for each user shall be calculated as a percentage of the building elevation area devoted to that tenant.

- (2) **Sign wall area.** Where maximum size of a sign is determined by the sign wall area, the sign wall area shall be the total area of the building elevation on to which the sign is to be mounted.
- (3) **Sign area determination.** The area of each sign, regardless of shape, shall be computed by determining the area of a triangle, rectangle or circle which completely encloses the outer perimeter of the sign face exclusive of the structural supports but inclusive of architectural features, or which completely encloses the whole group of characters or words in the case of a sign composed of characters or words attached directly to a building or an appurtenance to a building.
- (4) **Sign height determination.** The maximum height of a sign shall be measured from the established grade of the ground on which the sign is erected to the highest point of the sign. In the case where a minimum height is established, the minimum height shall be measured from the established grade of the ground on which the sign is erected to the highest point of the sign face.

(b) **Locational requirements.**

- (1) Except in the Downtown sign district, no off premise sign, canopy, free-standing or monument sign which is over two-and-one-half feet above grade shall be located within a triangular area at street intersections, where the triangle is measured from the intersection of right-of-way lines and its sides are 60 feet in length along arterial streets, 40 feet in length along collector streets, and 20 feet in length along local streets except if the sign is 10 feet or more above grade with its single support structure being one foot wide or less.
- (2) Except in the Downtown sign district, no off premise sign, canopy, free-standing or monument sign which is over two-and-one-half feet above grade shall be located within a triangular area where an alley or private drive intersects a street where the triangle is measured from the intersection of street right-of-way line and edge of the alley or drive and its sides are 70 feet in length along the right-of-way line and eight feet along the alley or drive edge except if the sign is 10 feet or more above grade with its single support structure being one foot wide or less.
- (3) No part of a monument sign or freestanding sign support shall be located within five feet of any lot line and no part of any other sign or sign support shall overhang any lot lines except for signs projecting over right-of-way lines as hereinbefore permitted in the Downtown sign district.
- (4) No sign shall obstruct ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
- (5) Building signs maybe located on any building wall.

(c) **Requirements for illuminated signs.** Illuminated signs shall conform to the following requirements:

- (1) All permitted signs may be internally or externally illuminated. Those signs permitted in the Residential Sign District or residentially zoned lots may only

- be illuminated with white light.
- (2) All types of artificial light sources used to illuminate a sign face which are not shaded or concealed so that the light will not interfere with the vision of motor vehicle operators or shine directly on residential property in any Residential Sign District or residentially zoned area, and illumination which flashes or simulates movement, shall be prohibited.
  - (3) No sign may be of such intensity or brilliance as to impair the vision of a motor vehicle driver or to otherwise interfere with the driver's operation of a motor vehicle.
  - (4) No sign may be of such intensity or brilliance that it interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, device or signal.
  - (5) These signs must be equipped with a mechanism that automatically adjusts the brightness to maintain compliance with the illumination standards of this subdivision (c).
  - (6) These signs must be equipped with a means to immediately turn off the display or lighting if it malfunctions and/or poses a threat to public safety. The owner of these signs must immediately turn off the sign and/or lighting when ordered to do so by the City if the sign cannot be immediately adjusted to comply with the illuminated sign standards set forth in these regulations or it otherwise poses a threat to public safety.
  - (7) Illuminated signs must adhere to the following standards listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: These are the Maximum Luminance Standards for daytime hours and are measured in nits (one candela per square meter (1 cd/m<sup>2</sup>). During the time between the First Sunday in November through the Second Sunday in March the standard daytime hours are 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. During the time between the Second Sunday in March through the First Sunday in November the standard daytime hours are 6 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. (Times based on information provided by the Astronomical Application Department of the U.S. Naval Observatory)

<b>Daytime Maximum Nits by Sign District</b>			
Ag and Residential	Mixed Neighborhood	Mixed Urban and Manufacturing	Commercial Arterial, Commercial Highway, and Downtown
100	600	800 (600 in inclement weather, such as fog, rain, or snow)	1000 (600 in inclement weather, such as fog, rain, or snow)

Table 2: These are the Maximum Luminance Standards for nighttime hours and are measured in nits (one candela per square meter (1 cd/m<sup>2</sup>). During the time between the First Sunday in November through the Second Sunday in March the standard nighttime hours are 6 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. During the time between the Second Sunday in March through the First Sunday in

November the standard nighttime hours are 7:30 p.m. until 6 a.m. (Times based on information provided by the Astronomical Application Department of the U.S. Naval Observatory)

<b>Nighttime Maximum Nits by Sign District</b>			
Ag and Residential	Mixed Neighborhood	Mixed Urban and Manufacturing	Commercial Arterial, Commercial Highway, and Downtown
30	200	200	500 (200 in inclement weather, such as fog, rain, or snow)

(d) **Non-conforming status.**

- (1) All signs, which are not obsolete and which are or become non-conforming by adoption of these regulations, shall be permitted to remain as non-conforming signs.
- (2) Non-conforming signs that are obsolete, being signs on which the copy face no longer contains advertising material or is not used for advertising purposes, the business is no longer at that location, the event has past, or the sign is illegible, must be removed after a 365 consecutive day period of obsolescence. The following process will be adhered to for such non-conforming signs:
  - A. Notice to be sent to property owner notifying them that their sign has 365 days to become conforming.
  - B. Notice to be sent to property owner notifying them that their sign has 90 days to become conforming.
  - C. Notice to be sent to property owner notifying them that their sign has 30 days to become conforming.
  - D. Notice to be sent to property owner on the 366<sup>th</sup> day with a scheduled date of demolition to be paid for by the property owner.
- (3) Owners of non-conforming signs shall be required to comply with the maintenance provisions of Section 1155.09. Any change or alteration to a non-conforming sign shall require compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.
- (4) Owners of non-conforming single-faced off-premises billboard signs may double-face such structure (up to 300 square feet) by one square foot for every two square feet of lawfully existing non-conforming off-premises billboard sign area (in applicant's ownership) removed from the City of Springfield.

(e) **Signs for nonconforming uses.** Refer to Section 1171.02(b)(3).

(f) **Historic and Cultural sign provisions.** The following signs shall be regulated in accordance with the criteria indicated:

- (1) Historic signs, signs for historic structures and signs on structures in historic districts. The Board of Zoning Appeals may, by conditional use, allow signs

which do not conform to the provisions of this Chapter under the circumstances described below. All applications for special exceptions in a Historic District shall be referred to the Historic Landmarks Commission for review and comment before and after the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing, and shall be subject to the specific standards listed below and to the general standards of Section 1172.05

- A. For buildings placed on the National Register of Historic Places or located in an OHP district, signage which does not conform with the provisions of this chapter may be allowed if it is in keeping with the architectural character of the structure, and is appropriate to a particular period in the building's history or an integral part of its identity.
  - B. The Board may exempt a proposed or an existing sign from the provisions of Subsection 1155.07(f)(1)A if it can be demonstrated that said sign makes a significant artistic or historic contribution to the community or neighborhood in which the sign is located.
- (2) Drive-thru menu displays. The portion of the sign face of a drive-thru menu display on which items for sale and their prices are listed shall not be included in calculating the number of square feet of signage in applying maximum signage allowance specified in each sign district; provided that such portion of the sign face of a drive-thru menu display on which items for sale and their prices are listed does not exceed 40 square feet.

(g) **Digital Dynamic Display Sign Operational Regulations.**

- (1) Digital Dynamic Display Sign (Single Color). Owners of Digital Dynamic Display Single Color Signs shall operate their sign in conformance with the following regulations:
- A. Shall comply with all locational and development regulations in tables located in section 1155.06.
  - B. These signs shall be operated so that the sign message remains constant for a period of at least eight seconds before changing to another sign message.
  - C. These signs shall not have continual motion.
  - D. The images and messages displayed must be static, and the transition from one static display to another must be instantaneous without any special effects.
    - i. There shall be no left and right flow of messages
    - ii. No up and down scrolling or otherwise traveling
    - iii. No moving or flashing of images displayed on the sign
    - iv. No cross fade with simultaneous dissolve and appearance of sign messages.
  - E. Each sign shall be operated in conformance with the illuminated sign standards in section 1155.07(c).
  - F. Digital Dynamic Display Single Color Signs shall use automatic level controls to reduce light levels at night and under cloudy and other darkened conditions, in accordance with the following:

- i. All Digital Dynamic Display signs shall have installed equipment that will automatically adjust luminance based on time of day in order to be compliant with this Ordinance.
  - ii. These signs must be equipped with a means to immediately turn off the display or lighting if it malfunctions and/or poses a threat to public safety, such as fails or ceases to operate in its usual or normal programmed manner, causing motion, movement, flashing or any similar effects.
  - iii. The owner of these signs must immediately turn off the sign and/or lighting when ordered to do so by the City when the City has determined that it is not complying with the illuminated sign standards set forth in these regulations or it otherwise poses a threat to public safety, if the sign cannot be immediately adjusted to comply with the illuminated sign standards set forth in these regulations and cease to pose a threat to public safety. A malfunctioning sign or a sign not in compliance with these operational standards shall remain turned off until it may be restored to operate in conformity to the requirements of this ordinance.
  - iv. Written certification and photometric plan from the sign manufacturer or a professional engineer must be provided at the time of application for a sign permit certifying that the light intensity of the sign has been preset not to exceed the illumination levels established by this Ordinance, and an affidavit signed by the owner that the preset intensity level will not be increased in excess of standards set forth in section 1155.07(c).
  - v. A copy of the operations manual must be submitted with sign permit application.
- (2) Digital Dynamic Display Sign (Multiple Color). Owners of Digital Dynamic Display Multi-Color Signs shall operate their sign in conformance with the following regulations:
- A. Shall comply with all locational and development regulations in tables located in Section 1155.06.
  - B. These signs shall not have continual motion.
  - C. The images and messages displayed must be static, and the transition from one static display to another must be instantaneous without any special effects.
    - i. There shall be no left and right flow of messages
    - ii. No up and down scrolling or otherwise traveling
    - iii. No moving or flashing of images displayed on the sign
    - iv. No cross fade with simultaneous dissolve and appearance of sign messages.
  - D. Each sign shall be operated in conformance with the illuminated sign standards in section 1155.07(c).
  - E. Image transition timing requirements:
    - i. Commercial Highway Sign District: All signs shall be operated so that

- the sign message remains static for a period of eight seconds before changing to another sign message.
- ii. Commercial Arterial Sign District: All signs shall be operated so that the sign message remains static for a period of 12 seconds before changing to another sign message.
  - iii. Downtown Sign District: All signs shall be operated so that the sign message remains static for a period of 15 seconds before changing to another sign message.
  - iv. Mixed Urban Sign District: All signs shall be operated so that the sign message remains static for a period of 15 seconds before changing to another sign message.
  - v. Mixed Neighborhood: Sign District: All signs shall be operated so that the sign message remains static for a period of 20 seconds before changing to another sign message.
  - vi. Manufacturing Sign District: All signs shall be operated so that the sign message remains static for a period of 20 seconds before changing to another sign message.
- F. Digital Dynamic Display Multiple Color Signs shall use automatic level controls to reduce light levels at night and under cloudy and other darkened conditions, in accordance with the following:
- i. All Digital Dynamic Display signs shall have installed equipment that will automatically adjust luminance based on time of day in order to be compliant with this Ordinance.
  - ii. These signs must be equipped with a means to immediately turn off the display or lighting if it malfunctions and/or poses a threat to public safety, such as fails or ceases to operate in its usual or normal programmed manner, causing motion, movement, flashing or any similar effects.
  - iii. The owner of these signs must immediately turn off the sign and/or lighting when ordered to do so by the City when the City has determined that it is not complying with the illuminated sign standards set forth in these regulations or it otherwise poses a threat to public safety, if the sign cannot be immediately adjusted to comply with the illuminated sign standards set forth in these regulations and cease to pose a threat to public safety. A malfunctioning sign or a sign not in compliance with these operational standards shall remain turned off until it may be restored to operate in conformity to the requirements of this ordinance.
  - iv. Written certification and photometric plan from the sign manufacturer or a professional engineer must be provided at the time of application for a sign permit certifying that the light intensity of the sign has been preset not to exceed the illumination levels established by this Ordinance, and an affidavit signed by the owner that the preset intensity level will not be increased in excess of standards set forth in Section 1155.07(c).

- v. A copy of the operations manual must be submitted with sign permit application.
- G. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall have power and original jurisdiction to hear and decide applications for a conditional use permit to allow Digital Dynamic Display Multiple Color Signs in Commercial Arterial, Mixed Neighborhood, Mixed Urban, Downtown, and Manufacturing Sign Districts. In determining whether to issue a conditional use permit, the Board of Zoning Appeals shall review the facts and circumstances of each proposed conditional use and apply the provisions of Subdivisions 1172.05 (c) through (e) of the Zoning Code and the following standards:
- i. Longitudinal Location. Digital Dynamic Display Multiple color Signs should not be erected in locations that already place high demands upon driver attention, such as intersections, interchange entry and exit points, channelization features, close proximity to traffic control devices (including official route markings and directional signing), highway structures (bridges, viaducts, overpasses), and other roadway features which require a high level of attention to the driving task (by way of example, sharp curves, land drops, “weaving” areas, areas of reduced sight distance).
  - ii. Spacing and Density. This refers to the number of digital signs that are located within a specified linear distance adjacent to the roadside areas, and how these signs affect highway traffic safety and successful delivery of informational messages to motorists. An approaching driver should not be able to see two or more Dynamic Display Multiple Color signs within his field of view at the same time. Each Sign district has a different potential detection distance that defines the distance of a driver’s field of vision. The following table lists the detection distance of each sign code district:

<b>Sign District</b>	<b>Detection Distance</b>
Commercial Highway Sign District	1,200 ft +
Commercial Arterial Sign District	1,000 ft +
Mixed Neighborhood Sign District	800 ft +
Mixed Urban Sign District	500 ft +
Downtown Sign District	300 ft +
Residential Sign Districts	400 ft +
Manufacturing Sign District	500 ft +
Agricultural Sign District	NA

- iii. Lateral Location. In determining conditions to impose on the distance that Digital Display Multiple Color Signs are set back from the highway, measured in distance from the edge of the main traveled way or the angle of a Digital Display Multiple Color Sign on which the messages are displayed relative to the line of sight of motorists on the adjacent highway. Dynamic Display Multiple Color

Signs should be located and angled so as to reduce the need for a driver to turn their head to read them as they approaches.

- iv. Interaction with Traffic Signs. Dynamic Display Multiple Color Signs should be located so as not to be detrimentally affect the effectiveness of official traffic control devices. Dynamic Display Multiple Color Signs should not be erected in locations that distract drivers from or prevent drivers from seeing traffic control information (i.e. road markings, traffic signs and traffic signals) in roadway settings where drivers must make decision and take actions.
- v. Compatibility with Ambient Environment: Dynamic Display Multiple Color Signs should not be located where they will create a harsh visual contrast with the ambient environment where they will not be harmonious and appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity or where they will change the essential character of the area.

(Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

#### **1155.08 LICENSE AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) **License required.** Except for those signs not requiring a permit, as listed in Section 1155.03, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, alter, move, improve, remove or convert any sign without having a general contractors license in good standing issued by the City according to the provisions of Chapter 1327 of Part 13 of the *Codified Ordinances of Springfield, Ohio*, unless it is the owner of the business when the sign is being installed by that owner.

(b) **Permit required.** No sign requiring a permit shall be erected, altered, moved, improved or converted without first obtaining a sign permit from the Community Development Director or his/her designee and making payment of the required permit fee. In addition, an electrical permit for all illuminated signs shall be obtained.

(c) **Permit fees.** Every applicant, before being issued a sign permit, shall pay to the City such fee as shall be established. However, any person found to be erecting, altering, moving, improving or converting any sign prior to the issuance of a permit, or who has erected, altered, moved, improved or converted a sign prior to the issuance of a permit, shall be charged double the normal fee. The payment of such double fee shall not relieve any person from fully complying with the requirements of these regulations in the execution of the work, nor from any other penalties.

(d) **Permits for illuminated signs.** Applications for signs in which electrical wiring and connections are to be used, shall be submitted to the Building Official or his/her designee. The Building Official or his/her designee shall examine the plans and specifications for all wiring and connections to determine if they comply with the Electrical Code.

- (e) **Temporary Sign Permits.** The Community Development Director or his/her designee may issue Temporary Sign Permits, subject to the following limitations:
- (1) No temporary sign shall be permitted if displaying the sign will be injurious to

or contrary to the purposes to be accomplished by Chapter 1155 Sign Requirements.

- (2) If the temporary sign is not firmly attached to the ground or to a building, the temporary sign shall be constructed so as to be able to withstand a wind pressure of not less than 80 miles per hour without falling over or blowing away.
- (3) No sign shall be displayed for more than thirty (30) consecutive days.
- (4) No more than six (6) Temporary Sign Permits shall be issued to any one occupied unit within any one (1) calendar year.
- (5) No more than one Temporary Sign permit shall be issued to any one occupied unit for display of a temporary sign during any one time.
- (6) No more than one (1) temporary sign shall be displayed for every 100 linear feet of frontage in a commercial development.
- (7) Signs shall not be located closer than 10 feet from the property line or lease line for the address separating such address from the adjacent address.
- (8) Additional signage or exceptions to these regulations may be requested through a conditional use permit application to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- (9) A minimum time period of fourteen (14) consecutive days in which no temporary signage is displayed must elapse between the removal and placement of any subsequent temporary signage.
- (10) Expired and non-permitted temporary signs are to be defined and treated as 'rubbish' pursuant to Chapter 1323 of Part 13 of the *Codified Ordinances of Springfield, Ohio*, for the purposes of removal by the City.

(f) **Applications.** Application for a sign permit shall be made upon a form provided by the Community Development Director or his/her designee and shall contain and have attached thereto a plot plan with the following information; unless the Community Development Director or his/her designee determines that one or more of the following items is not need for a particular application:

- (1) Name, address, telephone number and license number (when applicable) of the applicant and owner.
- (2) Location of the sign and of the building, structure or lot on which the sign is to be attached or erected. The plot plan for free standing or monument signs shall include existing driveways and the signs setback from such driveways and the lot lines.
- (3) Two blueprints or drawings of the plans and specifications of the sign with dimensions, notation of materials, the type of construction and method of attachment to the ground or building.
- (4) Copy of stress sheets and calculations showing the structure is designed in accordance with the Building Code when required by the building Code.
- (5) An application for an electrical permit for signs using electricity.
- (6) Such other information as may be required.

(g) **Permit issued.** Upon the filing of an application for a sign permit, it shall be the duty of the Community Development Director or his designee to examine such application. If the

proposed sign is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and all other laws and ordinances of the City or State, the sign permit shall then be issued.

(h) **Permit expiration.** If the work authorized under a sign permit has not been completed within six months after the date of issuance, said permit shall become null and void. Temporary Sign Permits shall contain an expiration date which shall not be more than 30 days after the issuance date of the permit.

(Ord. No. 10-242. Passed 8-3-10.)

### **1155.09 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND ABANDONMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) **Construction.** All signs that require a permit except temporary signs shall be designed and constructed to withstand a wind pressure of not less than that required by the Building Code. Applications for such signs shall be submitted to the Building Official or his/her designee. The Building Official or his/her designee shall examine the plans and specifications to determine if they comply with the Building Code. In addition to the foregoing construction requirements:

- (1) All banners, where permitted, shall be securely fastened on all four corners to an immovable object.
- (2) The sign face of a canopy sign shall not extend beyond the canopy surface more than six inches.
- (3) A fascia sign shall not extend more than one foot out from the vertical wall to which it is attached nor more than one foot out at the sign's closest point from non-vertical wall to which it is attached.
- (4) All free standing signs shall be securely fastened to the ground.

(b) **Maintenance.** All signs shall be maintained in such a manner as to avoid becoming a hazardous sign. All signs regulated by this chapter shall be maintained in such a condition so that the sign face and the sign supporting structure is safe and in compliance with the regulations adopted in Chapter 1305 of the Codified Ordinances. All signs shall be maintained by repairing or replacing surfaces which are severely weathered, severely faded, torn, flaking or chipping, or have streaked or running characters or graphics. At such time that maintenance is performed, no change in the existing sign shall occur to alter the sign to make the sign nonconforming or nonconforming to any greater degree than at the time of adoption of this code.

(c) **Removal.** In accordance with the following procedure, the Building Official or his/her designee shall be authorized to require the removal of any prohibited sign. The Building Official shall use the procedure specified in Chapters 1323 and 1324 of the Codified Ordinances for notifying a property owner or sign owner to remove such prohibited sign.

(d) **Sign Abandonment.** The following signs shall be regulated in accordance with the criteria indicated: Abandoned signs are prohibited and shall be removed by the sign owner immediately upon becoming an abandoned sign.