

ARTICLE - 12

SIGNAGE

Section 1200 Intent

The regulations set forth in this Resolution pertaining to signs are intended to:

- A. Encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication for businesses, organizations, and individuals in Etna Township;
- B. Maintain and enhance the aesthetic and natural environment in the Township;
- C. Provide a means of way-finding in the community, thus reducing traffic confusion and congestion;
- D. Provide for adequate business identification, advertising, and communication;
- E. Prohibit signs of such excessive size and number that they obscure one another to the detriment of the economic and social well-being of the Township;
- F. Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by minimizing the hazards to pedestrian and vehicular traffic;
- G. Differentiate among those signs that, because of their location, may distract drivers on public streets or rights-of-way and those that may provide information to them while they remain in their cars but out of active traffic;
- H. Minimize the possible adverse effects of signs on nearby public and private property;
- I. Prohibit most signs with commercial messages in residential zoning districts, while allowing those commercial messages that relate to commercial activities lawfully conducted on individual properties within such districts; and
- J. Provide broadly for the expression of individual opinions through the use of signs on private property.

Section 1201 Applicability

- A. The regulations contained within this article shall apply to all signs and to all zoning districts.
- B. Unless otherwise provided by this article, all signs shall require a zoning permit and a payment of fees. No zoning permit is required for the maintenance of a sign or for a change of copy on existing legal signs, provided the change of copy does not alter the size, dimensions, height, or location of the sign. A zoning permit will be required if a sign without electronic message center technology is altered to include electronic message center technology.

Section 1202 Compliance Required

- A. It shall hereafter be unlawful for any person to erect, place, or maintain a sign in the Township except in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.
- B. All wiring, fittings, and materials used in the construction, connection and operation of electrically illuminated signs shall be in accordance with the provisions of the local, state, or National Electric Code in effect.
- C. No sign of any classification shall be installed, erected, or attached to a structure in any form, shape, or manner that is in violation of Licking County's or Ohio's building or fire codes.
- D. All signs shall comply with the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the erection and control of outdoor advertising.

Section 1203 Computations

The following principles shall control the computation of sign area and sign height.

- A. The area of a sign face, which is also the sign area of a wall sign or other sign with only one face, shall be computed by means of the smallest quadrilateral that shall encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color that is an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from backdrop or structure against which it is placed. This does not include any supporting framework, bracing, or decorative fence or wall when such fence or wall otherwise meets Zoning Resolution regulations and is clearly incidental to the display itself. See Figure 12A.
- B. The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign.
- C. The sign area for a sign with more than one face (multi-faced signs) shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point.

- D. When two identical sign faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any one point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than 24 inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the faces.
- E. The Etna Township Zoning Inspector shall review all sign proposals and verify height and area computations prior to issuing a permit of compliance.



Figure 12A - Measurement of sign area.

Section 1204 Prohibited Signs

All signs, except those expressly permitted under this article or exempt from regulation under the Section 1205 (Signs Partially Exempt from this article), are prohibited in the Township. Such signs include, but are not limited to:

- A. Signs in any public right-of-way except:
 1. Signs owned by the Township, a governmental entity adjacent to the Township, Licking County, State of Ohio, or the federal government;
 2. Signs installed by public utilities in their rights-of-way or on their facilities and bearing no commercial message other than such message necessary to identify the use;
 3. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in Licking County, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route.
- B. Abandoned Signs
 1. Any sign now or hereafter existing that no longer advertises a bona fide business or a product sold for a period of two years shall be deemed abandoned.
 2. Such a sign, and the sign's structural framework, shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure upon which the sign may be found within 30 days after notification to the owner from the Zoning Inspector.
 3. All signs shall be in conformance with Subsection 1206.C (Maintenance of Signs).
- C. Any signs which by reason of its size, shape, location, content, coloring or manner of illumination:
 1. Constitute a traffic hazard or a detriment to traffic safety by obstructing the vision of drivers or by obstructing or detracting from the visibility of any official traffic sign or control device on public streets and roads.
 2. May be confused with a traffic control sign, signal or device or the light of an emergency or road equipment vehicle.
 3. Cause glare or reflection which might constitute a nuisance upon any sidewalk or adjacent properties.
- D. Signs which obstruct free ingress and egress from a required door, window, fire escape, or other required exit way;
- E. Beacons and searchlights except as needed by emergency medical services, police, fire, or other emergency purposes or as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
- F. Any sign that contains or consists of strings of lights, flags, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or other similar moving devices for the purpose of commercial advertising or attracting attention for commercial purposes;
- G. Signs that consist of or are illuminated by lights that move, revolve, or flash are prohibited in all districts;
- H. Air activated graphics or balloons bearing a message except where otherwise permitted as temporary signs;

- I. Any sign, which rotates, revolves, or otherwise moves unless otherwise expressly permitted under this article;
- J. Signs placed on vehicles or trailers that are parked or located for the primary purpose of displaying such signs. This does not apply to non-commercial speech signs, or lettering on vehicles operating during the normal course of business;
- K. Signs imitating or resembling official traffic or governmental signs or signals;
- L. Portable or daisy signs, unless permitted elsewhere in this article.
- M. Signs which are sexually-oriented, explicit, obscene, suggestive, or convey visual information that may be prohibited under the obscenity statutes of Ohio;
- N. Signs attached to, painted to, or drawn upon any utility pole, fence, bench, trash receptacle, vending machine, tree, rock, or other natural feature unless otherwise expressly permitted under this article;
- O. Window signs in any district which covers more than 50 percent of total window area to allow police and emergency service personnel safe visibility into the building;
- P. Exterior Neon signs;
- Q. Graffiti;
- R. Roof signs;
- S. Signs accompanied by audio or music.

Section 1205 Signs Partially Exempt from this Article

A. Scope of Partial Exemption

1. Signs listed in this section shall be exempt from all regulations within this article including the zoning permit requirements of this article but shall, to the maximum extent allowed by law, be subject to the standards within Section 1204 of this article.
2. Where a sign is erected pursuant to a statute or a court order, the sign may exceed the size standards of this article or otherwise deviate from the standards set forth in this article to the extent that the statute or court order expressly required the larger size or other deviation.
3. Any sign exceeding the limitations within Subsection 1205.B.9 - 1205.B.12 shall not be permitted unless provided for elsewhere in this Article.

B. Applicability

The following sign types and changes shall be exempted from all regulations within this article including the zoning permit requirements but, to the maximum extent allowed by law, shall be in conformance with Section 1204 of this article:

1. Signs bearing no commercial message and installed by employees or officials of a township, city, county, state or federal agency in the course of their governmental duties;
2. Other signs directing and guiding traffic or parking and bearing no commercial message, but may include a company logo;
3. Signs required by a state or federal statute;
4. Signs required by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
5. Signs installed by public utilities in their rights-of-way or on their facilities and bearing no commercial message other than such message is necessary to identify the use;
6. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in Licking County, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route;
7. Flags, emblems and insignias of national, state or local political subdivisions or any other non-commercial flags;
8. Commemorative plaques placed by recognized historical agencies; such a sign shall bear no commercial message unless it meets all of the standards for a sign bearing a commercial message at that location;
9. Signs that do not exceed eight square feet in sign area and six feet in height that give notice of Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs being in effect;
10. Name and/or address descriptions mounted to the front wall of a building or to a lamppost in the front yard not to exceed four square feet in sign area and not to exceed one sign per home or business;
11. Directional freestanding signs not to exceed two signs per driveway indicating entrance and exit locations with a maximum permitted sign area of three square feet and a maximum height of four feet;
12. Interior window signs not to exceed 50% of the window surface for the purposes of fire and police protection.

13. Agricultural signs that are located on a lot equal to or greater than 5 acres when the use of the sign relates directly and immediately to the use of agricultural purposes on the lot on which the sign is located.
14. Signs used for farm markets, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 519.21(C). This exemption for farm market signs does not apply to setbacks, size, and height requirements.

Section 1206 Administration and Enforcement

A. Removal of Signs

1. If a violation of this article exists, the Zoning Inspector shall prepare and serve upon the property owner and occupant, if applicable, a notice which describes the sign and specifies the violation involved. This notice shall require that a permanent sign be removed or the violation corrected within the next ten days or that a temporary sign shall be removed or the violation corrected within 24 hours. If no emergency exists and the notice is not complied with, the Zoning Inspector will institute legal proceedings for removal of the sign and for a possible violation of the Zoning Resolution pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.
2. All notices issued by a Zoning Inspector may be served by certified mail or delivery to the property owner, current occupant, or to a person temporarily or permanently in charge of the establishment or the sign owner in the case of temporary signs. Any time periods provided in this section shall be deemed to commence on the date of the service of the notice.

B. Maintenance of Signs

1. All signs as herein permitted shall be constructed and maintained and illuminated in a safe manner, comply with applicable codes and kept in good repair.
 - a) Exposed surfaces shall be clean, free from debris, and painted, if paint is required.
 - b) Defective, missing, or damaged parts shall be replaced.
 - c) The Zoning Inspector shall have the right to order the repair or removal of any sign that is defective, damaged, or substantially deteriorated. Such sign shall be repaired or removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the sign within 30 days after notification to the owner from the Zoning Inspector.
2. Signs shall not be constructed, maintained, and/or illuminated in such a manner as to create or allow an obstruction of vision to drivers, pedestrians, or the general public, or create a fire or safety hazard. Signs shall be subject to the Clear Sight Triangle regulations within Section 1607.

- C.** Failure to comply with any of the provisions of the article shall be deemed a violation and shall be punishable under Section 311 of this resolution.

Section 1207 General Sign Standards

Every sign shall be designed, erected, altered, reconstructed, moved and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this section unless specifically modified by another section of Article 12 (Signage).

A. Changeable Copy & Electronic Message Center Area

1. Permanent, on-premises signs may incorporate up to 50% of the total sign area of each proposed sign for changeable copy and/or electronic message center signs.
2. Permanent, off-premises signs may incorporate up to 100% of the total sign area of each proposed sign for changeable copy and/or electronic message center signs.
3. Temporary Signs may incorporate up to 100% of the total sign area of each proposed sign for changeable copy and/or electronic message center signs. If electronic message center signage is used as a temporary sign, only one message shall be displayed, and there shall be no changing of the message. Also see subsections 1207.E & 1207.F as well as Section 1210.

B. Dangerous or Defective Signs Not Permitted

A sign in dangerous or defective condition shall not be permitted on any premises. Any such sign constitutes a nuisance and shall be removed or repaired as required under Section 1206 (Administration and Enforcement).

C. Landscaping Required for Permanent Freestanding On-Premises Signs

A permanent freestanding on-premises sign shall require a single continuous landscaped area to be maintained around the base of the sign in accordance with the following standards:

1. The minimum landscaped area shall be equal to the total sign area of the sign.
2. The base of the sign shall be completely surrounded by landscaping.

3. The landscaped area shall include two or more of the following plant materials: shrubs, trees, grass, flowers, mulch, and/or decorative stone permanently located and properly maintained with dead vegetation replaced as soon as weather permits. The use of exposed concrete, asphalt or any other paved surface inside the required landscaped area beneath the sign is prohibited.

D. Special Yard Provisions

Permanent on-premises signs, where permitted, shall be erected or placed in conformity with the side and rear yard requirements of the district in which located, except that in any Residential District on-premises signs shall not be erected or placed within twenty (20) feet of a side or rear lot line.

E. Brightness

1. Any illuminated sign or lighting device shall employ a light emitting constant intensity/brightness.
2. No sign shall exceed a brightness level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light as measured using a foot candle (Lux) meter at a preset distance depending on a sign area, measured as follows:

The measurement distance shall be calculated with the following formula: The square root of the product of the sign area multiplied by one hundred. The measurement distance will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

Example using a 12 sq. ft. sign: $\sqrt{(12 \text{ Sq. Ft.} \times 100)} = 34.6 = \text{Measurement Distance of 35 feet}$

3. No sign shall exceed an illumination level of 5000 nits during daylight hours (a half hour before sunrise until a half-hour after sunset) nor a level of 500 nits during nighttime hours (a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise).

F. Electronic Message Centers

Electronic message center signs shall be permitted as follows:

1. On-premises electronic message center signs shall only be permitted in commercial and industrial zoning districts, by right.
2. Off-premises electronic message center signs shall be permitted in accordance with any other permanent off-premises signage as regulated in Section 1211.
3. Electronic message center signs shall display static images only. Such static images shall hold on the display face for a minimum period of ten seconds before instantaneously transitioning to another static image.
4. Transitions from one static image to the next on such signs shall appear instantaneously without the appearance of flashing, blinking, fading, or movement of any kind.
5. Such signs shall come equipped with automatic dimming technology which automatically adjusts the sign's brightness in direct correlation with natural ambient light conditions and continually keeps the sign in conformance with the regulations within sub-section 1207.E.2.
6. Each sign message shall be complete in itself and shall not continue on a subsequent sign message.
7. Each sign must be equipped with a default mechanism which will cause the sign to revert immediately to a black screen if the sign malfunctions.
8. Prior to the issuance of a zoning permit, the applicant shall submit a signed certification from the sign manufacturer that the sign is factory pre-set to comply as a default mechanism with the 0.3 foot candles above ambient light requirements within subsections 1207.E.2 & 1207.F.5. The certification shall also state that the sign is equipped with the ability to comply with all other applicable standards of this article.
9. The applicant shall also provide a signed letter from the sign owner and person operating the display, if the operator is not the sign owner, stating that they have read and understand the regulations within Article 12 and that they will operate the sign in compliance with the signage requirements and that the owner or operator shall provide proof of such compliance upon request by the Township.

G. External Lighting

Any sign which is lit by external lighting shall be required to use fully shielded fixtures so as to only allow the light to be directed onto the sign area it is intended.

H. Sign Construction and Installation

All signs shall be constructed of durable materials, anchored to the ground or structure as permitted by the regulations herein. Such signs shall also be installed and braced so that the sign will not sway, flap, or otherwise move or be blown out.

Section 1208 Permanent Signs Permitted in Agricultural and Residential Zoning Districts

The following provisions shall apply to permanent on-premises signs in agricultural and residential zoning districts.

A. Subdivision or Development Signs

A permanent freestanding sign or wall signs may be permitted for any subdivision or multi-family dwelling development provided that the signs meet the following requirements:

1. General Standards Applicable to All Subdivision or Development Signs
 - a. The signs may be permitted at each development entrance along a township, county, or state road;
 - b. The signs shall be setback 10 feet from the public right-of-way and 20 feet from any adjacent property lines;
 - c. Each sign may have a maximum sign area of 40 square feet not including any fence or wall on which the sign is located;
 - d. No sign or any portion of the structure shall exceed six feet in height;
 - e. No sign shall bear a commercial message; and
 - f. Illuminated signs shall only use external lighting sources.
2. Freestanding Signs
 - a. A maximum of one permanent freestanding sign may be permitted for each entrance.
 - b. If an applicant proposes to use a freestanding sign, no wall signs shall be permitted.
3. Wall Signs
 - a. A maximum of two wall signs may be permitted for each entrance.
 - b. The signs shall be mounted to a wall or fence.
 - c. If an applicant proposes to use a wall sign, no freestanding sign shall be permitted.

B. Signs for Public, Institutional, and Nonresidential Uses

One permanent sign may be permitted for any public, institutional, or nonresidential use provided that the sign meets the following requirements:

1. The sign shall be set back 12 feet from the public right-of-way and 20 feet from any adjacent property lines.
2. The maximum sign area shall be 32 square feet;
3. The sign may include a changeable copy sign provided that it does not comprise more than 50% of the total sign area and, if an electronic message center, shall comply with the technical specifications of Subsection 1209 (B) of this resolution;
4. No such sign or any portion of the structure shall exceed eight feet in height;
5. Except for any changeable copy or electronic message center signage, the sign may only be illuminated through external lighting.

Section 1209 Permanent Signs Permitted in Nonresidential Zoning Districts

The following provisions shall apply to permanent, on-premises signs in nonresidential districts, but shall not include the Agricultural District.

A. Automated Teller Machines

Automated Teller Machines (ATM) or similar devices either attached to a primary structure or enclosed within an independent freestanding structure shall be permitted two square feet of sign area for every one foot width of the ATM structure with a maximum total sign area of 20 square feet.

B. Electronic Message Centers

Electronic message center signs shall be permitted as follows:

1. Such signs in commercially zoned districts shall be permitted, by right, so long as such signs display static images only. Such static images shall hold on the display face for a period of ten seconds before instantaneously transitioning to another static image.
2. Transitions from one static image to the next on such signs shall appear instantaneously without the appearance of flashing, blinking, or movement of any kind.
3. Such signs shall come equipped with automatic dimming technology which automatically adjusts the sign's brightness in direct correlation with natural ambient light conditions.

C. Freestanding Signage

1. One sign shall be permitted for each commercially developed parcel.

2. Where a commercially developed parcel has street frontage in excess of 250 feet, one additional freestanding sign may be permitted provided there is a minimum of 150 feet between the signs and the sign is set back a minimum of 50 feet from any adjacent lot line.
3. The permitted aggregate sign area for freestanding signs shall be 100 square feet.
4. The maximum height of any freestanding sign shall be fifteen feet.
5. All freestanding signs shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the public right-of-way and any adjacent lot lines. All freestanding signs must comply with the Clear Sight Triangle regulations within Section 1607.
6. The signs may be internally or externally illuminated.
7. An additional display may be used for the display of fuel prices or convenience items. A maximum of two additional displays, separated by a four to six inch band, shall be permitted provided the individual display areas do not exceed 24 inches tall by 60 inches wide. The area of the additional fuel or convenience signs shall not be included in the calculation for total sign area of the business. See Figure 12.B.



Figure 12B - Illustration of permitted fuel or convenience sign display areas.

D. Major Development Signs

Signs that are accessory to permitted uses with at least 30,000 sq. ft. of commercial, institutional, recreational, multi-family, office, or industrial floor area located on one parcel, including but not limited to shopping centers, office buildings, office parks or campuses, or multi-tenant buildings shall be permitted in accordance with the following:

1. The street frontage must abut a major arterial, minor arterial or major collector roadway as determined or defined by the Licking County Subdivision Regulations.
2. The sign shall be located in a landscaped area that meets the requirements of Subsection 1207.C.
3. Freestanding Major Development signs shall comply with the limitations within Subsection 1209.C except as provided in Table 12-1 below.

Table 12-1 – Maximum Sign Area & Height for Major Development Signs		
Gross Building Square Footage	Square Feet of Sign Area	Maximum Sign Height
30,000 to 64,999 Square Feet	120	16 Feet
65,000 to 129,999 Square Feet	140	18 Feet
130,000 Square Feet or larger	160	20 Feet

4. The Major Development signs shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the public right-of-way and 100 feet from any adjacent lot lines. All Major Development signs must comply with the Clear Sight Triangle regulations within Section 1607.
5. The Major Development signs may be internally or externally illuminated.

E. Other Permitted Sign Types

In addition to ATM, Electronic Message Centers, Freestanding, and Major Development signs; awning signs, under-marquee signs, and wall signs shall be permitted in the nonresidential zoning districts based on the following provisions.

1. Total Sign Area Allowed

The maximum total sign area for all awnings, under marquee, and wall signs shall be based on a ratio of one square foot of sign area for each linear foot of building fronting on public right-of-way. Premises fronting on more than one public right-of-way shall not combine permissible sign area for two or more building frontages for the purpose of placing the combined area of the signs on one building side.

2. Permanent Awning Signs

- a.** A maximum of one awning sign shall be permitted for an individual business or establishment.
- b.** If illuminated, such awning shall be lit externally through gooseneck lighting or through other concealed lighting sources.
- c.** An awning sign shall not project higher than the top of the awning to which sign text is affixed.

3. Permanent Under-Marquee Signs

- a.** No more than one under-marquee sign is permitted for an individual business or establishment.
- b.** Signs attached to the underside of a marquee shall have a sign area no greater than four square feet.
- c.** Such signs shall have a minimum clearance of nine feet from the bottom of the sign to the immediate structure, sidewalk, or other walking surface below.
- d.** If illuminated, under marquee signs shall be lit through concealed lighting sources.

4. Permanent Wall Signs

- a.** Wall signs shall not be painted directly onto the building.
- b.** A wall sign shall not project above the top of the wall to which attached or be more than 15 feet in height, whichever is less.
- c.** A wall sign shall not project more than 18 inches from the wall of the building upon which it is mounted.
- d.** A wall sign shall be inclined from the vertical only to the extent necessary for conformity to the general contour of the wall to which the sign is mounted.
- e.** A wall sign shall not extend beyond the limits of any wall to which they are attached.
- f.** A wall sign shall not mask or interrupt a major architectural feature; such as, but not limited to, doors, windows, or trim.
- g.** A wall sign shall have hidden structural supports and shall be mounted in such a way as to not allow movement by atmospheric conditions.
- h.** If illuminated, such lighting shall not produce glare and all lighting elements, including wiring, shall be concealed from view.

5. Menu Boards

One, single-sided Menu Board shall be permitted per parcel under the following provisions:

- a.** The Menu Board is accessory to a principal permitted use.
- b.** The maximum sign area shall be 32 square feet.
- c.** The maximum sign height shall be eight feet.
- d.** The Menu Board shall be skirted to the ground and have foundation landscape plantings.
- e.** Menu Boards shall be set back a minimum of 15 feet from the street right-of-way line and any lot lines.
- f.** The sign may be internally or externally illuminated.
- g.** Such signs shall not count toward other sign area requirements in the applicable district.

Section 1210 Temporary Signs

A. General Definitions Related to Temporary Signs

1. Temporary signs shall be as defined in this Resolution and may include, but are not limited to; political signs, real estate signs, and special event signs.
2. Temporary signs with a commercial message include, but are not limited to; real estate signs, signs that reference the sale of items or other business related activities, or that include text classified as a commercial message.
3. Temporary signs that do not contain a commercial message include, but are not limited to; political signs and any other sign with text that is not classified as a commercial message.

B. Standards that Apply to All Temporary Signs

1. No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured so as to protrude above the roof of a structure.
2. No temporary sign shall be illuminated by anything other than non-reflected daylight.
3. Temporary signs shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of street pavement and shall also be located outside of any public street right-of-way.
4. Temporary signs with a commercial message are only permitted under Section 1210 as on-premises signs.
5. No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured to a fence, nor by any permanent means (i.e. nailed, screwed, bolted, glued, cemented/concreted, etc.) to any building, permanent sign, other structure or improvement, or to the ground upon which it is erected. Real Estate signs advertising properties for sale or lease are exempted from this requirement.
6. No temporary sign shall be larger than 32 square feet.
7. All temporary signs shall have a minimum setback of 10 feet from all side and rear property lines.
8. A temporary on-premises sign shall only be used by a particular business or use as an identification sign for 60 days or less.

C. Permitted Temporary Signs in an Agricultural or Residential Zoning District

This section addresses permitted temporary signs in an agricultural or residential zoning district.

1. The maximum height of temporary signs in an agricultural or residential zoning district shall be four feet unless specifically permitted under Subsection 1210.C.4 below or unless the sign is attached to an existing building or structure by non-permanent means (tied with rope or string, stapled, zip ties, etc.), in which case it may not extend above the roof line.
2. Up to two temporary signs that contain a commercial message may be permitted on an individual parcel at any one time. Such signs on said parcel shall be limited to six square feet or less in aggregate sign area. Such signs shall not require a zoning permit.
3. No zoning permit shall be required for signs that do not contain a commercial message.
4. As an accessory use to the permitted temporary commercial activity of land development, one temporary sign with a maximum sign area of 32 square feet and a maximum height of six feet may be permitted during the development of a subdivision or for the construction of a nonresidential use. Such sign shall require a zoning permit and fee and shall be removed within the following periods of time, whichever comes first:
 - a) A period not to exceed five years (A new zoning permit may be obtained for one additional 5 year period.); or
 - b) Until 20 days following the completion of construction.

D. Permitted Temporary Signs in Nonresidential Districts

This section addresses permitted temporary signs in a nonresidential zoning district.

1. Up to two temporary signs that contain a commercial message may be permitted on an individual parcel at any one time. Such signs shall be limited to twelve square feet or less in aggregate sign area. Such signs shall not require a zoning permit.
2. Temporary signs greater than twelve square feet in area or temporary signs that push a particular parcel's aggregate sign area over twelve square feet, with a commercial message, may be permitted under the following provisions:
 - a) A zoning permit shall be required for the sign;
 - b) There shall be a limit of one sign per parcel and such sign shall not exceed 32 square feet;
 - c) The sign shall not be illuminated; and

- d) A temporary sign permitted under this section may be permitted for up to a maximum period of 30 days per zoning permit. In any one calendar year, no parcel of land shall contain an erected temporary sign permitted under this section for more than 60 days. Real estate signs are exempted from this time limit regulation.
- 3. No zoning permit shall be required for signs that do not contain a commercial message.
- 4. The maximum height of temporary signs in a nonresidential zoning district shall be six feet unless attached to the structure, in which case it may not extend above the roof line.
- 5. Temporary Signs for Development/Construction
 - a) One temporary sign advertising a new development may be erected per development entrance.
 - b) Such sign shall be removed within the following periods of time, whichever comes first:
 - 1.) A period not to exceed five years (A new zoning permit may be obtained for one additional 5 year period.); or
 - 2.) Until 20 days following the completion of construction.
 - c) The sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in area.
 - d) The maximum height of the sign shall be six feet.
 - e) A zoning permit is required.
- 6. Menu Boards, sandwich Board, or similar A-frame signs may be permitted, without a zoning permit, under the following provisions:
 - a) A maximum of one sign shall be permitted for each business or establishment. This allowable sign shall be in addition to the temporary sign number limitation.
 - b) The maximum sign areas shall be six square feet with a maximum height of four feet.
 - c) The sign shall only be permitted during business hours. A minimum clearance width of four feet must be maintained for pedestrian safety if a sidewalk or service walk exists on the property.
 - d) The sign shall not be illuminated.

Section 1211 Permanent Off-Premises Signs

The following provisions shall apply to permanent, off-premises signs.

- A. Off-premises signs, including billboards, shall be classified as a business use and be permitted in all districts zoned for industry, business, or trade, or land which is used for agricultural purposes pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. No portion of any off-premises sign shall project upon or be located within fifty (50) feet of any public property or public right-of-way.
- C. As a business, off-premises signs shall be considered a principal use and shall be required to meet all setback and lot area requirements of the applicable zoning district unless otherwise required herein.
- D. Off-premises signs shall be set back a minimum of 2,000 feet from any other off-premises sign, a residential zoning district, or a platted subdivision.
- E. The maximum sign area and minimum setback shall be as follows:
 - 1. The maximum sign area for off-premises signs on land used for agricultural uses is 32 square feet with a minimum setback of fifty (50) feet from the right-of-way.
 - 2. Off-premises signs in a business, office, or industrial zoning district shall not have a sign area of more than 100 square feet. Off-premises signs in business and industrial zoning districts shall be setback a minimum of 100 feet from all right-of-ways; except as required by the Ohio Department of Transportation, which may require greater setback distances along interstate or primary highways. The maximum sign area for off-premises signs in business and industrial zoning districts may be increased to a maximum area of 300 square feet provided that for every two square feet of sign area over 100 square feet, such sign shall be setback an additional one foot from any right-of-way.
- F. No off-premises sign shall exceed 30 feet in height as measured from the grade of the ground adjacent to the off-premises sign;
- G. An off-premises sign may contain two signs oriented back-to-back or V-type with an angle not to exceed 35 degrees, provided that the total area of the sign faces oriented in any one direction shall not exceed maximum size provisions of subsection (F) above.
- H. Off-premises signs or structures shall not be located on or within one hundred (100) feet of any building, except signs painted on barns.

- I. Off-premises signs are permitted to utilize electronic message center signage per the requirements within Section 1207.

Section 1212 Non-conforming Signs

- A. Any sign lawfully existing on the effective date of an amendment to this article that does not conform to all the standards and regulations of the current Resolution shall be deemed to be legally non-conforming.
- B. A non-conforming sign shall not be replaced by another non-conforming sign except that a change of copy which does not alter the size, dimensions, height, or location of the sign shall be permitted. This shall include reimagining of a sign when there is a change in ownership or use provided that the non-conformity is not expanded. A non-conforming sign which is not an electronic message center sign shall not be permitted to add an electronic message center sign nor be replaced by an electronic message center sign without first being in complete conformance with this article.
- C. Minor repairs and maintenance of non-conforming signs, such as; repainting, electrical repairs and neon tubing repair, shall be permitted. However, no changes in the size or shape of the sign shall be permitted except to make the sign comply with the requirements of this article or to make it less non-conforming.
- D. If a non-conforming sign is completely destroyed, it shall be removed and shall not be repaired or replaced, except in conformance with this article.
- E. No such non-conforming sign may be enlarged, moved, or altered in a way, which increases its non-conformity; but any non-conforming sign, or portion thereof, may be altered to decrease its non-conformity.

Section 1213 Illegal Signs

- A. Any sign which is contrary to the requirements of this Resolution and which does not satisfy the non-conforming specifications stated in this Resolution shall be deemed an illegal sign.
- B. Signs that were illegally erected, established or maintained with respect to the applicable requirements of prior Resolutions shall be removed or brought into compliance with this sign Resolution per the requirements and procedures of Section 1206 (Administration and Enforcement).