

SIGNS AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING STRUCTURES

19.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this article is to protect property values, create a more attractive economic and business climate, enhance and protect the physical appearance of the community and preserve the scenic and natural beauty of Harrison Township. It is further intended to reduce sign and advertising distractions and obstructions.

19.1 GOVERNMENTAL SIGNS EXCLUDED

For the purpose of this resolution, “sign” does not include signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any governmental function, or required by any law, ordinance, or governmental regulations.

19.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SIGNS AND DISTRICTS

The regulations contained in this section shall apply to all signs and all use districts:

1. Any illuminated sign or lighting device shall employ only light emitting a light of constant intensity, and no sign shall be illuminated by or contain flashing, intermittent, rotating, or moving light or lights. In no event shall an illumination sign or lighting device be placed or directed so as to permit the beams and illumination there from to be directed or beamed upon a public thoroughfare, highway, sidewalk, or adjacent premises so as to cause glare or reflection that may cause a traffic hazard or nuisance.
2. Walls of existing or new buildings not adjacent to or in residential districts may be used for advertising signs or billboards.
3. No sign or part thereof shall contain or consist of banners, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or other similar moving devices. Such devices, as well as strings of lights and inflatable advertising devices, shall not be used for the purpose of advertising.
4. No sign of any classification shall be installed, erected, or attached in any form, shape, or manner to a fire escape.
5. Should any sign be or become unsafe, the owner thereof or the person maintaining the same, shall, upon receipt of written notice from the Zoning Inspector, proceed within 24 hours to put such sign in a safe and secure condition or remove the sign. No sign shall be placed in any public right-of-way except government-owned signs, such as traffic control signs and directional signs. Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking, also parking on private property, bearing no advertising matter, shall be permitted on the property.

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7. All off-premises advertising devices are erected or maintained under Articles 19.4.4 and 19.4.5, and Chapter 5516.10 of the Ohio Revised Code.
8. The following are prohibited:
 - a. Advertising devices erected or maintained on trees
 - b. Advertising devices which prevent the driver of a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view of official signs and traffic.
 - c. Advertising devices illuminated so as to interfere with the effectiveness of or obscure an official sign, signal, or device. Advertising devices which attempt or appear to attempt to direct the movement of traffic or which interfere with, imitate, or resemble an official sign, or device.
9. Temporary Sign Requirements For All Districts
 - a. General - Temporary signs are permitted with a temporary sign permit unless specified exempt. Such signs shall conform to the requirements set forth below as well as other applicable requirements of this resolution.
 - b. Standards For All Temporary Signs – Temporary signs specified in this Article shall not be attached to fences, trees, utility poles, unless such sign complies with set back requirements, or the like and shall not be placed in a position that will obstruct or impair vision of motorists or pedestrians, or in any manner create a hazard or disturbance to the health, safety and welfare of the general public. The permit shall specify the dates during which the sign will be displayed and will expire at the end of the calendar on the last date so specified, if such a permit is required. See 19.4.5.b for setback requirements.
 - c. Removal of Temporary Signs - All temporary signs shall be removed within seven (7) days of the expiration of the temporary sign permit, if such a permit is required.

19.3 MEASURE OF SIGN AREAS

The surface area of a sign shall be computed as including the entire area within a regular, geometric form or combinations of regular, geometric forms, comprising all of the display area of the sign and including the entire element of the matter displayed. Frames and structural members not being advertising matters shall not be included in the computation of surface area.

19. 4 ON-PREMISES SIGNS PERMITTED IN ALL DISTRICTS – NO PERMIT REQUIRED

1. Signs advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the premises upon which the sign is located shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area per side, except in all residential districts where the area of the sign shall not be more than six (6) square feet per side.
2. Professional name plates or home occupation signs not exceed four (4) square feet in area per side and not exceeding one (1) sign per home or business.
3. Signs or bulletin boards customarily incidental to places of worship, libraries, or museums which signs or bulletin boards, shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area and which shall be located on the premises of such institutions and shall be setback from the right-of-way at least fifteen (15) feet.
4. Entrance and exit signs, containing only directional indication, shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area per side.
5. Temporary on-premise signs not to exceed twelve (12) square feet of sign face shall be permitted in any district. Said signs shall be removed within seven (7) days from the conclusion of said event or purpose for which the temporary sign is established.
 - a. Sign Face Measurement - Temporary signs not exceeding twelve (12) square feet of sign face for a single-sided sign and twenty-four (24) square feet (twelve [12] square feet per sign face) for a two-sided sign shall be permitted in any district.
 - b. Sign Setback – Temporary signs shall maintain a fifteen (15) foot setback from any lot line and road right-of-way line. Where no road right-of-way exists, the setback shall be forty-five (45) feet from the centerline of the road.
 - c. Sign Placement – Temporary signs may be placed on the ground or attached to a structure only in locations where a wall sign or roof sign would be permitted and does not exist. No temporary sign shall be placed within any road right-of-way.
 - d. Number of signs permitted – The number of temporary signs permitted shall not exceed a maximum of two (2) temporary signs per lot of record.

19.5 ON-PREMISES SIGNS – PERMITS REQUIRED

1. In Business or M-1 (manufacturing) districts, each business shall be permitted one (1) flat or wall on-premises sign. Projection of wall signs shall not exceed four (4) feet measured from the face of the main building, nor ten (10) square feet on any face of the sign. The area of all permanent on-premises signs for any single business may be equivalent to one and one-half (1½) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building width, or part of a building, occupied by such business but shall not exceed a maximum area of fifty (50) square feet per side.
2. In addition to the above, each business or industry shall be permitted one (1) on-premises permanently mounted ground sign, provided all parts of the sign shall be set back fifteen (15) feet from the right-of-way. Based upon the number of businesses located on the site, the table below provides the maximum square feet, per face, for a two (2) face sign.

Number of businesses	1	2	3	4 or more
Maximum sign area	32	48	64	80

- a. Where a sign has more than two (2) display faces, the total sign area shall not exceed two (2) times the value derived from the table above. For example a single business with an equally sided 3 face sign, the sign area allowed is sixty-four (64, i.e. 32 x 2) square feet, and each side would be approximately twenty-one (21) square feet. The total height of all signs shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height from grade, including the support structure.
- b. In lieu of 19.5.2, one (1) on-premise permanently mounted ground sign may be permitted with a Variable Message Advertising Device (VMAD) with the following restrictions:
 - i. The VMAD shall be permitted with a maximum display area of 32 square feet for one side and no more than 64 square feet for a two (2) sided VMAD.
 - ii. Such outdoor advertising device(s), consisting of a variable message advertising device(s) which is a changeable sign, shall contain a static message(s) only. When the copy or message changes by electronic process, it shall be accomplished in one (1) second or less. In any event, such advertising devices may not have movement or the appearance of or illusion of movement of any part of the sign structure or pictorial segment of the advertising device, including movement of any illumination or flashing or varying of light intensity.
 - iii. Each message or copy shall remain fixed for at least eight (8) seconds.
 - iv. Such advertising device shall contain a default design that will automatically freeze to a single display in the advent a malfunction occurs.

- v. No such advertising device shall be illuminated so as to obstruct the view of any connecting road, intersection, or interchange or obscure any official traffic device or signal.
 - vi. There shall be no more than an 80 total square feet of sign display area a combination a sign and VMAD per sign face for a one (1) sided sign and 160 total display area for a two (2) sided sign.
3. Temporary on-premise signs greater than twelve (12) square feet of sign face but no greater than thirty-two (32) square feet may be permitted in any Business, Manufacturing, or Agricultural Zoning District upon receiving and maintaining a valid zoning permit. Said signs may include but are not limited to signs announcing a special event, sales event signs, seasonal sales and the like. No temporary sign under this Article shall be permitted for a period of time greater than three (3) months.

19.6 OFF PREMISES OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS – PERMITS REQUIRED

1. Signs or advertising devices for business or industries adjacent to arterial roadways as regulated by Ohio Revised Code, Section 5516, as amended, shall be a permitted use, subject to the following regulations:
 - a. Such signs or devices shall not be located within one hundred (100) feet of any street or road right-of-way.
 - b. Such signs or devices shall not be located within twenty-five hundred (2500) lineal feet of any other outdoor advertising display or billboard on the same or opposite side of the street or road.
 - c. Such signs or devices shall not be located on or within one-hundred (100) feet of any adjoining property line or structure.
 - d. Such signs or devices shall not be larger than one-hundred (100) square feet on one (1) face and/or two-hundred (200) square feet for two (2) or more faces. In no case shall more than one-hundred (100) square feet of display or sign area be visible from any road or street.
 - e. Such signs or devices shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height from existing road grade.
 - f. Such outdoor advertising devices and/or billboards shall not be permitted in any residential district or within 1000 feet of a residential district or a single family residence.
 - g. Such outdoor advertising device(s), consisting of a variable message advertising device(s) which is a changeable and/or digital sign, shall contain a static message(s) only. When the copy or message changes by electronic process, it shall be accomplished in one (1) second or less. In any event, such advertising devices may not have movement or the appearance of or illusion of movement of any part of the sign structure or pictorial segment of the advertising device, including movement of any illumination or flashing or varying of light intensity.
 - h. Each message or copy shall remain fixed for at least eight (8) seconds.
 - i. Such advertising device shall contain a default design that will automatically freeze to a single display in the advent a malfunction occurs.

- j. No such advertising device shall be illuminated so as to obstruct the view of any connecting road, intersection, or interchange or obscure any official traffic-device or signal.
- k. No LED, OLED or similar devices may exceed the following brightness limits, measured in candelas per square feet at any focal point on any highway, berm, or vehicular approach to any highway:

	Day	Night
Red	150	50
Green	300	100
Amber	225	75
Blue	275	25
All Color	325	125

- l. Digital signs shall adjust brightness in response to changes in ambient light levels so that the signs remain at no more than 0.3-foot candles above the level of surrounding ambient light conditions. No digital sign shall cause glare onto any adjoining lot of record upon any horizontal or vertical plane on said adjoining lot of record.
- m. All variable message advertising device owner/operators upon contact by officials of law enforcement agency, Licking County Emergency Management Agency or its successor, or state agencies are required to within one (1) hour notice, post emergency announcements on the variable message device. The duration of the announcement will be dependent upon the emergency. Such announcement will be limited to situations involving danger to citizens due to criminal activity, weather conditions, or local, state or national emergencies. It is the responsibility of the owner/operator of such outdoor advertising device to contact these agencies with their contact information and location of such device.
- 2. Business and/or manufacturing uses off premise directional signs shall be permitted in any district subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. Directional signs are for the purpose of providing guidance to the vehicular traffic direction to the establishment.
 - b. A directional sign may contain a logo and name of the business and/or manufacturing uses.
 - c. Such signs shall not exceed eight (8) square feet and each sign shall not exceed two (2) feet in height for individual signs and the total direction sign structure height shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height from grade.
 - d. There will only be one directional sign structure on the same side of an intersection of roads/streets. It is the intent that directional signs for multiple enterprises use the same sign structure with multiple signs on the same structure.
 - e. All directional signs shall be at least fifteen (15) feet from all right of way lines.
- 3. Temporary off-premise signs not exceeding twelve (12) square feet of sign face for a single-sided sign and twenty four (24) square feet (twelve [12] square feet per sign face) for a two-sided sign may be permitted in any Business, Manufacturing or Agricultural Zoning District upon receiving and maintaining a valid zoning permit. No temporary sign under this Article shall be permitted for a period of time greater than three (3) months.

19.7 SPECIAL YARD PROVISIONS

On-premises signs, where permitted, shall be erected or placed in conformity with the side and rear 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. The minimum front set back shall be fifteen (15) feet from the road right of way for all zoning districts.

19.8 LIMITATIONS

For the purpose of this resolution outdoor advertising off-premise signs shall be classified as a business use and be permitted in all districts zoned for manufacturing or business or lands used for agricultural purposes and shall comply with Article 19.

19.9 ABANDONED SIGNS

Abandoned signs shall be considered abandoned when one of the following applies:

1. When the sign is associated with an abandoned use.
2. When the sign remains after the termination of a business. A business is considered to have ceased operation if it is closed to the public for at least six (6) months. Seasonal businesses shall be considered abandoned should the seasonal business cease to open for a period of two consecutive seasons.
3. When the sign does not have a permit or no exemption is available.

The Zoning Inspector shall determine abandonment of a sign. Upon determination that the sign is abandoned, the right to maintain and use of such sign shall terminate immediately and the Zoning Inspector or his/her designee shall issue an order for the sign to be removed within thirty days. Any abandoned sign still established after thirty days following an order for removal may be appealed to the Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), and procedures of Article 4 shall be followed. The owner of such sign(s) shall be subject to the decision of the BZA. If no appeal is filed within the required time period, the Zoning Inspector shall proceed with the proper violation procedures.

19.10 VIOLATIONS

In case any sign shall be installed, erected, constructed, or maintained in violation of any of the terms of this resolution, the Zoning Inspector shall notify, in writing, the owner or lessee thereof to alter such sign so as to comply with this resolution. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed a violation and shall be punishable under Section 5.10 of this resolution.

19.11 ZONING PERMIT

The Zoning Inspector shall issue a zoning permit, when required, upon receipt of a properly completed application, and proof of the applicant having obtained the required State of Ohio approval. The application shall contain the purpose, anticipated longevity, name(s) and address of the applicant(s), name(s) and address of landowner(s), and the address for the property on which the sign is to be located.

19.12 SCHEDULE OF FEES, CHARGES, AND EXPENSES

The Board of Township Trustees shall by resolution establish a schedule of fees, charges, and expenses and a collection procedure for zoning permits, amendments, appeals, variances, conditional use permits, plan approvals, and other matters pertaining to the administration and enforcement of this resolution requiring investigations, inspections, legal advertising, postage, and other expenses. The schedule of fees shall be posted in the office of the Zoning Inspector and may be altered or amended only by the Board of Township Trustees. No action shall be taken on any application or appeal until fees are paid.

Previous version: Adopted Date: 5-01-2000, Effected Date: 5-31-2000

Revised 19.5 Date 7-26-04

Revised 19.3, 19.4 Date 3-07-05