

## Article 12 Signs

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### Section 10.1210 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Article is to regulate the type, number, location, size and illumination of signs on private property in order to maintain and enhance the character of the city's commercial districts and residential neighborhoods and to protect the public from hazardous and distracting displays.

### Section 10.1220 General Sign Regulations

#### 10.1221 Sign Permits

- 10.1221.10 No sign shall be erected without a sign permit issued by the Code Official except in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance or a decision by the Board of Adjustment.
- 10.1221.20 No sign permit will be issued for any premises on which there is an outstanding violation of any part of this Ordinance.
- 10.1221.30 In the Historic District, a sign that violates any requirement of this Article, including the design standards set forth in Section 10.1274, shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic District Commission (HDC) under Section 10.630, in addition to the sign permit issued by the Code Official.
- 10.1221.40 Any sign located within a public right of way, including a projecting sign that extends over the public right of way, requires City Council approval and license in accordance with Chapter 8 of the municipal code.

## 10.1222 Signs Not Requiring A Permit

The following signs are permitted without a sign permit and shall not be included in the calculation for aggregate signage on a lot:

- 10.1222.10 Signs required, or deemed necessary for the public welfare and safety, by a municipal, state or federal agency, such as traffic control devices and directional signs.
- 10.1222.20 Directional signs or information signs with a sign area up to 4 square feet, located so as not to create a traffic safety hazard or to block line of sight from a motor vehicle. A directional sign with a sign area greater than 4 square feet requires a sign permit.
- 10.1222.30 A building marker sign composed of (a) unpainted letters carved into or embossed on a building wall above the first story with a sign area up to 12 square feet; or (b) a metal plaque affixed to the building wall no more than 5 feet above ground level, with a sign area up to 4 square feet.
- 10.1222.40 Miscellaneous business signs mounted on a wall, window or door at a building entrance, provided that (a) there shall be only one group of miscellaneous business signs per entrance; (b) each group of such signs shall not exceed 4 square feet in area and shall be placed within 3 feet of the entrance; (c) no individual sign shall exceed one square foot in area; and (d) no letter, character, image or graphic shall be more than 2 inches in height. The intent of this provision is to allow for the provision of common business information such as restaurant menus, credit card stickers, hours of operation, owner and contact information, etc.
- 10.1222.50 Internal signs.
- 10.1222.60 Illuminated signs more than 3 feet behind any window or opening through which they might be visible from private or public right of way.
- 10.1222.70 Signs for historical associations and historical monuments up to 8 square feet per lot.
- 10.1222.80 Temporary signs as follows:
  - 10.1222.81 Real estate signs providing information concerning the availability of the property for sale or for lease, up to 8 square feet in residential districts and 32 square feet in all other districts.
  - 10.1222.82 Site development signs up to 16 square feet per sign in residential districts and 32 square feet per sign in all other districts.
- 10.1222.90 Signs on registered motor vehicles that are used in the ordinary conduct of a business.

### 10.1223 Signs Prohibited in All Districts

The following signs are prohibited in all sign districts:

- 10.1223.10 Animated signs.
- 10.1223.20 Signs that move or flash, or give the appearance of such motion (for example, by means of traveling lights). Beacons, rotating and flashing lights are prohibited except where such lighting devices are deemed necessary for the public safety and welfare by federal, state or municipal authorities.
- 10.1223.30 Banners, pennants or flags which are signs under the definition of “sign” herein, except as temporary signs allowed under Section 10.1275.
- 10.1223.40 Balloons or other inflated devices displayed more than one day per month.
- 10.1223.50 Mobile signs.
- 10.1223.60 Signs mounted, attached or painted on vehicles, trailers or boats, except as permitted by Section 10.1222.90.
- 10.1223.70 Any sign emitting sound.

### 10.1224 Maintenance of Signs

- 10.1224.10 All signs and sign structures shall be properly maintained and kept in a neat and proper state of maintenance and appearance.
- 10.1224.20 Any sign of any type and located within any district which is found by the Code Official to be in a state of disrepair, illegible or are considered dangerous, shall be repaired or removed.
- 10.1224.30 Upon failure to comply with an order to repair or remove a sign within thirty days, the Code Official is authorized to cause removal of the sign at the expense of the owner of the property on which the sign is located.

**Section 10.1230 Sign Districts**

10.1231 The City is hereby divided into sign districts for the purpose of establishing standards for the number, type, size, location and illumination of signs. These sign districts are overlay districts. A property shall be subject to the regulations of both the sign district and the underlying zoning district.

10.1232 Unless otherwise specified by ordinance, the sign districts shall correspond to underlying zoning districts as follows:

<b>Sign Districts</b>	<b>Underlying Zoning Districts</b>
Sign District 1	All Rural and Residential Districts Municipal Natural Resource Protection
Sign District 2	Mixed Residential Office Mixed Residential Business Waterfront Business
Sign District 3	Central Business A Central Business B Business
Sign District 4	Office Research
Sign District 5	General Business Gateway
Sign District 6	Industrial Waterfront Industrial Airport Districts

10.1233 In order to address the characteristics of a specific area or its surroundings, an area may be changed to a different sign district than specified in Section 10.1232 following the same procedures as for a change in the underlying zoning district. (For example, a portion of the General Business district may be changed from Sign District 5 to Sign District 2 in order to protect an adjacent neighborhood from excessive light.)

10.1234 Any sign not specifically allowed in a sign district is not permitted.

## Section 10.1240 Permitted Sign Types

10.1241 The types of signs permitted in each sign district shall be as set forth in the following table, except as otherwise provided herein.

**Table of Permitted Sign Types**

	Sign District					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Freestanding sign	N	P	P	P	P	P
Wall sign	P	P	P	P	P	P
Projecting sign	P	P	P	P	P	P
Parapet sign	N	N	N	N	P	P
Roof sign	N	N	N	N	P	P
Awning sign	N	P	P	P	P	P
Marquee sign	N	P	P	P	P	P
Canopy sign	N	N	N	P	P	P
Changeable or animated signs						
Animated sign	N	N	N	N	N	N
Changeable sign	N	P	P	P	P	P

P = Permitted    N = Prohibited

10.1242 Wall signs and parapet signs are permitted only for ground-floor uses and single-use buildings.

10.1243 Only one freestanding sign shall be permitted per lot, except that a shopping center may have one freestanding sign at the site's primary driveway and one freestanding sign at each additional driveway not on the same street.

## Section 10.1250 Sign Dimensional Standards

### 10.1251 Sign Area

10.1251.10 The maximum aggregate sign area shall be as follows:

	Sign District					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Per linear foot of lot frontage	0.5	n.r	n.r	1.5	1.5	1.5
Per linear foot of building frontage per establishment	0.5	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	2.0

10.1251.20 The maximum sign area for individual signs shall be as follows:

	Sign District					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Freestanding sign	n/a	20	20	100	100	150
Wall sign	4	16	40	200	200	100
Projecting sign						
Ground floor use	2	16	16	16	16	16
Upper-floor use	n/a	0	8	8	8	8
Parapet sign	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	150
Roof sign	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	200	100
Awning sign	n/a	16	20	20	20	20
Marquee sign	n/a	16	20	20	20	20
Canopy sign	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	20	20

All dimensions in square feet

n/a = not applicable (sign type not permitted)  
n.r = no requirement

10.1251.30 When a shopping center has more than one freestanding sign, the freestanding sign at the site’s primary driveway shall comply with the maximum sign area specified in Section 10.1251.20 and the other freestanding signs shall not exceed 75 square feet in area.

### 10.1252 Measurement of Sign Area

10.1252.10 Sign area shall be measured in one of the following ways, at the applicant’s discretion:

- (a) the area that can be enclosed by one polygon with no more than eight sides; or
- (b) the area that can be enclosed by a circle, oval, triangle or rectangle, or any two such shapes.

10.1252.20 The sign area of a freestanding sign shall include all structural supports whether or not they contribute through shape, color or otherwise to the sign’s message, except as follows:

10.1252.21 The base of a monument sign, up to one foot above the ground, shall not be included in the computation of sign area provided that such base is not illuminated in any way and contains no information other than the street number.



**Height of base is less than one foot – Not included in sign area**



**Height of base is one foot – Not included in sign area**



**Height of base is greater than one foot – Included in sign area**

10.1252.22 The vertical supports of a pole sign shall not be included in the computation of sign area, provided that (1) the total width of all such supports is less than one-third of the width of the sign, and (2) the supports are not illuminated in any way.



**Total width of supports is less than 1/3 of the width of the sign – Not included in sign area**



**Total width of supports is greater than 1/3 of the width of the sign – Included in sign area**



**Width of support is greater than 1/3 of the width of the sign – Included in sign area**



**Width of support is approximately 1/3 of the width of the sign**

- 10.1252.30 For a sign that is painted or engraved on, or otherwise applied directly to, a building or other structure, the sign area shall include any background of a different color, material or appearance from the remainder of the wall or structure, and shall include all related text, images and graphics.
- 10.1252.40 The sign area of a canopy sign shall include all text and symbols, whether or not illuminated, and all illuminated areas; but shall not include non-illuminated areas that are distinguished from the background only by color stripes.
- 10.1252.50 The sign area of a projecting sign shall not include the area of supporting brackets with no text, images or graphics.
- 10.1252.60 Where a sign has two faces that are parallel or where the interior angle formed by the faces is 45 degrees or less, only one display space shall be measured in computing total sign area.
- 10.1252.70 The sign area of a spherical, free-form, sculptural or otherwise non-planar sign shall be equal to 75 percent of the areas of the 4 vertical sides of the smallest rectangular box that will encompass the sign.
- 10.1252.80 Decorative lighting on a building or structure, including neon and other accent lighting, and any illuminated building panel, shall be considered a wall sign for the purposes of this section, and shall be counted as part of the aggregate sign area allowed.

### 10.1253 Sign Height and Setback

10.1253.10 The maximum and minimum heights and minimum setbacks for signs in each sign district shall be as set forth in the following table, except as otherwise provided herein.

**Table of Sign Height and Setback Requirements**

	Sign District					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Projecting sign						
Minimum clearance (ground to bottom of sign)	7	7	7	7	7	7
Freestanding sign						
Minimum setback from lot line	5	5	5	20	10	20
Maximum height (ground to top of sign)	7	7	12	20	20	20
Temporary freestanding sign	4	4	8	12	12	20

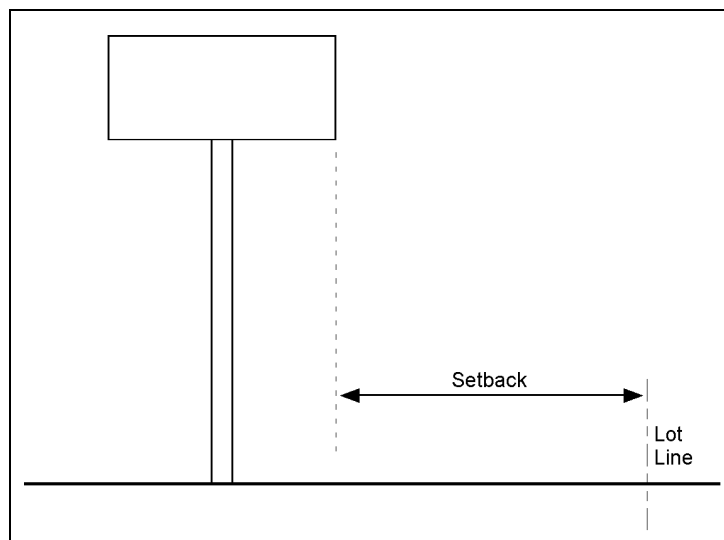
All dimensions in feet

n/a = not applicable (sign type not permitted)

10.1253.20 Where a driveway intersects with a street, no sign shall be erected or maintained between the heights of 2.5 feet and 10 feet above the edge of pavement grades within the area bounded by (a) the side lines of the driveway and street and (b) lines joining points along said side lines 20 feet from the point of intersection.

10.1253.30 The height of a freestanding sign shall be measured with respect to the elevation of the centerline of the adjacent public right-of-way.

10.1253.40 The setback of a sign from a lot line shall be measured as the shortest horizontal distance from the lot line to the any part of the sign, whether or not such part of the sign is at ground level.



10.1253.50 A projecting sign shall be no closer than 6 inches to the building to which it is attached, and shall project no more than 4 feet from the building or one-third of the width of the sidewalk, whichever is less.

## Section 10.1260 Sign Illumination

### 10.1261 Types of Illumination

10.1261.10 Signs may only be illuminated as set forth in the following table, except as otherwise provided herein.

**Table of Sign Illumination Requirements**

	Sign District					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
External illumination	N	P	P	P	P	P
Halo lettering	N	P	P	P	P	P
Internal illumination						
Freestanding sign	N	P	N	P	P	P
Wall sign	N	P	P	P	P	P
Projecting sign	N	N	N	N	N	N
Parapet sign	n/a	N	N	N	P	P
Roof sign	n/a	N	N	N	P	P
Awning sign	n/a	N	P	N	P	P
Marquee sign	n/a	N	P	N	P	N
Canopy sign	n/a	n/a	n/a	P	P	P
Direct illumination	N	N	P	P	P	P

P = Permitted    N = Prohibited    n/a = not applicable (sign type not permitted)

10.1261.20 Temporary signs shall not be illuminated.

10.1261.30 Signs in the Historic District shall be illuminated only by external illumination, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 10.1261.

### 10.1262 Hours of Illumination

Signs shall not be illuminated between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., except that signs may be illuminated during the operation of a use or activity that is open to customers or the public, and for not more than one hour after the activity ceases.

### 10.1263 Illumination Standards

10.1263.10 A light source for external illumination of a sign shall be mounted and shielded so that said light source is not visible three feet above grade at the lot line and so that the lighting is confined to the area of the sign.

10.1263.20 A light source for internal illumination of a sign constructed of translucent materials and wholly illuminated from within shall not require shielding.

- 10.1263.30 A sign or its illuminator shall not by reason of its location, shape or color interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic or be confused with or obstruct the view or effectiveness of any official traffic signal or traffic marking.
- 10.1263.40 Illuminance of the sign face shall not exceed the following standards:
  - 10.1263.41 External illumination: 50 foot-candles as measured on the sign face.
  - 10.1263.42 Internal illumination: 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter) during daylight hours, and 500 nits between dusk and dawn, as measured at the sign's face.
  - 10.1263.43 Direct illumination: 5,000 nits during daylight hours, and 500 nits (candelas per square meter) between dusk and dawn, as measured at the sign's face.
- 10.1263.50 Light sources shall utilize energy efficient fixtures to the greatest extent practicable. Light fixtures including bulbs or tubes used for sign illumination shall be selected and positioned to achieve the desired brightness of the sign with the minimum possible wattage, while ensuring compliance with all applicable requirements of this Ordinance.

## Section 10.1270 Additional Sign Regulations

### 10.1271 Signs on More Than One Façade of a Building

- 10.1271.10 A use in a building with more than one exterior wall facing a street may have signs on each such wall, up to the maximum sign area per business.
- 10.1271.20 A store with a public entrance on a side of the building not facing a street may have signs on that side as well as on the street-facing wall(s), up to the maximum sign area per business.
- 10.1271.30 A non-illuminated sign that is not visible from a public right of way, such as drive-through menu signs and car wash menus, shall not be counted in the maximum aggregate sign area for the business or lot.

### 10.1272 Roof Signs

- 10.1272.10 A roof sign shall be parallel to the main façade of the building on which it is mounted,
- 10.1272.20 A roof sign on a pitched, hip, gambrel or mansard roof shall not extend above the elevation midway between the level of the eaves and the highest point of the roof. A roof sign is not permitted on a flat roof.

- 10.1272.30 The maximum height of a roof sign shall not exceed the lesser of 36 inches or 25% of the vertical height of the roof.

### 10.1273 Marquee Signs

- 10.1273.10 All text, images and other graphics on a marquee sign shall be displayed on the outside vertical faces of the marquee, and shall be no more than 1.5 feet tall.
- 10.1273.20 The sign area of a marquee sign shall be included in the maximum aggregate sign area allowed for said property.

### 10.1274 Relation of Sign to Building Façade in the Historic District

In the Historic District, a hanging or projecting sign should align with some horizontal element on the facade. For example, the top of the sign may align with the top of the window, the bottom of the sign may align with the bottom of the window, the bottom of sign may align with the top of the lintel, etc.

### 10.1275 Temporary Signs

#### 10.1275.10 New Business Signs

A temporary new business sign may be erected while awaiting arrival of a permanent sign for which a sign permit has been issued. A new business sign shall conform to the same dimensional and other requirements as the approved permanent sign and shall be allowed only until the permanent sign is installed or for 60 days, whichever is the shorter period of time. A sign permit must be obtained for a new business sign from the Code Official.

#### 10.1275.20 Special Event Signs

Special event sign permits shall be issued, provided that all the following conditions are met:

- 10.1275.21 A lot may have one special event sign for one consecutive 7-day period every 3 months, for a maximum of 4 special event signs per year. If a special event sign permit is not used in one quarter it shall not be carried over to the next quarter.
- 10.1275.22 A sign permit shall be obtained for the special event sign from the Code Official.
- 10.1275.23 The special event sign shall not be limited to size or location, but shall not be placed in such a manner as to create a traffic safety problem.

10.1275.24 The special event sign shall be removed at the end of the event.

## Section 10.1280 Nonconforming Signs

- 10.1281 A nonconforming sign or sign structure shall be brought into conformity with this Ordinance if it is altered, reconstructed, replaced, or relocated. A change in text or graphics is not an alteration or replacement for purposes of this subsection.
- 10.1282 Nonconforming signs must be maintained in good condition. Maintenance required by this Subsection shall include replacing or repairing of worn or damaged parts of a sign or sign structure in order to return it to its original state, and is not a change or modification prohibited by Subsection 10.1281.
- 10.1283 A nonconforming sign shall be removed, made conforming, or replaced with a conforming sign in either of the following situations:
- (a) 50 percent or more of the nonconforming sign is blown down, destroyed, or for any reason or by any means taken down, altered, or removed.
  - (b) The use of the nonconforming sign, or the property on which it is located, has ceased, become vacant, or been unoccupied for a continuous period of 8 months or more. An intent to abandon is not required as the basis for removal under this section.

## Section 10.1290 Sign Definitions

### Animated sign

A sign that uses movement or a change of lighting to depict action or create a special effect or scene. See also changeable sign.

### Awning

A cloth, plastic or other nonstructural covering that either is permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use.

### Awning sign

A sign that is painted on or otherwise applied or attached to an awning. An internally illuminated awning shall be considered an awning sign whether or not it contains any text or graphics.

### Banner sign or banner

A sign that consists of text or other graphic elements on a non-rigid material either enclosed or not enclosed in a rigid frame and secured or mounted to allow motion caused by the atmosphere. See also temporary sign.

Building frontage

The maximum horizontal width of the ground floor of a building that approximately parallels and faces a public street or right of way.

- (a) Where an individual occupant's main entrance faces a driveway or parking lot, the width of the occupant's ground floor space facing the occupant's entrance shall be considered that occupant's separate and distinct building frontage.
- (b) Where two or more uses occupy the ground floor of a building, the portion of the building frontage occupied by each use will be that use's separate and distinct building frontage for the purpose of calculating allowed sign area.
- (c) A corner lot or through lot shall be considered to have a separate and distinct building frontage on each street.

Building marker sign

A sign indicating the name of a building, the date of its construction, and/or incidental information about its history. One per site, maximum area of 2 square feet, not included in the maximum sign area.

Canopy

A freestanding structure constructed of rigid materials, providing protective cover over an outside service area.

Canopy sign

A sign attached to, affixed to or otherwise mounted on a canopy.

Changeable sign

A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters or illustrations that can be changed, whether electronically or manually without altering the face or surface of the sign. A sign on which the message changes more than once per day shall be regulated as an animated sign. A sign on which the only changes are mechanical or electronic indication of time or temperature is not considered a changeable or animated sign.

Direct illumination

Illumination of a sign by light emitted directly from a lamp, luminary or reflector, and not diffused through translucent materials or reflected or projected from an external source. Examples include, but are not limited to, signs using luminous gas-filled tubes (e.g., neon) or light-emitting diodes (LED). (See also external illumination, externally illuminated sign, internal illumination, internally illuminated sign.)

Directional sign

A sign directing or guiding vehicles or people to entrances, exits or parking.

Directory sign

A sign that lists businesses in a multi-tenant building, office park, or industrial park.

External illumination

Illumination of a sign by a source of light not contained within, or on the surface of, the sign itself. (See also direct illumination, externally illuminated sign, internal illumination, internally illuminated sign.)

Externally illuminated sign

A sign that is illuminated by a light source that is not contained within, or on the surface of, the sign itself

Freestanding sign

A sign that is permanently erected in a fixed location and supported by 1 or more columns, upright poles or braces extended from the ground or from an object on the ground, or that is erected on the ground, where no part of the sign is attached to any part of a building, structure, or other sign. Examples include, but are not limited to, monument signs and pole signs.

Halo lettering.

An externally illuminated sign in which light sources are placed out of direct view behind opaque sign elements (letters or graphics), creating a glow around the sign elements.

Halo Lettering



Information sign

A sign that does not exceed 2 square feet of sign area and includes only information of a general directive or informational nature such as the following:

- (a) Handicapped parking, no parking, loading area;
- (b) To give direction to a public service facility or accommodation; an official inspection station;
- (c) Building address or unit number;
- (d) No trespassing, no hunting, etc.

Internal sign

A sign that is not intended to be viewed from outside the property, and that is located so as not to be visible from any street or from any adjacent lot. Examples include, but are not limited to, signs in the interior areas of shopping centers, and non-illuminated signs inside a building and more than 3 feet inside any window or door.

Internal illumination

Illumination of a sign by light that is diffused through a translucent material from a source within the sign. (See also direct illumination, external illumination, externally illuminated sign, internally illuminated sign.)

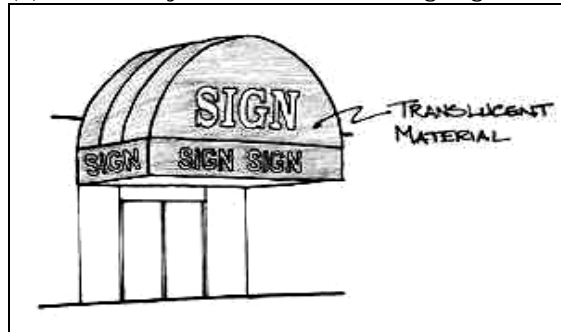
Internally illuminated sign

A sign that is illuminated by light from a source within the sign through a translucent material. (See also direct illumination, external illumination, externally illuminated sign, internal illumination, halo lettering.)

Examples of internally illuminated signs include:

- (a) Internally illuminated translucent sign, which may have opaque surfaces with translucent letters or translucent surfaces with opaque letters. An opaque surface with translucent letters is preferred to a translucent surface with opaque lettering.

- (b) Internally illuminated awning signs.



- (c) Internally illuminated channel letters.



Marquee

A structure other than a roof that is attached to, supported by and projecting from a building, and that provides shelter for pedestrians.

Marquee sign

A wall sign that is mounted on or attached to a marquee.

Mobile sign

A sign on a trailer or other wheeled apparatus, whether or not self-propelled, that is not permanently affixed to the ground. (See also: temporary sign.)

Monument sign

A freestanding sign constructed of a solid material and mounted on a solid base that is placed directly on the ground.

New business sign

A temporary sign that is erected or installed while awaiting installation of a permanent sign for which a sign permit has been issued.

Nit

A unit of luminance, equal to one candela per square meter.

Parapet

An extension of a vertical building wall above the line of the structural roof.

Parapet sign

A wall sign attached to the face of a parapet.

Pennant sign or pennant

See banner sign.

Parapet sign

A sign attached to a parapet wall, with its face parallel to the plane of the parapet wall and extending no more than 18 inches from such wall.

Pole sign

A freestanding sign that is permanently supported in a fixed location by a structure of poles, uprights or braces from the ground and not supported by a building or base structure.

Projecting sign

A sign attached to and projecting from the wall of a building with the face of the sign at an interior angle of more than 45 degrees to the building wall to which it is attached.

Real estate sign

A temporary sign that advertises the availability of the property for sale or lease.

Roof sign

A sign that is located:

- (a) above the level of the eaves on pitched or gambrel roofs;
- (b) above the roof deck of a building with a flat roof; or
- (c) above the top of the vertical wall of a building with a mansard roof.

Sign

Any symbol, design or device used to identify or advertise any place, business, product, activity, service, person, idea or statement. Any representation that is illuminated and consisting wholly or in part, of text, images or graphics shall be considered a sign. Signs need not include text, and may consist of stripes, spots, or other recognizable designs, shapes or colors. Displays comprising of merchandise, figurines, mannequins, decorations and other similar articles, arranged inside a building and visible outside of a window, shall not be considered a sign.

Sign area

The total surface area of a sign display, including all text, images and graphics, and any distinctive surface, board, frame or shape on or within which the text, images and graphics are displayed.

Aggregate sign area

The total sign area of all signs on a lot or building, as indicated by the context.

Sign band

A painted stripe or otherwise distinct scheme which indicates the establishment's logo by use of certain colors or patterns.

Site development sign

A temporary sign that identifies a development which is under construction and/or the owners, architects, contractors, real estate agents and lenders involved with the development; and that may include sales and leasing information.

Special event sign

A temporary sign limited to one consecutive 7-day period every 3 months, for a total of 4 events per year. If a sign is not used in a quarter it shall not be carried over to the next quarter.

Temporary sign

A sign, other than a mobile sign, that is not permanently affixed to a building or structure or permanently mounted in the ground, and that pertains to an activity or event of limited duration. Examples of temporary signs include, but are not limited to, new business sign, site development sign, and special event sign. A temporary sign, when permitted, shall not be included in the calculation of aggregate sign area on a lot. (See also mobile sign.)

Wall sign

A sign attached to, erected against or hanging from the wall of a building, with the face in a parallel plane to the plane of the building wall, and extending no more than 18 inches from such wall. A wall sign may also be inside of a building if it is illuminated and visible through the window from a private or public right of way.