

ARTICLE 28 - SIGN REGULATIONS

Amended 4/2020

1. Purpose

The purpose of sign regulations is to establish standards for the erection and effective use of signs, symbols, markings, and/or advertising devices as a means of communication within the Township. These standards are designed to protect and promote the public health and safety by minimizing potential hazards to pedestrians and vehicular traffic, to minimize the possible adverse effect of signs on nearby public and private property, to enable the fair and consistent enforcement of sign regulations, to reduce sign/advertising clutter, to create and maintain the sought after aesthetics of the Township, and to aid in the development and promotion of business and industrial growth by providing sign regulations without creating detriment to the general public.

2. Governmental Signs Excluded

For the purpose of this Resolution, “a 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 regulation.

3. 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, excluding electronic message board signs (refer to Section K), shall employ only 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 illuminated sign or lighting device be placed or directed so as to permit the beams and illumination therefrom to be directed or beamed upon a public thoroughfare, highway, sidewalk or adjacent premises so as to cause glare or reflection that may constitute a traffic hazard or nuisance;
- 2) No sign shall employ any parts or elements which revolve, rotate, wheel, spin or otherwise make use of motion to attract attention. Subsections (1) and (2) of this Section shall not apply to any sign performing a public service function indicating time, temperature, or similar services;
- 3) 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 state electrical code in effect at the time of permit application;
- 4) No projecting sign shall be erected or maintained from the front or face of a building a distance of more than two (2) feet, including those projecting from the face of any theater, hotel or motel marquee;

- 5) No sign shall be placed on the roof of any building, except those signs whose supporting structure is screened so the sign appears to be a continuation of the face of the building;
- 6) No portable or temporary sign shall be placed on the front or face of a building or on any premises, except as provided in this Article;
- 7) No posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or other similar moving devices shall be used for the purpose of advertising or attracting attention;
- 8) No inflatable signs shall be installed or used for commercial purposes;
- 9) No sign of any classification shall be installed, erected, or attached in any form, shape or manner to a fire escape;
- 10) Should any sign be or become unsafe or be in danger of falling or unsightly, the owner thereof or the person maintaining the same shall, upon receipt or written notice from the Zoning Inspector, proceed at once to put such sign in a safe and secure condition or remove the sign;
- 11) No signs shall be placed in any public right-of-way except publicly-owned signs, such as traffic control signs and directional signs. The maximum number of signs to direct and guide traffic and parking on private property shall be limited to six (6) signs. Such directional signs shall not bear any advertising matter, business information or logos. Directional signs shall be so designed as to not create sight-line visibility problems for motorists.;
- 12) All signs shall be so designed and supported as to carry the weight of the sign and shall comply with the building code in effect;
- 13) All signs shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent significant movement due to wind;
- 14) No advertising signs shall be attached to or supported by a tree, utility pole, trash receptacle, bench, vending machine or public shelter;
- 15) No sign shall contain words, images or graphic illustration of an obscene or indecent nature;
- 16) No sign shall be attached in such manner that it may interfere with any required ventilation operation;
- 17) No sign shall be located on a vacant lot, except for the purpose of advertising the lot for sale or lease or for such purpose as the notification of present danger or the prohibition of trespassing, or for political and agricultural purposes;

- 18) No sign shall be located nearer than eight (8) feet vertically or four (4) feet horizontally from any overhead electrical wires, conductors or guy wires.
- 19) Any menu board sign related to a drive through business is subject to site plan review and approval by the Zoning Inspector.

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- 20) No sign that is placed inside of a window or upon the window panes or glass and is visible from the exterior shall not cover more than 25 percent of the window area

4. Permit Required

- 1) No person shall locate or maintain any sign or cause a sign to be located or maintained unless all provisions of this Article have been met. To assure compliance with these regulations, a sign permit issued pursuant to this Resolution shall be required for each sign unless specifically exempted in this Article;
- 2) A sign initially approved for which a permit has been issued shall not be modified, altered or replaced, nor shall design elements of any building or lot upon which such sign is maintained be modified, altered or replaced if any such design element constituted a basis for approval of such sign unless a new or amended permit is obtained consistent with these regulations.

5. Signs not requiring a Permit

- 1) Signs advertising the sale, lease or rental of the premises upon which the sign is located, not to exceed twenty (20) square feet in area, except in all residential districts where the area of the sign shall not be more than six (6) square feet;
- 2) Professional name plates not to exceed four (4) square feet in area;
- 3) Signs denoting the name and/or address of the occupants of the premises, not to exceed two (2) square feet in area;
- 4) Signs advertising political and agricultural uses;
- 5) Measurement of any sign not requiring a permit will be the same as any sign requiring a permit. (Refer to Section 19)
- 6) Window Signs covering no greater than 25 percent of the window area. See 3.136 (66) *Window Signs*

- 7) Canopy Signs smaller than 200 sq. ft. See 3.136 (12) *Building Sign*, 3.136(6) Awning, 3.136(36) Marquee Sign

6. Permanent sign setback requirements

Except as provided in Sections 15, Section 16 and Section 17, on-premises signs where permitted shall be setback from either the front, side, or rear property line at least one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the required front yard setback for the district.

7. Setbacks for Public and Quasi Public Signs

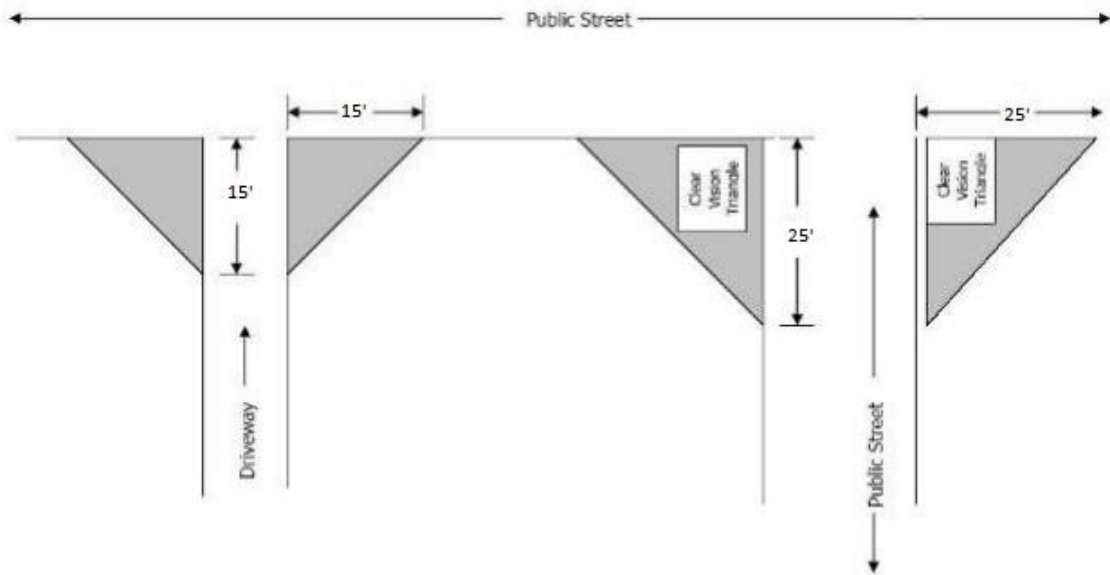
Bulletin boards for a church, school or public, religious, governmental or educational institution may be erected not less than fifteen (15) feet from the established right-of-way line of any street or highway provided such sign or bulletin board does not obstruct traffic visibility at any private driveway, public or private street or highway intersection.

8. Sight Triangle

At the intersection of any two streets, public or private, or the intersection of any private driveway and street, there shall be an optical triangle provided with the following dimensions where no sign shall be located or parked within. The dimensions of such sight triangle are as follows:

- 1) Street to Street Intersection: Signs shall not be located within a triangle formed by lines drawn between points on said front line and side lot lines of a lot twenty-five (25) feet from their intersection, providing that normal sight within a vertical height band of two and one-half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) to eight and one-half ($8\frac{1}{2}$) feet above curb level is not obstructed except for poles, posts or tree trunks;
- 2) Driveway-to-street Intersection: Signs shall not be located within a triangle formed by lines drawn between points on said front lot line and driveway edges of a lot fifteen (15) feet from their intersection, providing that normal sight within a vertical band of two and one-half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) to eight and one-half ($8\frac{1}{2}$) feet above curb level is not obstructed except for utility poles, posts or tree trunks.

9.



Computations and Rules of Measurement

The following regulations shall apply to the computation and measurement of sign area, sign height, and building frontage.

- 1) Determining Sign Area or Dimensions of Signs:
 - a. The sign area shall include the face of all display area(s) of the sign. The sign area shall include frame;
 - b. For a sign that is framed, outlined, painted, or otherwise prepared and intended to provide background for a sign display, the area of the sign shall be calculated as the area of not more than three (3) regular geometric shapes that encompass the entire area of the sign including the background or frame;
 - c. For a sign comprised of individual letters, figures, or elements on a wall or similar surface of a building or structure, or an irregularly shaped freestanding sign, the area of the sign shall be calculated as the area of not more than six (6) regular geometric shapes that encompass the perimeter of all of the elements of the display;
 - d. When separate elements are organized to form a single sign, but the elements are separated by open space, the area of the sign shall include all the display areas, including the space between the element (see Figure 1 below):

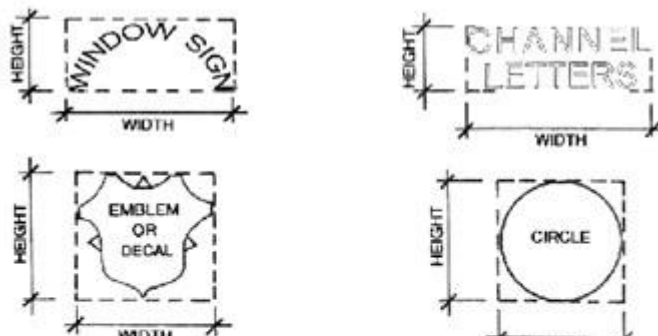


Figure 1. Calculation of, Odd Shaped, Sign Area

- e. For freestanding signs and projecting signs, the sign area shall be calculated by the measurement of one (1) of the faces when two (2) identical display faces are joined back to back. For any sign that has two (2) display faces that do not comply with the above regulation, all surfaces shall be included when determining the area of the sign;

In determining the area of the freestanding signs, the following shall be exempted from being considered as part of the maximum permitted area, see Figure 2 below:

- i. The air space under a freestanding sign between supporting posts, other air space between a projecting sign and the wall to which it is attached;
- ii. Additional base area, framing or structural supports or other portions of the sign, when such areas are determined to be:
 - (a) Constructed and designed with materials which are similar to, or compatible with, the architecture of the building or other site features;
 - (b) Not intended or designed to include messages; and
 - (c) Exclusive of colors, trademarks, or any other decorative design features that are primarily intended to attract attention rather than be un-obtrusive or compatible with the architecture of the building or other site features.

Board of Zoning Appeals shall approve all other exemptions.

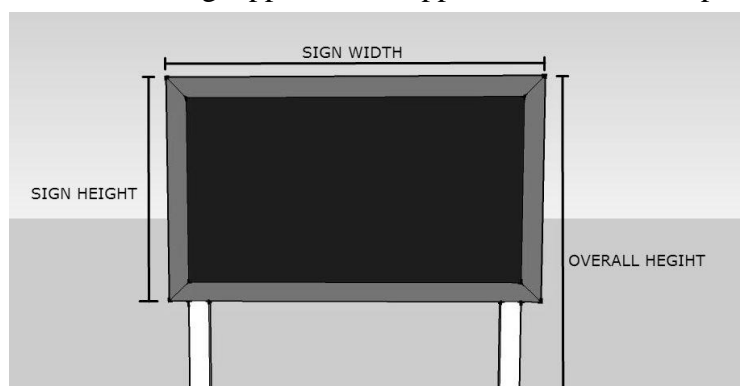


Figure 2. Calculation of Sign Area

- f. The height of a freestanding sign shall be measured from the natural grade of the site immediately adjacent to the sign structure, to the highest point of the sign, its frame, or decorative features.
- g. Directional Signs shall not be included into computations as long as each such sign is less than three (3) square feet in area.

For locations that the Zoning Inspector determines to have unusual or irregular topography along the street frontage and/or between the street right-of-way and the site of the sign, the Zoning Inspector may approve a modification to the height of the sign for the sole purpose of permitting the proposed sign to be approximately equal to the height of other conforming signs in the vicinity.

- 2) Determining Building Frontage and Building Unit. For the purpose of this Section, the building frontage shall include the building walls that face a public street:
 - a. The building frontage shall be measured along such building wall between the exterior faces of the exterior sidewalls;
 - b. For multiple-occupant buildings, the portion of a building that is owned or leased by a single occupant shall be considered a building unit. The building frontage for a building unit shall be measured from the centerline of the party walls defining the building unit;
 - c. The primary frontage shall be the portion of the property's frontage that serves as the main access point to a principal building or building unit.
- 3) Determining Sign Setbacks. The required setbacks for any freestanding sign shall apply to all elements of the sign, including its frame and base.

10. Signs permitted in Commercial and Industrial Districts requiring a Permit

The regulations set forth in this Section shall apply to signs in all commercial and industrial districts and such signs shall require a permit:

- 1) In a commercial or industrial district, each business shall be permitted flat or wall on-premises signs along with freestanding signs;
- 2) Projection of wall signs shall not exceed two (2) feet measured from the face of the main building;
- 3) The area of all permanent on-premise flat or wall signs for any single business enterprise may not exceed an area equivalent to two (2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building frontage, or part of a building, occupied by such business.

11. Electronic Message Board

Electronic message boards shall be allowed in P-B-O, C-1, C-2, I-1, I-2, REC, & PUD Districts. Electronic message boards are not permitted in A, RR, R-1, R-2, R-3, & M-A Districts.

- 1) The Zoning Inspector may grant a permit for an Electronic Message Board Sign if it:
 - a. Has been subject to and received design review approval by the Zoning Inspector;
 - b. Is limited to an eight (8) year time period, from the time it is installed, at which time, upon timely and re-application, the Zoning Inspector may renew the permit for an additional period of eight (8) years, provided the sign was operated in compliance with the provisions of this section in all material respects. The Zoning Inspector will be required to notifying sign owners at least 60 days prior to the end of the time period. Failure to provide such notice, however, shall not extend the renewal for more than 60 days from the date notice is given;
 - c. Has a luminance of no more than 10,000 nits during daylight sunrise to sunset and no more than 500 nits at night from sunset to sunrise;
 - d. The illuminated side of the sign shall not be located within five hundred (500) feet of a residential zoning district;
 - e. Is used only for on-premise advertising.
- 2) The owner of an electronic sign shall be required to obtain an annual license by paying an annual fee to the Township as determined by the Board of Township Trustees. Failure to pay the annual fee will subject the permit to revocation;
- 3) Electronic Message Board Display Regulations:

- a. One image, animation, or video must remain visible for an interval of at least eight (8) seconds;
 - b. Display must go dark if there is a malfunction.
- 4) An electronic sign will be in violation of the terms of its permit if the Zoning Inspector finds one or more of the following:
- a. Animation and motion of images and messages is too fast and distracting and, as such compromises public safety;
 - b. Sign has a negative impact on pedestrian or vehicular traffic flow and safety;
 - c. Sign compromises public safety in any way.

12. US 250 Corridor

1) Introduction:

Signs in the US 250 Road Corridor are necessary to communicate information for property owners, tenants and users. Since the corridor is a major gateway, signs may be considered differently than other signs throughout the Township. Additional sign criteria are necessary to accomplish this and are intended to supplement the sign regulations within the Perkins Township Zoning Resolution.

2) Location:

The regulations noted below are applicable to any property that has frontage on U.S. Route 250/Milan Road within the U.S. 250 Corridor zone displayed below.



3) Purpose:

These criteria include restrictions on all signs including but not limited to freestanding signs, wall signs, monument signs, temporary signs, and portable signs.

4) Standards:

- a. All signs on US 250 must be setback a minimum of thirty (30) feet from the right of way;
- b. Freestanding signs (Pole Signs);
 - i. No more than thirty five (35) feet in height from the finished site grade;
 - ii. No more than seventy five (75) square feet in surface area when the building is between one thousand (1,000) and five thousand (5,000) square feet in size;
 - iii. No more than one hundred and fifty (150) square feet in surface area when the building is between five thousand one (5,001) and twenty thousand (20,000) square feet;
 - iv. No more than one hundred seventy five (175) square feet in surface area when the building is between twenty thousand one (20,001) and larger square feet;
 - v. Clear area under the sign must be eight and one half (8.5) feet from the ground to the bottom of sign.
- c. Wall Signs:
 - i. No more than three (3) square feet per one (1) lineal ft. of the building/unit frontage.
- d. Monument signs:
 - i. No more than six (6) feet in height;
 - ii. No more than fifty (50) square feet in area.
- e. All electronic message boards must follow regulations found in Section 11.
- f. Billboards must follow regulations found in Section 17.

13. Temporary Signs Requiring Permit

The following temporary signs (as defined in Article 3 of the Zoning Resolution) require

permits and are subject to the sign area provisions described below. All signs must conform to the general requirement listed in Section 3.

- 1) All temporary signs may not include any of the following:
 - a. Illumination of any kind;
 - b. Electrical animation;
 - c. Changeable reader copy, electronic or manual.
- 2) Standards:
 - a. No more than one (1) sign or flag (excluding American, State, Township, or Military Service flags) per nonresidential occupant;
 - b. No more than thirty two (32) square feet in area in a nonresidential zoning district;
 - c. No more than sixteen (16) square feet in area in a residential zoning district;
 - d. Installed for no more than thirty (30) consecutive days;
 - e. Installed no more than four (4) times per calendar year (January through December) and not to be installed consecutively;
 - f. Not be permanently anchored to the ground, concrete, or asphalt;
 - g. Signs shall be located no closer than fifteen (15) feet from the edge of the roadway or the property line whichever distance is greater.

14. Temporary signs not requiring a permit

The following temporary signs (as defined in Article 3 of the Zoning Resolution) do not require permits and are subject to the sign area provisions described below. All signs must conform to the general requirement listed in Section 3.

- 1) All temporary signs may not include any of the following:
 - a. Illumination of any kind;
 - b. Electrical animation;
 - c. Changeable reader copy, electronic or manual.
- 2) Yard Signs (Commercial and Industrial):
 - a. No more than one (1) per parcel;
 - b. No more than thirty two (32) square feet in area per side;
 - c. No more than eight (8) feet in height;

- d. Not be permanently anchored to the ground, concrete, or asphalt;
 - e. Signs shall be located no closer than fifteen (15) feet from the edge of the roadway or the property line whichever distance is greater.
- 3) Yard Signs (Residential):
- a. No more than six (6) square feet in area per side;
 - b. No more than six (6) feet in height;
 - c. Not be permanently anchored to the ground, concrete, or asphalt;
 - d. Signs shall be located no closer than fifteen (15) feet from the edge of the roadway or the property line whichever distance is greater.
- 4) Signs located on a parcel prior to construction completion (Commercial and Industrial):
- a. Each contractor per job site may have one (1) sign up to thirty two (32) square feet;
 - b. Signs cannot be placed until thirty (30) days prior to start of construction;
 - c. Not be permanently anchored to the ground, concrete, or asphalt;
 - d. Must be removed within seven (7) days after the construction is finished or a Certificate of Occupancy is issued by the Building Department;
 - e. Signs shall not be more than eight (8) feet in height.
- 5) Signs located on a parcel prior to construction completion (Residential):
- a. Each contractor per job site may have one (1) sign up to six (6) square feet or a maximum of all signs shall not be greater than 32 square feet;
 - b. Signs cannot be placed until thirty (30) days prior to start of construction;
 - c. Not be permanently anchored to the ground, concrete, or asphalt;
 - d. Must be removed within seven (7) days after the construction is finished or a Certificate of Occupancy is issued by the Building Department;
 - e. Signs shall not be more than six (6) feet in height.

15. Freestanding Signs

Free-standing on-premises signs in, commercial or industrial districts, are not to be larger than the following chart:

Building Size	Sign Square Footage
0 sq. ft. – 5,000 sq. ft.	75 sq. ft.
5,001 sq. ft. – 20,000 sq. ft.	150 sq. ft.
20,000 – Larger	175 sq. ft.

They are not to exceed thirty (30) feet in height, be located not closer than one-half (1/2) of the front yard setback to the property line and not closer than thirty (30) feet to any adjoining lot line and may be erected to serve a group of business establishments. There shall be only one freestanding sign for each building, regardless of the number of businesses conducted in said building. Pole signs shall have a clear distance of eight and

one-half (8 ½) feet from the ground to bottom of sign and monument signs not located closer than one-half (½) of the required front yard setback.

Signs indicating principally or conditionally permitted uses of a piece of property may be permitted on the property, providing the side yard setback is consistent with the zoning district in which the sign is located and the front yard setback of the sign is not less than one-half (½) the required front yard setback of the zoning district in which the sign is located.

16. Vehicle Signs

Vehicle signs do not require permits, and must conform to the following requirements and guidelines:

- 1) Vehicle signs may only be parked in commercial and industrial districts;
- 2) May only be on vehicles parked no longer than 72 consecutive hours;
- 3) May not be located within the sight triangle described in Section 8;
- 4) May not be parked in a manner that will create sight line issues as determined by the Zoning Inspector.

17. Portable Sign Requirements and Guidelines

Portable signs require permits, and must conform to the following requirements and guidelines:

- 1) Signs shall be located no closer than fifteen (15) feet from the edge of the roadway or the property line whichever distance is greater
- 2) Shall be ten (10) feet off any adjoining parcels' lot lines;
- 3) Appearance of portable signs shall conform to all other regulations set forth herein;
- 4) The maximum allowable size of a portable sign shall be thirty-two (32) square feet.

18. Off Premise Signs (Billboards)

For the purposes of this Article, outdoor advertising off-premises (billboard) signs shall be classified as a conditionally permitted use only in the PBO, C-1, C-2, I-1, I-2, and A Districts. In addition, regulation of signs along interstate and primary highways shall conform to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5516 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto. Outdoor advertising off-premises signs must conform to these guidelines:

- 1) Billboards may not be erected or constructed within one hundred (100) feet of any road or highway intersection or railroad grade crossing;
- 2) No sign except those placed and maintained by the Township, County, State, or Federal governments shall be located in, overhang or encroach upon any public right-of-way;
- 3) Setback shall be 50 feet from the road right-of-way;
- 4) Height shall not exceed forty five (45) feet.
- 5) If the billboard has an electronic message board component then it must also meet the following regulations:
 - a. signs may not be located within twelve thousand (12,000) feet of any other billboard with an electronic message board component on the same roadway
 - b. signs may not be located within seven thousand five hundred (7,500) feet of any other billboard with an electronic message board component on any other roadway
 - c. signs must follow all luminance regulations of Section 11
 - d. there shall be no more than 4 electronic message sign billboards within the township at any given time

19. Non-Conforming Signs and Structures

Advertising signs and structures in existence prior to the effective date of these Sign Regulations which violate or are otherwise not in conformance with the provisions of this Article shall be deemed non-conforming. All legal nonconforming signs and structures shall be maintained in accordance with this Article. The burden of establishing the legal non-conforming status of any advertising sign or structure shall be upon the owner of the sign or structure.

20. Loss of Legal Non-Conforming Status

A legal non-conforming sign shall immediately lose its legal non-conforming status and therefore must be brought into conformance with this Article or be removed if the sign is altered in copy (except for changeable copy signs) or structure; or if it is enlarged, relocated or replaced; or if it is part of an establishment which discontinues operation for six (6) consecutive months; or if it is structurally damaged to an extent greater than one-half (1/2) of its estimated replacement value. Similarly, any legal non-conforming advertising structure so damaged must be brought into compliance or be removed.

21. Violations

In case any sign shall be installed, erected, constructed or maintained in violation of any of the provisions of these Regulations, the Zoning Inspector shall notify in writing the owner or lessees of the property to alter such sign so as to comply with these Regulations. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Article shall be deemed a violation and shall be punishable under Section 5.15 of this Resolution.

22. Aesthetic Criteria

In all districts, design of signs shall substantially comply with the following aesthetic criteria:

- 1) Color:
 - a. Colors used shall match the background or trim color of the principal building;
 - b. If more than one sign is permitted, colors on the signs shall be coordinated with each other to present a unified image.
- 2) Materials:
 - a. Materials used shall be designed so as to be compatible with the architecture of the building and character of the District.
- 3) Information:
 - a. Information provided on the sign shall clearly indicate the name of the business and a simple product idea. Excessive information and clutter is to be avoided.
- 4) Landscaping:
 - a. Light sources shall be concealed from view by the incorporation of shrubs or other type of sightful ground cover;
 - b. Plant materials shall be installed around the base of a freestanding or monument sign as approved by the Zoning Inspector.

23. Maintenance

Every sign shall be maintained in a safe, presentable and good structural material condition at all times, including the replacement of defective parts, painting, repainting, cleaning and other acts required for the maintenance of the sign. The owner of any property on which a sign is located and those responsible for maintenance of the sign shall be equally responsible for the conditions of the area in the vicinity of the sign and shall be required to keep that area clean, sanitary and free from noxious or offensive substances, rubbish and flammable waste materials. The Zoning Inspector shall require compliance with all standards of this article. If the sign is not made to comply with adequate safety standards, the Zoning Inspector shall require its removal in accordance with this section.

24. Abandoned Signs

Except as otherwise provided in this article, any sign, other than billboards, that is located on property which becomes vacant and is unoccupied for a period of two (2) months or more, or any sign which pertains to a time, event or purpose which has passed by more than thirty (30) days shall be deemed to have been abandoned and must be removed immediately.

Permanent signs applicable to a business temporarily suspended because of a change of ownership or management of such business shall not be deemed abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a period of six (6) months or more. An abandoned sign is prohibited and shall be immediately removed by the owner of the sign or owner of the premises upon notice from the Zoning Inspector.

25. Dangerous or Defective Signs

No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained on any premises owned or controlled by him any sign which is in a dangerous or defective condition. Any such sign shall be immediately removed or repaired by the owner of the sign or the owner of the premises.

26. Removal of Signs by the Zoning Inspector

The Zoning Inspector shall cause to be removed any sign that endangers the public safety, such as an abandoned, dangerous or materially, electrically, or structurally defective sign, or a sign for which no permit has been issued. The Zoning Inspector shall prepare a notice which shall describe the sign and specify the violation involved and which shall state that, if the sign is not removed or the violation is not corrected within ten (10) days, the sign shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 and the cost incurred shall be charged to and paid for by the owner of the property on which the offending sign was located or the owner of the sign or both.

