

ARTICLE X - SIGNS

**Section 1000 – Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to permit signs that will not by reason of size, location, construction, or manner of display, endanger the public safety of individuals, confuse, mislead, or obstruct the vision necessary for traffic safety, or otherwise endanger the public health, safety, and welfare of the community; and to permit and regulate signs in such a way as to protect the significant natural visual assets of the community, create orderly, uncluttered, commercial corridors and commercial districts, and otherwise support and complement the land use objectives set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. The regulations set forth below shall apply to and govern the maintenance of existing and erection of future signs in all zoning districts in the City of Barnesville.

**Section 1010 – Definitions**

For the purposes of this Article, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

1. **Area of Sign** - the area within a continuous perimeter enclosing the limits of writing, representation, emblem, or any figure of similar character together with any frame, other material, open space, or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such sign from the background against which is placed. The sign area of painted or affixed wall signs when composed of letters only is the sum of the areas of the smallest contiguous rectangles each capable of containing one such letter.
2. **Banner** - a sign with or without characters, letter, illustrations, or ornamentations applied to cloth, paper or fabric of any kind with only such material for a backing.
3. **Business Sign** - any notice of advertisement, pictorial or otherwise, that directs attention to goods, commodities, products, services, or entertainment sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located.
4. **Changeable Copy Sign** - A sign that is erected so that characters, letters or illustrations can be changed or arranged without altering the face or surface of the sign.
5. **Construction Sign** - a sign erected and maintained on premises announcing the proposed or existing construction of a building(s) or project.
6. **Display Surface** - the area of the sign structure used for the purpose of displaying a message, also known as the "sign face".
7. **Double-faced Sign** - a sign that has two (2) display areas against each other or where the interior angle formed by the display areas is sixty (60) degrees or less, where one face is designed to be seen from one direction and the other face from another direction.
8. **Event Sign** - a sign that directs patrons, members, or audiences to temporary exhibits, shows, or events.
9. **Facade** – An exterior side of a building. The Principal Facade is the exterior wall where the primary entrance is located.

10. **Fascia Sign** – Is a wall sign that is affixed to or painted onto a flat horizontal space of a building facade which does not encroach upon or diminish any architectural element of the building.
11. **Flashing Sign** - a sign, the illumination of which is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use, and which exhibits marked changes in lighting effects. Illumination signs that indicate only the time, temperature, or date shall not be considered as flashing signs.
12. **Freestanding Sign** - a sign attached to, erected on, or supported by a structure whose primary purpose is to support a sign and which is not itself an integral part of a building or other structure. A freestanding sign shall have no more than two (2) display surfaces.
13. **Frontage, Building** - the width in linear feet of the front exterior wall of a building.
14. **Frontage, Lot** - the width in linear feet of a lot where it adjoins a street.
15. **Ground, Sign** - a free-standing sign attached to a contiguous structural base or planter box, which base or box shall be of the same width as, or greater width than, the message portion of the sign, and is permanently affixed to the ground. Ground signs do not include free-standing signs supported by poles. A ground sign shall have no more than two (2) display surfaces.
16. **Height of Sign** - the distance in vertical feet from the ground to the highest point of the sign face in accordance with Section 1060.2 below.
17. **Illuminated Sign, Direct** - a sign designed to emit light.
18. **Illuminated Sign, Indirect** - a sign illuminated by an external light source directed primarily toward such sign.
19. **Off-Premises Sign** - a sign that is not located upon the premises of the business or entity indicated or advertised by said sign. This includes products advertising in conjunction with a business entity.
20. **Non-Illuminated Sign** - a sign that is not directly or indirectly illuminated.
21. **Off-Premises Directional Light** - a sign that is not located upon the premises of the business or entity indicated on the sign and only for the purpose of directing traffic to business establishments, real-estate developments, public and private clubs, schools and other facilities. The advertising of products and/or services shall not be allowed on the sign structure.
22. **On-Premises Sign** - a sign that directs attention to anything on the same lot as the sign.
23. **Plague** - sign attached to a store front at approximately eye level, the size and shape thereof being dictated by the store front's pattern of architectural features and fenestration.
24. **Portable Sign** - a sign that is not permanently affixed, including but not limited to signs mounted or painted on vehicles that are parked in such a manner as to serve the purpose of an advertising device.
25. **Political Sign** - a sign identifying or urging voter support for a particular election issue, political party, or candidate for public office.

26. **Projecting Sign** - a sign attached to and supported by a building and extending beyond the building to which it is attached at an angle.
27. **Real Estate Sign** - a temporary sign erected by the owner, or his agent, advertising the real property upon which the sign is located for rent, lease, or for sale.
28. **Roof Signs** - a sign projecting over the coping of a flat roof; or over the ridge of a gable, hip or gambrel roof, and supported by or attached to said roof.
29. **Sign** - a device or representation for visual communication that is used for the purpose of bringing the subject thereof to the attention of others.
30. **Sign Face** - that part of a sign that is or can be used for advertising purposes.
31. **Temporary Sign** - a sign of a non-permanent nature. All such signs shall be removed within two (2) days after the purpose for which the sign is intended to advertise has been accomplished.
32. **Wall Sign** - a sign attached to or painted on a wall or building, with the exposed display surface of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of the wall to which it is attached or painted, and including signs affixed to or otherwise on or through a facade window. Wall signs include fascia signs and signs on canopies and awnings.

## **Section 1020 - Permitting Requirements**

### **1020.1 Sign Permit Required**

Except as specifically excluded from the provisions of this Article, a sign permit shall be required prior to the erection, alteration, reconstruction, or display of any sign within the City of Barnesville. Said permit shall be issued by the Building Official in accordance with these regulations and shall be issued by the Building Official only when the plans, specifications and intended use of the sign conform in all respects to the applicable provisions of this Article and the City Building Code as certified by the Building Official.

### **1020.2 Application Contents**

Sign applications shall include detailed plans, specifications, estimated cost of construction, statement of proposed use, and any other information required by this and all other provisions of this Article. Completed standard applications approved by the Building Official shall fulfill this requirement. At a minimum, all applications shall include a scale drawing specifying dimensions, materials, illumination, letter sizes, colors, support systems, and location on land or buildings, with all relevant measurements.

- (a) **Indemnification Required** - All sign applications shall contain an agreement, the form of which has been approved by the City Attorney, wherein the applicant shall indemnify the City against all damages, demands or expenses of any kind caused by the sign or sign structure.

### 1020.3 Sign Fees

No permit shall be issued until the exact dimensions, area and estimated cost of construction of the sign have been filed with the Building Official and fees have been paid as established by resolution by the Barnesville City Council.

### 1020.4 Expiration of Permit for Uncompleted Sign

A sign permit shall become null and void if the sign for which the permit was issued has not been completed within three (3) months after the date of issuance.

### 1020.5 Identification Labels

Every sign for which a permit is required shall be plainly marked with the name of the permittee, and shall have the number of the permit affixed on the framework of the sign in the lower right hand area so that it is easily seen.

### Section 1030 Signs for Which a Permit is Not Required

The signs enumerated in this section are exempt from sign permit requirements under this Article provided that such signs comply with the provisions of Section 1060 (General Requirements) below, and further provided that all signs using electrical wiring and connections shall require an electrical permit:

- (a) Official signs of a non-commercial nature and in the public interest, erected by or on the order of a government or a public officer, such as safety signs, danger signs, trespassing signs, traffic and street signs, memorial plaques, signs of historical interest, and special events sanctioned or sponsored by the local government.
- (b) Signs bearing only property identification numbers and names, post office box numbers, names of occupants of the premises on which the signs are located, or other identification or premises not of a commercial nature, provided such signs are not illuminated and do not exceed two (2) signs per zoning lot or two (2) square feet in area.
- (c) Temporary non-illuminated real estate signs pertaining only to the sale, rental, or lease of the premises on which said signs are located, provided such signs do not exceed one sign per street frontage. Said sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area per display surface for property zoned residential and shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet per display surface for property zoned non-residential. Such signs shall not be located on any public right-of-way and shall be removed within the ten (10) days after the subject lot or building is rented, leased, or sold.
- (d) Construction site identification signs whose message is limited to project name, identification of architects, engineers, contractors, and other individuals or firms involved with the construction, the name of the building, the intended purpose of the building, and the expected completion date, provided such signs do not exceed one sign per construction site and sixteen (16) square feet in area per display surface and further provided that such signs are not erected prior to issuance of a Building Permit, and are removed within seven (7) days of issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

- (e) Legal notices and official notices issued by any court, public agency, or officer.
- (f) On-site directional signs on private property establishing safe and convenient ingress, egress and internal circulation for traffic and parking, provided there are no more than 8 such signs per site; that are not illuminated or are indirectly illuminated; that such signs are no more than 3 feet in height, with no more than four (4) square feet in area per display surface. Such signs shall not advertise any business, service or product and shall not be allowed on any public right-of-way.
- (g) Before any political sign is erected, the permission of the owner and/or agent of the owner of the property upon which the sign is proposed to be erected shall be obtained. Political signs shall not be permitted or allowed on public property or right of ways.
- (h) Signs announcing yard or garage sales, provided such signs do not exceed one (1) sign per site of such sale. Such sign shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area and may be posted two (2) days prior to sale and shall be removed the day after the sale. Signs announcing yard or garage sales shall not be permitted on public property or right of ways.
- (i) Commemorative signs including tablets, plaques, cornerstones and incised names and construction dates of buildings.
- (j) Temporary signs not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area pertaining to drives or events of civic, philanthropic, educational, or religious organizations provided such signs are posted not more than three (3) days before said event and removed the day after the event. These signs shall not be permitted on public property or right of ways
- (k) Off-premises non-illuminated school, hospital, or other quasi-public signs not exceeding four (4) square feet in area; provided that no such sign shall be allowed on any public right-of-way.
- (l) Signs stating that a business other than a home occupation is open, provided that there is no more than one such sign per business establishment, and provided that such sign does not exceed two (2) square feet in display area. Direct illuminated "OPEN" signs are authorized in all commercial districts.
- (m) On-premises signs attached to the outside wall of any business establishment, in a commercial district, which are designed to identify services rendered, products sold, or activities conducted on the premises, provided that such signs shall be limited to one wall on the business establishment and further provided that the total of such signs shall not exceed one percent (1%) of the total area of the wall on which they are affixed.
- (n) On-premises no trespassing, no hunting, and similar public notice type signs less than six (6) square feet in area, provided no such signs shall be allowed on any public right-of-way.
- (o) Non-illuminating signs for Residential Business when affixed to the front wall of a residential structure announcing the operation of a permitted or approved Residential Business, provided that there shall be no more than (1) sign per Residential Business, and further provided that such sign shall not exceed 1 square foot in area per display surface

with a maximum of two (2) sign surfaces, and a maximum height not to exceed the lintel of the primary entrance of the residence.

#### **Section 1040 - Temporary Sign Permits**

Temporary event and promotional signs are allowed only in commercial districts:

- (a) Event Signs - Promotional - An on premises event or promotional sign to be attached to a building or beneath a canopy and that directs patrons, members, or audiences to temporary exhibits, shows, events, or promotions provided such sign shall not be posted any earlier than seven (7) days before the event, and shall be removed within two (2) days after the event. Commercial promotional event signs are restricted to 4 events per year per business and applicant must have current City of Barnesville business license. A promotional event permit is good for a maximum of ten (days).
- (b) Event Signs - Initial Opening or Final Closing of Businesses - On-premises temporary signs relating to the initial opening or final closing of a business of service in commercial and industrial districts only, provided that such signs shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet in area and shall not be closer than ten (10) feet to the pavement of any street or on any public right-of-way. Such signs shall be approved for a maximum period of two (2) weeks for initial opening signs and four (4) weeks for final closing signs, after which they shall be removed.

#### **Section 1050 -Prohibited Signs**

The following types of signs are prohibited:

- (a) Signs Imitating Warning Signal - No sign shall display intermittent lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicles, nor shall any sign use the words "stop", "danger", or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in a manner that might mislead or confuse any automobile or other vehicular driver.
- (b) Private Signs Within Public Street or Highway Right-of-Way or Other Public Property - No sign whatsoever, whether temporary or permanent, except traffic signs and signals and information signs erected by a public agency, are permitted within any street or highway right-of-way or on public property. No sign shall be placed so it will cause danger, either by obscuring a view, or otherwise.
- (c) Flashing Signs - No signs that flash, blink, rotate, revolve have moving parts or visible bulbs may be erected. No signs containing reflective elements that sparkle or twinkle in the sunlight and no signs that contain luminous paint that glows in the dark may be erected. Signs indicating the current time and/or temperature are permitted provided they meet all other provisions of this Article.
- (d) Obstructions - No advertising structure shall be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, or any window, or door, or openings used as a means of ingress and/or egress for firefighting purposes, or so as to prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof; no sign shall be attached in any form, shape, or manner to a fire escape or be so placed as to interfere with any opening required for legal ventilation.

- (e) Certain Attached and Painted Signs - Signs shall not be painted on or attached to trees, fence posts, light standard, telephone, telegraph or other utility poles, or rocks or other natural features.
- (f) Obscene Signs - Obscene signs are prohibited.
- (g) Portable Signs - Portable signs, designed to be transported periodically from place to place, shall not be permitted in any district.
- (h) Signs on the Property of Another - No sign shall be posted or placed on any property belonging to another without the written consent of the owner thereof.
- (i) Fluttering Ribbons and Banners - Fluttering ribbons, streamers, pennants, banners or other similar devices shall not be constructed, posted or erected in any district. Exceptions include flags and buntings exhibited to commemorate patriotic holidays, and banners announcing charitable or civic events and temporary commercial promotional events for which a permit has been issued.
- (j) Signs Near Intersections - No red, green, or yellow illuminated sign shall be permitted within three hundred (300) feet of any traffic light.
- (k) Roof Signs - Roof signs including signs painted on roofs are prohibited in all districts.
- (l) Off Premises Signs - Off Premises signs are prohibited in all districts

## **Section 1060 - General Requirements**

### **1060.1 Sign Area**

The area of a signs shall include all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs and symbols, together with any background, open or enclosed, which is part of the display itself.

- (a) Wall Signs Affixed to Buildings - The area of a sign painted or applied to a building shall include all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs or symbols. Wall signs shall consist of individual letters and/or symbols attached or painted on a surface, buildings, wall or window, and the sign area shall be considered to be the smallest rectangle or oval which encompasses all of the letters and symbols.
- (b) Double-face Signs - In computing square footage of a double-face sign, only one side shall be considered, but only if both faces are identical. In "V" type sign structures, if the interior angle exceeds forty five (45) degrees, both sides shall be added in calculating square footage.

### **1060.2 Measuring Sign Height**

The height of the sign shall be measured from the average ground level beneath the sign to the highest point of the sign. The ground level shall be the lower of the ground level existing at the time of construction or the ground level existing prior to construction and prior to any earth disturbance at the site. This prior ground level shall be established by any reliable source, including, without limitation, existing topographic maps, aerial photographs, photographs of the site, or affidavits of people who are

personally familiar with the site. No persons shall artificially increase the maximum height of a sign by altering the grade at the base of the sign by any means.

### 1060.3 Construction and Maintenance

Construction and erecting of signs shall be in accordance with the building code of the City of Barnesville. Signs together with all their supports, braces, guys, and anchors shall be constructed of durable materials, shall be kept in constant repair and shall not be permitted to become dilapidated. Unless constructed of galvanized or non-corroding metal, signs shall be given a protective coating as reasonably necessary. The area immediately in front of all freestanding signs shall be maintained free of high weeds and debris.

### 1060.4 Lighting Requirements

All signs shall adhere to the following lighting requirements:

- (a) No exposed neon tubes - No sign that has exposed neon tubes or other exposed tubes containing luminescent gas shall be used outside a building. Existing neon signs in the C-1 district are grandfathered and allowed as long as they are maintained and functioning.
- (b) No Illumination of Adjacent Properties - The light from illuminated signs shall not illuminate adjacent properties and roadways.
- (c) No Illumination Within 50 ft. of Residential Zone - No illuminated signs are allowed within fifty (50) feet of any residential district or dwelling.
- (d) No Simulation of Traffic Signals - No signs lighting shall simulate an official traffic control or warning sign, nor shall it hide from view any traffic or street sign or signal.
- (e) Exposed Wires - No sign may be erected or maintained with exposed electrical wires.
- (f) Strings of Bulbs - Strings of bulbs are not permitted, except as part of a holiday celebration. In addition, strings of clear bulbs may be permitted to decorate trees provided that such display does not interfere with neighboring land uses.
- (g) Hours of illumination - No sign shall be illuminated between the hours of 11 P.M. and 6 A.M. unless the premises on which it is located is open for business.
- (h) No Signs Hazardous to Pedestrians or Vehicles - Illumination devices shall be so placed and so filtered or shielded so that direct rays from the light source will not be cast into the eyes of a driver of a moving vehicle. Any illuminated sign or structure shall be so designed and placed as to prevent the direct light rays from being visible from any range.

### 1060.5 Removal of Signs

Any on-premises sign shall be removed by the owner within thirty (30) days after the owner vacates the premises. Obsolete signs must be removed by the property owner, developer, or former lessee of property upon which the sign is located within 30 days after receipt of written notice from the Code Enforcement Officer. A sign becomes obsolete when it conveys advertising or identification of non-existent services or uses, or when it is allowed to become dilapidated or is not maintained.



**Section 1070 - Signs Permitted in Specific Zoning Districts**

**1070.1 Generally**

Except as otherwise provided for under this Article, any sign not specifically permitted in a zoning district as provided under this section, shall be prohibited in that district.

**1070.2 Tables of Permitted Signs**

The following tables set forth the types of signs that are allowed upon issuance of a sign permit in accordance with section 1020 or 1040 above:

**Table 1 Permitted Signs in Residential and Agricultural Districts  
(A, R-1A, R-1B, R-1C, R-2, R-3)**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Number of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Maximum Display Area Per Sign</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>	<b>Setback From Right-of-Way</b>
Identification of a Permitted Non-residential Use (1)	One Wall	1 square foot	6 feet	10 feet
Real estate Signs six square Feet	One freestanding or Ground per main Entrance	6 square feet	6 feet	10 feet
Residential development Identification Signs	One freestanding or ground per main entrance	16 square feet	6 feet	10 feet (2)
Signs identifying Farm products Produced & sold On premises	One freestanding per lot	18 square feet	6 feet	10 feet

- (1) Non-residential property only. No off-premises advertising signs allowed in these districts.
- (2) In case a person desires to place a double-faced sign within a median at the entrance of the residential development, there will be no setback requirement if the Building Official determines such sign will not constitute a traffic hazard.
- (3) Off Premises signs are prohibited in this district.

**Table 2 - Permitted Signs in Downtown Commercial District  
(C1)**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Number of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Maximum Display Area for Signs</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>
Fascia Signs	One (1) Fascia sign per facade for each licensed business establishment.	Primary façade - 5% of square footage of primary wall facade. (See note #1) Buildings with additional facades (Secondary Facade) – Signage is restricted to 16 square feet in area.	Fascia Signs on multi-story buildings shall be in the lintel space which separates the lower floor from the second floor. See placement restrictions.
Canopy or Awning Signs	One (1) per facade	40% of front faces of canopy or awning. 60% of side faces.	Minimum 8 feet clearance above street, sidewalk, or ground
Window Signs	Not specifically restricted	25% of total window area of first floor or 32 square feet per establishment, whichever is greater.	Ground floor windows only.
Door Signs	2 per establishment	1.5 square feet each. Total 3 square feet maximum	n/a
Projecting Signs	1 per establishment	9 square feet	Minimum 8 feet clearance above street, sidewalk, or ground.
Special event signs			
Free Standing	1 per establishment	20 square feet	Height 10 feet

- (1) In C1 District the maximum display area for signs shall be calculated based upon the square footage of the wall façade of the first story of the building.
- (2) Off Premises signs are prohibited in this district

SEE SECTION 1070.3 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – C- 1 District

**Table 3 - Permitted Signs in C-2, C-3 Commercial Districts, and Professional District  
(C-2, C-3 & P)**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Number of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Maximum Display Area for Signs</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>
Fascia Signs	One (1) Fascia sign per facade for each licensed business establishment.	Primary façade - 5% of square footage of primary wall facade. (See note #1) Buildings with additional facades (Secondary Facade) – Signage is restricted to 16 square feet in area.	Fascia Signs on multi-story buildings shall be in the lintel space which separates the lower floor from the second floor. See placement restrictions.
Canopy or Awning Signs	One (1) per facade	40% of front faces of canopy or awning. 60% of side faces.	Minimum 8 feet clearance above street, sidewalk, or ground
Window Signs	Not specifically restricted	25% of total window area of first floor or 32 square feet per establishment, whichever is greater.	Ground floor windows only.
Door Signs	2 per establishment	1.5 square feet each. Total 3 square feet maximum	n/a
Projecting Signs	1 per establishment	9 square feet	Minimum 8 feet clearance above street, sidewalk, or ground.
Special event signs			
Free Standing	1 per establishment	20 square feet	10 feet

- (1) Messages on signs are limited to the name(s) trademark(s) and service mark(s) of the establishment(s) located on the zoning lot. No off-premises advertising signs permitted in these districts.
- (2) Projecting signs must not project more than six (6) feet from the wall.
- (3) Wall signs shall not project more than twelve (12) inches from front of building.
- (4) Plaques shall be in visual harmony with the store front to which they are attached, and the plaque shall not be used in combination with any window surface painted treatment.
- (5) Must comply with Section 1040 of this Article.
- (6) Off Premises signs are prohibited in this district.

**Table 4- Permitted Signs in Highway Commercial Districts  
(C-4)**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Number of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Maximum Display Area for Signs</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>
Fascia Signs	One (1) Fascia sign per facade for each licensed business establishment.	Primary façade - 5% of square footage of primary wall facade. (See note #1) Buildings with additional facades (Secondary Facade) – Signage is restricted to 16 square feet in area.	Fascia Signs on multi-story buildings shall be in the lintel space which separates the lower floor from the second floor. See placement restrictions.
Canopy or Awning Signs	One (1) per facade	40% of front faces of canopy or awning. 60% of side faces.	Minimum 8 feet clearance above street, sidewalk, or ground
Window Signs	Not specifically restricted	25% of total window area of first floor or 32 square feet per establishment, whichever is greater.	Ground floor windows only.
Door Signs	2 per establishment	1.5 square feet each. Total 3 square feet maximum	n/a
Projecting Signs	1 per establishment	9 square feet	Minimum 8 feet clearance above street, sidewalk, or ground.
Special event signs			
Free Standing	1 per access drive	48 square feet	15 feet

- (1) Messages on signs are limited to the name(s) trademark(s) and service mark(s) of the establishments located on the zoning lot. Gasoline stations may have one additional on-premises sign displaying the brand of gasoline sold at the gasoline station; provided that the sign is no larger than forty-eight (48) square feet in area and no greater than 10 feet in height. Off-premises advertising signs are allowed only in accordance with footnote (4) below.
- (2) Wall signs shall not project more than twelve (12) inches from front of building.
- (3) Must comply with Section 1040 of this Article.
- (4) Off-premises signs are prohibited in this district.

**Table 5 - Permitted Signs in Industrial & Manufacturing District  
(I)**

<b>Type of Sign</b>	<b>Number of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Maximum Display Area Per Sign</b>	<b>Maximum Height</b>	<b>Setback from Right-Of-Way</b>
Development Identification signs (1)	1 ground sign at each access point	By Permit of City Council	By Permit of City Council	By Permit of City Council
Non—Residential building identification signs (2)	One wall sign per building	Five percent of the square footage of the front of the building up to a maximum of forty square feet	No higher than the top of the wall	
Identification signs for individual non-residential establishments (3)	One wall sign per business	15 square feet	No higher than the top of the wall	

- (1) Messages on signs are limited to the name(s), trademark(s), and service(s) of the establishment(s) located on the zoning lot. Gasoline stations may have one additional on-premises sign displaying the brand of gasoline sold at the gasoline station; provided that the sign is no larger than forty-eight (48) square feet in area and no greater than 10 feet in height. Off-premises advertising signs are allowed only in accordance with footnote (4) below.
- (2) Wall signs shall not project more than twelve (12) inches from front of building.
- (3) Must comply with Section 1040 of this Article.
- (4) Off-premises advertising is allowed only on U.S. or State Routes.

### **1070.3 Downtown Commercial District (C1)**

#### **(a) Shape – C1**

Signs should typically be square or rectangular; provided, however, this shall not prevent the approval of individual signs that may be circular or some other shape, or shaped like a particular object (e.g., a sign in the shape of a shoe for a shoe store) if relevant.

#### **(b) Illumination of Signs. – C1**

(1) Internally illuminated signs (also referred to as “backlighted” and “direct lighted” signs) are not permitted in the C1 District except as authorized by Section 1030 (L). Internally illuminated or backlighted canopies or awnings are not permitted in the C1 District.

(2) Neon lighting is not permitted in the area subject to this ordinance.

(3) No animated, flashing or electronically changeable copy signs shall be permitted.

(4) No colored lights shall be used.

(5) If signs are illuminated, they shall be externally lit. Lighting directed toward a sign shall be shielded or recessed so that it illuminates only the face of the sign and does not shine directly into a public right-of-way or sidewalk.

#### **(c) Fascia Signs – C1**

(1) Fascia signs shall be mounted flush against the facade of the building in proximity to the front entryway of the unit. Fascia signs shall be located on flat, unadorned parts of the building façade. In no case shall a fascia sign be allowed to cover any architectural features, details, ornamentation and/or elements. Buildings with more than one frontage or façade shall be limited to sixteen (16) square feet of the total area of signage on each of the secondary building facades or frontages.

(2) Appropriate locations for fascia signage on buildings with more than one story shall be in the lintel space which separates the first floor storefront from the upper floor, and the space above the transom in the first floor storefront, where one exists. Fascia signs shall be located on flat, unadorned parts of the building façade, somewhere above storefront display windows (where they exist) and below second-story windows (where they exist). If the building façade or storefront has a lintel strip or signboard, the wall sign should be placed directly on it. Wall signs should be located centrally on the façade. Sign boards should not exceed two and one half (2.5) feet in height.

(3) No sign shall be permitted that, when mounted flush against the façade of the building, protrudes more than six (6) inches from the façade.

(d) Canopy and Awning Signs – C1

Storefront awnings (see figure) should be positioned either above the display window and below the transom window(s), or above both the display and transom windows but below the sign board area, cornice, or spandrel, where these architectural features exist. Signs should be silk-screened or sewn onto the awning fabric, and they should be placed on the valance of the awning. Signs on canopies should be located on the primary face or top edge (or front-angled or sloped part) of canopies.

(e) Window Signs – C1

(1) Window signs may be displayed on or in display windows on the ground floor only. Window signs in upper facade windows are not permitted.

(3) No window advertising sign shall extend from one window to another.

(4) In no case shall any window sign be installed above the level of first floor windows.

(5) Window signs are limited to one sign per window and the total area is as defined in Table 1.

(6) Window signs should be placed approximately three and one-half (3.5) feet to six (6) feet above the sidewalk.

(7) Window signs should not extend within eighteen (18) inches from the top or bottom of the display window glass.

(f) Projecting Signs – C1

(1) Projecting signs are permissible, but may be restricted if other alternatives (wall, window, door, and awning) signs are also present or proposed. If a projected sign is authorized, it shall meet the specifications of this section.

(2) Projecting signs are typically placed near the entry door.

(3) Projecting signs shall project perpendicularly from the building.

(4) Projecting signs shall be secured in place with a frame mount assembly.

(5) Projecting signs do not necessarily have to be entirely stationary; they may be suspended from an awning or similar type structure or affixed to a bracket-mount to the building or structure in a manner where the sign face sways; such motion shall not make a swinging sign a prohibited animated sign.

(6) All projecting signs shall have a ground clearance of no less than eight (8) feet above the lowest ground elevation.

(7) Such signs shall project no more than forty-eight (48) inches from the building face.

(8) Projecting signs shall be limited to one (1) per business or establishment.

- (9) No projecting sign shall exceed an area of nine (9) square feet per sign face.
- (10) Projecting signs shall not be illuminated.
- (11) If applicable, projecting signs shall obtain an encroachment permit from the City Council.

(g). Door Signs – C1

- (1) Signs on doors shall be located on or in the glazing of the doors.
- (2) There shall be no more than two (2) door signs for any individual business or establishment.
- (3) The maximum area for any individual door sign shall be one and one-half (1 ½) square feet.
- (4) There shall be a maximum of three (3) square feet total area of door signs allowed for any single business or establishment.

(i) Removal of Signs – C1

Any on-premises sign shall be removed by the owner within thirty (30) days after the owner vacates the premises. Obsolete signs must be removed by the property owner, developer, or former lessee of property upon which the sign is located within 30 days after receipt of written notice from the Code Enforcement Officer. A sign becomes obsolete when it conveys advertising or identification of non-existent services or uses, or when it is allowed to become dilapidated or is not maintained. All signs not complying with these regulations within the Downtown Commercial District shall be deemed to be nonconforming. A nonconforming sign shall be removed or brought into conformance with this section when a principal use existing at the time of adoption of this section changes.

(j) Sign Material – C1

Materials and colors should be selected which are compatible with the architecture of the building and the character of the area. For signs in historic areas consideration shall be given to how materials fit into the surrounding streetscape. Signs of wood, either painted or carved are generally acceptable.

**1070.5 Planned Center Signs**

Planned centers including shopping centers, malls, office parks and other complexes designed as a unified entity shall be permitted the following signs:

- (a) One (1) free-standing sign per street frontage if access is available from that street. Individual businesses within the Planned Center shall not be authorized an individual free-standing sign but are allowed Wall Signs. The size and height of free-standing signs shall be in accordance with the provision of Section 1070.2 - Table of Permitted Signs.
- (b) On-site directional signs not exceeding four (4) square feet in area per sign face with a maximum of two sign faces and not more than thirty-six inches in height. A maximum of eight (8) on-site directional signs per Planned Center are permitted.



- (c) One (1) awning, canopy or wall sign per building occupant. If a business faces more than one street frontage it may have one such sign per street frontage. The size of the awning, canopy or wall sign shall comply with requirements for wall signs as specified in Section 1020.2 - Tables of Permitted Signs.
- (d) One occupant directory sign, either freestanding or as an additional wall sign for each planned center consisting of two or more principal buildings. Each such sign shall be located within the buildable area of the lot, shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area, nor exceed (10) feet in height.
- (e) The signs in a Planned Center may be directly or indirectly illuminated.

**Section 1080 - Non-conforming Signs**

**1080.1 Intent**

It is the intent of these regulations to encourage the elimination of signs that exist as of the effective date of this Ordinance which do not conform to the provisions of this Article. Any sign or portion thereof that exists at the time of the enactment of this Ordinance but does not conform to the requirements of this Article may only be continued in compliance with this section.

**1080.2 Unsafe Signs**

Any sign or portion thereof that is declared to be unsafe or dangerous by the Building Official may be restored to a safe condition, provided that the requirements of this Article are met.

**1080.3 Changes to Non-conforming Signs**

Any change in a non-conforming sign or portion thereof is subject to the following regulations:

- (a) Improvements - No non-conforming sign or portion thereof can be improved in an amount exceeding fifty (50) percent of the replacement cost of the structure. Replacement cost is the cost to build an identical non-conforming sign or portion thereof.
- (b) Repair - A non-conforming sign or portion thereof that is damaged or destroyed to an extent requiring repair costs exceeding fifty (50) percent of its reasonable replacement cost at the time of damage shall not be reconstructed or restored to its non-conforming use.
- (c) Abandonment - A non-conforming sign that becomes such due to the adoption of this Ordinance, and which has been discontinued for a continuous period of 30 days, shall not be re-established. Any future use shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Article.

**1080.4 Transfer of Ownership**

If a non-conforming sign is transferred to a new property owner, the non-conforming sign shall be altered to conform to these regulations or removed and replaced with a new sign that conforms to these regulations.