

1 Article IX SIGNS

2

3 **Sec. 9-100 General Provisions**

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5 **Sec. 9-101. – Findings, purpose and intent; interpretation.**

6 (A) Signs obstruct views, distract motorists, displace alternative uses for land, and pose other  
7 problems that legitimately call for regulation. The purpose of this article is to regulate the  
8 size, color, illumination, movement, materials, location, height and condition of all signs  
9 placed on private property for exterior observation, thus ensuring the protection of property  
10 values, the character of the various neighborhoods, the creation of a convenient, attractive  
11 and harmonious community, protection against destruction of or encroachment upon historic  
12 areas, and the safety and welfare of pedestrians and wheeled traffic, while providing  
13 convenience to citizens and encouraging economic development. This article allows  
14 adequate communication through signage while encouraging aesthetic quality in the design,  
15 location, size and purpose of all signs. This article shall be interpreted in a manner  
16 consistent with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. If any provision of this  
17 article is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not  
18 affect the validity of other provisions of this article which can be given effect without the  
19 invalid provision.

20 (B) Signs not expressly permitted as being allowed by right or by special use permit under this  
21 article, by specific requirements in another portion of this chapter, or otherwise expressly  
22 allowed by the governing body are prohibited.

23 (C) A sign placed on land or on a building for the purpose of identification, protection or  
24 directing persons to a use conducted therein shall be deemed to be an integral but accessory  
25 and subordinate part of the principal use of land or building. Therefore, the intent of this  
26 article is to establish limitations on signs in order to ensure they are appropriate to the land,  
27 building or use to which they are appurtenant and are adequate for their intended purpose  
28 while balancing the individual and community interests identified in subsection (a) of this  
29 section.

30 (D) These regulations are intended to promote signs that are compatible with the use of the  
31 property to which they are appurtenant, landscape and architecture of surrounding buildings,  
32 are legible and appropriate to the activity to which they pertain, are not distracting to  
33 motorists, and are constructed and maintained in a structurally sound and attractive  
34 condition.

35 (E) These regulations do not regulate every form and instance of visual speech that may be  
36 displayed anywhere within the jurisdictional limits of the City. Rather, they are intended to  
37 regulate those forms and instances that are most likely to meaningfully affect one or more of  
38 the purposes set forth above.

39 (F) These regulations do not entirely eliminate all of the harms that may be created by the  
40 installation and display of signs. Rather, they strike an appropriate balance that preserves  
41 ample channels of communication by means of visual display while still reducing and  
42 mitigating the extent of the harms caused by signs.

- 1 (G) This Article IX governs the erection and display of all signs, marquees and awnings in the  
2 city, except those erected and displayed by the city, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the  
3 United States in furtherance of their governmental responsibilities and those required by law  
4 to be erected and displayed.
- 5 (H) All rights and privileges acquired under the provisions of this Article IX are mere licenses  
6 revocable at any time by the director upon a violation of any applicable provision of this  
7 Article IX.
- 8 (I) The provisions contained in this Article IX shall be considered separate from, supplemental  
9 to and additional to the provisions contained elsewhere in this ordinance or other city  
10 ordinances. Nothing contained in this Article IX shall excuse any person from compliance  
11 with all other applicable provisions of this ordinance or the city code.
- 12 (J) Wherever authority is to be exercised under this Article IX by the city manager or the  
13 director, the authority may also be exercised by his or her designee.
- 14 (K) This Article shall apply to signs, marquees, and awnings on property not used for public  
15 right of way. Under no circumstances shall any provision herein authorize placement of a  
16 sign on any public right of way.

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18 **9-102 Definitions**

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- 20 (A) *A-Frame sign.* A two-faced sign with supports that are connected at the top and separated at  
21 the base, forming an “A” shape. These are also referred to as “sandwich board” signs. They  
22 are included in the term “portable sign.”
- 23
- 24 (B) *Animated sign.* Any sign, the character or appearance of any element or part of which  
25 changes by any device, mechanical, electrical or otherwise, except for digital text and  
26 graphic signs.
- 27 (C) *Awning sign.* A sign placed directly on the surface of a covering attached to and projecting  
28 from a building or structure, erected in or above a window or door, and usually supported by  
29 a metal frame.
- 30 (D) *Banner.* A temporary sign of flexible material affixed to a framework or flat surface.
- 31 (E) *Billboard.* Any sign that consists of a single panel surface larger than 100 square feet in size  
32 that is installed as an independent structure or is mounted on the side or top of a building, and  
33 this sign along with its location is sold, rented, or leased to a user that is not the property’s  
34 business owner.
- 35 (F) *Building frontage.* The length of the main wall of a building which physically encloses or  
36 covers usable space. Said frontage shall be measured at the width of the wall at the height  
37 where the sign is mounted.
- 38 (G) *Chalk-board sign.* A single-faced, framed slate, chalk-board, whiteboard, or other material  
39 that can be written on with chalk, dry erase or similar markers.

- 1 (H) *Changeable copy sign.* A non-electronic sign or part of a sign that is designed so that  
2 characters, letters or illustrations can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or  
3 surface of the sign.
- 4 (I) *Comprehensive sign plan.* A plan for the signage of a property that includes multiple  
5 tenants or owners with shared parking or other facilities.
- 6 (J) *Curb sign.* Any sign painted on a curb located at the front of a property.
- 7 (K) *Digital text and graphic sign.* Any sign that can change its content by way of electronic or  
8 mechanical means but maintains a consistent image and does not flash or display any  
9 animation or movement other than the occasional changing of text or graphics. Digital text  
10 and graphic signs can be in the form of televisions, monitors, and other screens.
- 11 (L) *Double-face sign.* Any sign having two parallel planes or surfaces that both bear the  
12 message.
- 13
- 14 (M) *Feather sign.* A lightweight, portable sign mounted along one edge on a single, vertical,  
15 flexible pole the physical structure of which at may resemble a sail, bow, or teardrop. See  
16 Windblown Sign.
- 17 (N) *Flag.* A piece of cloth or similar material, typically oblong or square, attachable by one  
18 edge to a pole or rope or attached at the top and draped; this includes pennants.
- 19 (O) *Flashing sign.* Any sign consisting of, or illuminated by, flashing or intermittent lights or  
20 other lights of changing degrees of intensity, brightness or color except for digital text and  
21 graphic signs.
- 22 (P) *Freestanding sign.* A sign that is supported by structures or supports in or upon the ground  
23 and independent of any support from any building or wall. It also means any non-portable  
24 sign supported by a fence, retaining wall, or by upright structural members or braces on or  
25 in the ground and not attached to a building. A freestanding sign can have one or two sides  
26 and can have messages on each side.
- 27 (Q) *Height.* The maximum vertical distance from the ground at the base of the sign, or, for  
28 projecting signs, at the bottom of the plane created by the face of the sign extending to the  
29 ground, to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Height also measures the  
30 ground clearance under projecting signs.
- 31 (R) *Holiday Displays.* Any displays erected on a seasonal basis in observance of religious,  
32 national, or state holidays which are not intended to be permanent in nature and which  
33 contain no advertising material.
- 34 (S) *Illegal sign.* Any sign erected without a required permit or which otherwise does not  
35 comply with any provisions of this article.
- 36 (T) *Illuminated sign.* Any sign that is backlit, internally lighted or lighted by direct external  
37 lighting fixtures.
- 38 (U) *Marquee.* Any permanent structure projecting beyond a building wall at an entrance to a  
39 building or extending along and projecting beyond the building's wall and generally

- 1 designed and constructed to provide protection against the weather. A marquee may take  
2 the form of an awning.
- 3 (V) *Marquee sign*. Any sign attached to and made a part of a marquee or any similar projections  
4 from a building, with changeable, fixed or both types of lettering in use.
- 5 (W) *Minor sign*. Any wall or freestanding sign not exceeding one (1) square foot in area and not  
6 illuminated.
- 7 (X) *Monument sign*. Any freestanding sign consisting of a structure built on grade in which the  
8 sign and the structure are an integral part of one another. A monument sign is not a pole  
9 sign, and it does not have any visible supporting posts or poles. This sign generally has a  
10 low profile with little or no open space between the ground and the sign and has a structure  
11 constructed of masonry, wood, or materials similar in appearance
- 12 (Y) *Moving or windblown sign*. Any sign, any element or part of which (such as a streamer,  
13 wheel, moored blimp or propeller) moves by means of a mechanized, electrical or other  
14 device or is set in motion by movement of the atmosphere, including feather signs. A flag is  
15 not a moving or windblown sign.
- 16 (Z) *Mobile Sign*. Any sign mounted on wheels, built with axles to which wheels may be  
17 attached, or attached to a motor vehicle which is used primarily for the displaying of the  
18 sign, not for operating of the vehicle. Any such vehicle shall, without limitation, be  
19 considered to be used for the primary purpose of displaying the sign if it remains parked in  
20 the same location for more seven (7) days without moving, fails to display current license  
21 plates, inspection sticker, or municipal decal, if the vehicle is inoperable, if evidence of  
22 paid-to-date local taxes cannot be made available, or if the sign alters the standard design of  
23 such vehicle or trailer. A parking permit sticker, inspection sticker, regulatory permit or  
24 bumper sticker attached to a motor vehicle shall not be considered a sign.
- 25 (AA) *Neon sign*. Any sign containing exposed tubes filled with light-emitting gas or a sign  
26 giving the appearance of being a neon sign.
- 27 (BB) *Nonconforming sign*. Any sign which was lawfully erected in compliance with applicable  
28 regulations of the City and maintained prior to the effective date of this chapter of the  
29 zoning ordinance and which fails to conform to current standards and restrictions of the  
30 zoning ordinance.
- 31 (CC) *Pole sign*. Any freestanding sign taller than 42 inches that is mounted on one (1) or more  
32 visible, ground-mounted poles. A flag, as defined by 9-102(N), on an affixed to a pole is  
33 not a pole sign.
- 34 (DD) *Portable sign*. Any temporary sign not affixed to a building, structure, vehicle or the  
35 ground and which can easily be picked up and moved to another location
- 36 (EE) *Projecting sign*. Any sign, other than a wall, awning or marquee sign, affixed to a  
37 building and supported only by the wall on which it is mounted. A projecting sign has a  
38 sign face that is not flat to the wall on which it is mounted and has two sides and can have  
39 messages on each side.

- 1 (FF) *Public area.* Any public place, public right-of-way, any parking area or right-of-way  
2 open to use by the general public, or any navigable body of water.
- 3 (GG) *Public Art.* Items expressing creative skill or imagination in a visual form, such as  
4 painting or sculpture, which are intended to beautify or provide aesthetic influences to  
5 public areas or areas which are visible from the public realm.
- 6 (HH) *Roof line.* A line composed of the highest points of the roof of a building or structure not  
7 to include mechanical penthouses or other structures attached to or erected on such roof.
- 8 (II) *Roof sign.* Any sign erected on or affixed to a building or structure which extends, in  
9 whole or in part, above the roof line or the eaves or bottom edge of the roof.
- 10 (JJ) *Sign.* Any object, device, display, or structure, or part thereof, visible from a public place, a  
11 public right-of-way, any parking area or right-of-way open to use by the general public, or  
12 any navigable body of water which is designed and used to attract attention to an institution,  
13 organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means involving words,  
14 letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, logos, colors, illumination, or projected images.  
15 The term does not include public art, architectural elements incorporated into the style or  
16 function of a building, or flags of any nation, state, or other geopolitical entity not related to a  
17 commercial business, product or service. The term “sign” also does not include the display of  
18 merchandise for sale on the site of the display.
- 19 (KK) *Sign face.* The portion of a sign structure bearing the message.
- 20 (LL) *Sign structure.* Any structure supporting or bearing a sign face.
- 21 (MM) *Temporary sign.* Any sign intended to be displayed for a short time period based on a  
22 property condition. All temporary signs are not illuminated. Unless a different time  
23 period is specified, a temporary sign may not be displayed for more than 120 continuous  
24 days and there must be a 30-day interruption between postings of temporary signs.
- 25 (NN) *Wall Sign.* Any sign attached to a wall or painted on or against a flat vertical surface of a  
26 structure.
- 27 (OO) *Window sign.* Any sign visible from outside a building and visible through any window  
28 or door and attached to or within four (4) feet in front of or behind the surface of a  
29 window or door.

### 30 **9-103 – Sign Approval.**

#### 31 (A) Approval Required.

- 32 (1) No sign, marquee or awning may be erected, displayed, constructed, reconstructed or  
33 altered unless it complies with the Uniform Statewide Building Code. Compliance may  
34 require that, in addition to the permits required by any other section of this ordinance, a  
35 permit or permits be obtained from the building code official.
- 36 (2) Application for a permit shall be made on forms furnished by the building code  
37 official.
- 38 (3) The Department of Planning and Zoning shall review each sign application except as  
39 noted in 9-103(B) below, for compliance with this Article IX.
- 40

1 (B) Zoning Approval not required. In all zones, except property within the Old and Historic  
2 Alexandria or the Parker-Gray Districts, the following signs are permitted without zoning  
3 approval if the sign is allowed in the zone pursuant to Section 9-200 herein:

- 4 (1) Signs erected by a governmental body or required by law.
- 5 (2) Flags as allowed within each zone.
- 6 (3) The changing of messages on and/or maintenance of an existing sign, except that repair  
7 of a nonconforming sign must comply with 9-402.
- 8 (4) Temporary signs as allowed within each zone.
- 9 (5) Not more than two minor signs per property as allowed within each zone. Additional  
10 minor signs are permitted in certain districts with approval.
- 11 (6) Pavement markings on an area of property where traffic management is necessary.

12 (C) *Coordinated Sign Special Use Permit.* Comprehensive sign plans may be approved by  
13 special use permit in a CDD/Coordinated Development District or in a unified development  
14 more than three acres in size, which contains more than one building, more than one parcel  
15 or private streets. The comprehensive sign plan shall establish the time, manner, and  
16 placement of signs, frequency of message changes, the materials, the hours of lighting, the  
17 height of signs, the total number of square feet of sign surface, and the number of signs to be  
18 placed on a site. Height of signs shall not be modified above the height permitted in the  
19 Zoning Ordinance. The applicant for a Coordinated Sign Special Use Permit shall submit a  
20 statement of justification for such program in addition to information which describes the  
21 number, location, size, height, color, material, type of illumination, if applicable, of all  
22 proposed signs within the program. A proposed coordinated sign program may be approved  
23 if council finds that it provides the same or greater benefits to the public as the sign  
24 regulations otherwise applicable.

25 (D) *Waiver of requirement by special use permit.* A special use permit may be obtained  
26 pursuant to [Section 11-500](#), which authorizes the provision of signage otherwise not permitted by  
27 this Article IX, subject to the following:

28 (1) The special use permit applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed signage would  
29 correspond with the intent of this Article IX; and

30 (2) City Council finds that:

- 31 a. the proposed signage has an exceptional design or approach that  
32 cannot be accomplished within the existing regulations;
  - 33 b. the proposed signage will not have an adverse impact on the nearby  
34 neighborhood, and
  - 35 c. the signs comply with the applicable standards for approval of a  
36 Special Use Permit set forth in [section 11-504](#).
- 37

1 **9-104 Prohibited signs**

2 In addition to signs prohibited elsewhere in the zoning ordinance, City Code or by applicable  
3 state or federal law, the following signs are prohibited in all Zones:

4 (A) General prohibitions.

5 (1) Signs displayed without complying with all applicable regulations of this chapter  
6 or that violate any city, state or federal law.

7 (2) Signs simulating, or which are likely to be confused with, a traffic control sign or  
8 any other sign displayed by a public authority. Any such sign is subject to immediate  
9 removal and disposal by an authorized city official as a nuisance.

10 (B) Prohibitions based on materials.

11 (1) Animated signs. This subsection does not apply to flags expressly permitted under  
12 this article.

13 (2) Flashing signs.

14 (3) Moving or Windblown Signs.

15 (4) Mobile Signs.

16 (5) Signs that emit smoke, flame, scent, mist, aerosol, liquid or gas.

17 (6) Signs that emit sound.

18 (7) Any electronic sign or Digital Text and Graphic Sign that is generated by a series  
19 of moving images, such as an LED, digital display or other video technology, whether  
20 displayed on a building, vehicle or mobile unit.

21 (8) Pole signs.

22 (9) Signs which utilize a spotlight or other device which projects a beam of light in  
23 the direction of any street, road, highway, alley or parking area so that it may be seen by  
24 the operator of a motor vehicle when the vehicle is not parked.

25 (10) Illuminated signs located higher than 35 feet above grade unless the building is  
26 located within 2,000 feet of and the sign is facing U.S. Route 95 (the Capital Beltway) or  
27 unless a special use permit is approved after a finding that the sign meets the following  
28 criteria:

29 a) Only one sign per building is permitted;

30 b) The building may not be located within, or on the borders of, the Old and  
31 Historic Alexandria or Parker-Gray Districts;

- c) The sign must meet any applicable design guidelines and follow any additional applicable process for approval;
- d) The sign must be appropriate in scale, design and color and compatible with the building;
- e) The sign may not be a neon sign;
- f) The sign shall be subject to such conditions as the SUP may impose to ensure that the sign functions without glare or disturbance with nearby uses, including those rules which may alter, modify or supersede the rule stated in section 9-105(A)(2) with regard to the lighting not operating between 10:30 pm and 6:30 a.m.; and;
- g) No sign may face the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and only minimum facade lighting facing the Parkway is allowed. All National Park Service requirements must be met.

(11) Portable Signs. This subsection does not apply to A-frame signs allowed herein.

(12) Billboards.

(13) Internally Illuminated Translucent Rectangular Panel Signs: Signs that use a lightbox configuration where a light fixture is inside a rectangular box with the front surface consisting of a translucent panel on which information is displayed. This prohibition does not apply to channel lettering signs that use individual light boxes shaped like discrete letters or symbols.

(C) Prohibitions based on location.

(1) Signs erected on public land other than 1) those approved by the City Manager or his or her designee in writing, 2) those where an ordinance authorizing such encroachment has been enacted by city council, 3) those authorized by law without such approval, or 4) those permitted under Virginia Code § 24.2-310 E. Any sign not so authorized is subject to immediate removal and disposal by any authorized official. Removal of the sign under this provision does not preclude prosecution of the person responsible for the sign.

(2) Roof Signs.

(3) Any sign that obstructs free or clear vision, or otherwise causes a safety hazard for vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian traffic due to its location.

(4) Signs affixed to certain property. No sign may be painted, marked, written, posted or displayed on, or otherwise affixed to, any private street sign, bus stop sign or traffic sign, sidewalk, crosswalk, curb, curbstone, street, lamp post, hydrant, railroad trestle, electric light or power pole or telephone pole or wire appurtenance thereof,

1 fixture of the fire alarm system, drinking fountain, natural features such as trees,  
2 shrubs, rocks or tree stakes or guards.

3 **9-105 – Standards and removal.**

4 (A) Standards

5 (1) *Maintenance.*

6 (a) All signs, marquees and awnings shall be maintained at all times in a safe  
7 structural condition and in a neat and clean condition, and shall be kept free from  
8 defective or missing parts or peeling paint.

9 (b) The building official may find cause to have signs removed or repaired  
10 immediately without written notice any sign which, in his or her opinion, has  
11 become insecure, in danger of falling, or otherwise unsafe, and, as such, presents  
12 an immediate threat to the safety of the public. If such action is necessary to  
13 render a sign safe, the cost of such emergency removal or repair shall be at the  
14 expense of the owner or lessee thereof as provided in the Uniform Statewide  
15 Building Code.

16 (2) *Illumination.*

17 (a) Lighted signs facing and in close proximity to a residential zone shall not be  
18 illuminated between 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

19 (b) Such signs shall be constructed so that the lighting elements are shielded from  
20 view of the residential zone by nontransparent or translucent material or other  
21 means designed to eliminate glare.

22 (c) Illumination is prohibited for all temporary signs.

23 (d) Internal illumination is prohibited for rectangular panel signs, in accordance  
24 with Section 9-104 (B) (13)

25 (e) Illuminated Signs higher than 35 feet are subject to Section 9-104 (B) (10)

26 (3) *Reflection.* No sign shall contain any reflective device.

27 (4) *Non-commercial Sign Substitution.* Wherever this Article permits a sign with  
28 commercial content, non-commercial content is also permitted subject to the same  
29 requirements of size, color, illumination, movement, materials, location, height and  
30 construction.

31 (5) All free standing signs must comply with all applicable vision clearance requirements  
32 in 7-801 of the Zoning Ordinance.

1 (B) Removal.

2 (1) Whenever the use of a building or structure or real property is discontinued, all signs  
3 pertaining to that use which were previously erected or displayed shall be removed  
4 within 30 days of the discontinuance of the use.

5 (2) Irrespective of any continued use or any discontinuance in use of a building or  
6 structure, a supporting standard or structure for a sign shall be removed if the  
7 standard or structure is not occupied by a sign permitted by this ordinance for a  
8 continuous period of one year.

9 (3) It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the building, structure, or real property to  
10 accomplish the removal. If, after written notice to the owner from the director, such  
11 signs or supporting standards or structures are not removed within ten days of the  
12 notice, the city manager shall cause the removal and charge the cost to the owner.

13 **9-106 - Computation of sign area.**

14 The area of a sign is the sum of the areas within rectangular lines inscribed around each separate  
15 word, symbol or pictorial element on the face of a sign, and the height of a sign shall be  
16 measured to include the sign and supporting apparatus for any freestanding sign; provided that:

17 (A) The area of a sign, or any portion thereof, having a distinctive or ornamental border shall  
18 include both the area enclosed by the border, and the area enclosed within the border.

19 (B) The area of a sign, or any portion thereof, having a distinctive or ornamental background,  
20 which sets the background apart from a larger surface so that it forms an integral part or  
21 element of the sign, shall include the area of the background.

22 (C) The area of a freestanding sign, or any portion thereof, having a background which extends  
23 beyond the words, symbols or pictorial elements thereof shall include the area of the  
24 background.

25 (D) If any portion of the words, symbols or pictorial elements of a sign extends beyond a border  
26 or background or has no border or background, the area of that portion of the sign shall be  
27 the area of a rectangle inscribed around it.

28 (E) The area of a marquee, or any panel thereof, which specifically provides a background for a  
29 sign shall be included in the area of the sign.

30 (F) The area of any sign hung, placed, painted or displayed on a marquee or awning shall be  
31 included in determining the total area of signs erected or displayed.

32 (G) The area of a double-face sign shall be considered to be the area of the one face having the  
33 larger area.

1  
2 **Sec. 9-200 Sign Regulations by Zoning District**  
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4 **9-201 – Residential district signs.**

5 (A) Except as otherwise prohibited in this Article, the following signs are permitted as accessory  
6 to residential uses in the following residential districts.

7 (1) In the R-20, R-12, R-8, R-5, R-2-5, RB, RM, RT, POS, and WPR Zones the  
8 following regulations shall apply:

9 a. On property used for residential purposes only the following signs are  
10 permitted:

11 *i. Flags:*

- 12 1. *Number and Size Limits:* One flag per twenty (20) feet (or  
13 portion thereof) of lot width to a maximum of three (3) flags  
14 per property with a maximum size of 16 square feet for each  
15 flag.  
16 2. *Mounting and Installation Regulations:* Freestanding flags  
17 may only be less than 25 feet in height. Wall mounted flags  
18 may only be on a projecting pole no longer than six (6) feet or  
19 mounted flat against the wall or on a window provided that the  
20 flag does not cover more than 20 percent of the glazing area of  
21 the window where it is installed. The bottom of a projecting  
22 wall mounted flag shall not encroach within eight (8) feet of  
23 the ground directly below the location where the flag is  
24 mounted.

25 *ii. Temporary Signs:*

- 26 1. Number, Size and Time Limits for each dwelling unit on a lot:  
27 a. One (1) sign, no more than four (4) square feet in area  
28 located on property where a building permit is active.  
29 b. One (1) sign, no more than four (4) square feet in area  
30 on any property for sale or rent during the time the  
31 property is actively listed on the MRIS System or  
32 actively marketed for rent. In the RB Zone, this sign is  
33 permitted to be of a size not exceeding twelve (12)  
34 square feet.  
35 c. Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed  
36 by or under the direction of any public or court officer  
37 in the performance of his official or directed duties;  
38 provided that all such signs shall be removed no more

1 than ten (10) days after their purpose has been  
2 accomplished.

3 d. One (1) additional sign per dwelling unit, no more than  
4 two (2) square feet in area.

5 2. *Mounting and Installation Regulations:* Signs may be ground  
6 mounted, wall mounted, or displayed within a window,  
7 provided that it does not cover more than twenty percent (20%)  
8 of the glazing area of the window where it is installed.  
9 Freestanding signs may only be less than forty two (42) inches  
10 in height.

11 iii. Permanent Signs:

12 1. Minor Signs:

13 a. Number and Size Limits: Maximum of two (2) signs  
14 per property per street frontage with a maximum size of  
15 one (1) square foot for each sign.

16 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding  
17 minor signs may only be less than thirty six (36) inches  
18 in height. Wall mounted signs may only be mounted  
19 flat against the wall.

20 2. Signs at the entrance to a neighborhood:

21 a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is  
22 permitted per distinguishable neighborhood with a  
23 maximum size of 24 square feet for each sign.

24 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may  
25 only be installed as a monument sign with less than six  
26 (6) feet in height.

27 3. Signs painted on the curb in front of a property:

28 a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is  
29 permitted per property with a maximum size of six  
30 square inches.

31 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may  
32 only be painted directly on the face of a curb on private  
33 property.

34 4. Additional signs at a multifamily property in the RB Zone:

35 a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is  
36 permitted per multi-family property to be located at  
37 each of the property's street frontages with a maximum  
38 size of 40 square feet for each sign.

39 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign can  
40 be freestanding or wall mounted. Freestanding

1 installation is only permitted on a lot with a width of at  
2 least one hundred (100) feet at the front lot line only  
3 where off-street parking is provided, leaving a distance  
4 between the building and a side lot line of twenty five  
5 (25) feet or more, or where a building is setback twenty  
6 five (25) feet or more from the front lot line. If  
7 freestanding, the sign shall be installed as a monument  
8 sign less than six feet in height, and shall be setback at  
9 least ten (10) feet from the front lot line. Wall mounted  
10 signs may only be mounted flat against the wall.  
11

12 b. On property used for non-residential purposes:

13 i. Flags:

- 14 1. Number and Size Limits: One flag per twenty (20) feet (or  
15 portion thereof) of lot width to a maximum of maximum of  
16 five (5) flags per property with a maximum size of twenty four  
17 (24) square feet for each flag. Freestanding flags may only be  
18 attached to a pole less than thirty five (35) feet in height.  
19 2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Wall mounted flags  
20 may only be on a projecting pole no longer than six (6) feet or  
21 may be mounted flat against the wall or on a window provided  
22 that the flag does not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of  
23 the glazing area of the window where it is installed. The  
24 bottom of a projecting wall mounted flag shall not encroach  
25 within eight (8) feet of the ground directly below the location  
26 where the flag is mounted.

27 ii. Temporary Signs:

28 1. Number, Size and Time Limits:

- 29 a. One sign, no more than twenty four (24) square feet in  
30 area located on property where a building permit is  
31 active.  
32 b. One sign, no more than four (4) square feet in area on  
33 any property for sale or rent during the time the  
34 property is actively listed on the MRIS System or  
35 actively marketed for rent. Such sign, if freestanding,  
36 shall have a maximum height of forty two (42) inches .  
37 c. Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed  
38 by or under the direction of any public or court officer  
39 in the performance of his official or directed duties;  
40 provided that all such signs shall be removed no more

1 than ten (10) days after their purpose has been  
2 accomplished.

- 3 d. One additional sign, no more than two (2) square feet in  
4 area, per street frontage. Such sign, if freestanding,  
5 shall have a maximum height of 42 inches.  
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- 7 2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Unless otherwise  
8 specified, freestanding temporary signs may only be less than  
9 five (5) feet in height. Wall mounted temporary signs may  
10 only be mounted flat against the wall or on or in a window  
11 provided that the temporary sign does not cover more than  
12 twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where  
13 it is installed.

14 iii. Permanent Signs:

15 1. Minor Signs:

- 16 a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of five (5)  
17 permanent minor signs with a maximum size of one  
18 square foot per sign.  
19 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding  
20 minor signs may only be less than thirty six (36) inches  
21 in height. Wall mounted minor signs may only be  
22 mounted flat against the wall.

- 23 2. Signs at locations within ten (10) feet of the curb of a parking  
24 lot or driveway only at intersections or areas where motor  
25 vehicles or pedestrians would need to turn or change their  
26 course of travel:

- 27 a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one sign is  
28 permitted facing each direction at an intersection or  
29 area where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to  
30 change their course of travel with a maximum size of  
31 six (6) square feet for each sign.  
32 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: These signs  
33 may only be freestanding and less than forty two (42)  
34 inches in height.

35 3. Signs along property's street frontage:

- 36 a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one sign with  
37 a maximum size of 40 square feet for each sign is  
38 permitted at each property street frontage.  
39 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign can  
40 be freestanding or wall mounted. Freestanding

1 installation is only permitted on a lot with a width of at  
2 at least one hundred (100) feet at the front lot line only  
3 where off-street parking is provided, leaving a distance  
4 between the building and a side lot line of twenty five  
5 (25) feet or more, or where a building is setback twenty  
6 five (25) feet or more from the front lot line. If  
7 freestanding, the sign shall be installed as a monument  
8 sign less than six feet in height, and shall be setback at  
9 least ten (10) feet from the front lot line. Wall mounted  
10 signs may only be mounted flat against the wall.

- 11 4. Signs painted on the curb in front of a property:
- 12 a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is
  - 13 permitted with a maximum size of six (6) square inches.
  - 14 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may
  - 15 only be painted directly on the face of a curb.
- 16 5. Signs at the entrance to a neighborhood:
- 17 a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is
  - 18 permitted per distinguishable neighborhood with a
  - 19 maximum size of twenty four (24) square feet for each
  - 20 sign.
  - 21 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may
  - 22 only be installed as a monument sign with less than six
  - 23 feet in height.

24 (2) In the RA, RC, RCX, and RD Zones the following regulations shall apply:

- 25 a. On property used for residential purposes only the following signs are
- 26 permitted:
  - 27 i. Flags:
    - 28 1. Number and Size Limits: One flag per twenty (20) feet (or
    - 29 portion thereof) of lot width with a maximum size of 18 square
    - 30 feet per flag.
    - 31 2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding flags
    - 32 may only be less than thirty five (35) feet in height. Wall
    - 33 mounted flags may only be on a projecting pole no longer than
    - 34 six feet or may be mounted flat against the wall or on a
    - 35 window provided that the flag does not cover more than twenty
    - 36 percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is
    - 37 installed. The bottom of a projecting wall mounted flag shall
    - 38 not encroach within eight (8) feet of the ground directly below
    - 39 the location where the flag is mounted.
  - 40 ii. Temporary Signs:

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- 1. Number, Size and Time Limits:
  - a. One (1) sign, no more than twenty four (24) square feet in area located on property where a building permit is active.
  - b. One (1) sign, no more than twelve (12) square feet in area on any property for sale or rent during the time the property is actively listed on the MRIS System or actively marketed for rent. Such sign, if freestanding, shall have a maximum height of forty two (42) inches.
  - c. Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or under the direction of any public or court officer in the performance of his official or directed duties; provided, that all such signs shall be removed no more than ten (10) days after their purpose has been accomplished.
  - d. One (1) additional window sign per dwelling unit, no more than two (2) square feet in area is permitted.

2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Unless otherwise specified, freestanding temporary signs may only be less than five (5) feet in height. Wall mounted temporary signs may only be mounted flat against the wall or on or in a window provided that the temporary sign does not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is installed.

iii. Permanent Signs:

- 1. Minor Signs:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: Maximum of five signs per lot with a maximum size of one square foot per sign.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding minor signs may only be less than 36 inches in height. Wall mounted signs may only be mounted flat against the wall.
- 2. Signs at the entrance to a neighborhood:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is permitted per distinguishable neighborhood with a maximum size of twenty four (24) square feet for each sign.

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- b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may only be installed as a monument sign with less than six feet in height.
- 3. Signs painted on the curb in front of a property:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is permitted with a maximum size of six (6) square inches.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may only be painted directly on the face of a curb on private property.
- 4. Signs at locations within ten (10) feet of the curb of a parking lot or driveway only at intersections or areas where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to turn or change their course of travel:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one sign is permitted in each direction at an intersection or area where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to change their course of travel with a maximum size of six (6) square feet for each sign.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: These signs may only be freestanding and less than forty two (42) inches in height.
- 5. Signs along a multi-family street frontage:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one sign with a maximum size of forty (40) square feet for each sign is permitted at each lot street frontage.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign can be freestanding or wall mounted. Freestanding installation only permitted on a lot with a width of at least one hundred (100) feet at the front lot line only where off-street parking is provided, leaving a distance between the building and a side lot line of twenty five (25) feet or more, or where a building is setback twenty five (25) feet or more from the front lot line. If a freestanding, the sign shall be installed as a monument sign less than six (6) feet in height, and shall be setback at least ten (10) feet from the front lot line. Wall mounted signs may only be mounted flat against the wall.
- b. On property used for mixed use or non-residential purposes:

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- i. Flags:
  - 1. Number and Size Limits: One flag per twenty (20) feet (or portion thereof) of lot width with a maximum size of eighteen (18) square feet per flag.
  - 2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding flags may only be attached to a pole less than thirty five (35) feet in height. Wall mounted flags may only be on a projecting pole no longer than six (6) feet or may be mounted flat against the wall or on a window provided that the flag does not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is installed. The bottom of a projecting wall mounted flag shall not encroach within eight feet of the ground directly below the location where the flag is mounted.
- ii. Temporary Signs:
  - 1. Number, Size and Time Limits:
    - a. One (1) sign, no more than 24 square feet in area located on property where a building permit is active.
    - b. One (1) sign, no more than twelve (12) square feet in area on any property for sale or rent during the time the property is actively listed on the MRIS System or actively marketed for rent. Such sign, if freestanding, shall have a maximum height of forty two (42) inches.
    - c. Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or under the direction of any public or court officer in the performance of his official or directed duties; provided, that all such signs shall be removed no more than ten (10) days after their purpose has been accomplished.
    - d. One (1) additional window sign per dwelling unit, no more than two (2) square feet in area, is permitted.
  - 2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Unless otherwise specified, freestanding temporary signs may only be less than five (5) feet in height. Wall mounted temporary signs may only be mounted flat against the wall or on or in a window provided that the temporary sign does not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is installed.
- iii. Permanent Signs:
  - 1. Minor Signs:

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- a. Number and Size Limits: Maximum of five (5) signs per property with a maximum size of one (1) square foot for each sign.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding minor signs may only be less than thirty six (36) inches in height. Wall mounted signs may only be mounted flat against the wall.
2. Signs at the entrance to a neighborhood:
- a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is permitted per distinguishable neighborhood with a maximum size of twenty four (24) square feet for each sign.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may only be installed as a monument sign less than six (6) feet in height.
3. Signs painted on the curb in front of a property:
- a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is permitted with a maximum size of six (6) square inches.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may only be painted directly on the face of a curb on private property.
4. Signs at locations within ten (10) feet of the curb of a parking lot or driveway only at intersections or areas where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to turn or change their course of travel:
- a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one (1) sign is permitted in each direction at an intersection or area where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to change their course of travel with a maximum size of six (6) square feet for each sign.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: These signs may only be freestanding and less than forty two (42) inches in height.
5. Signs along a multi-family or non-residential property's street frontage:
- a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one (1) sign with a maximum size of forty (40) square feet for each sign is permitted at each lot street frontage.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign can be freestanding or wall mounted. Freestanding

1 installation only permitted on a lot with a width of at  
2 least one hundred (100) feet at the front lot line only  
3 where drive-in service or off-street parking is provided,  
4 leaving a distance between the building and a side lot  
5 line of twenty five (25) feet or more, or where a  
6 building is setback twenty (25) feet or more from the  
7 front lot line. If a freestanding, the sign shall be  
8 installed as a monument sign less than six (6) feet in  
9 height, and shall be setback at least ten (10) feet from  
10 the front lot line. Wall mounted signs may only be  
11 mounted flat against the wall.

12 6. Wall signs at the entrance to a non-residential building or part  
13 of a building:

- 14 a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one (1) sign  
15 with a maximum size of one (1) square feet for each  
16 linear foot of building width for the wall on which the  
17 sign is mounted.
- 18 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign shall  
19 be wall mounted and may only be mounted flat against  
20 the wall. Such sign cannot be higher than twenty (20)  
21 feet above grade measured from the location  
22 immediately below the sign. Such signs may also be  
23 mounted on an awning or marquee. Marquees and  
24 awnings are only permitted to encroach upon a public  
25 right-of-way if permitted by an enacted encroachment  
26 ordinance or which city council has expressly  
27 authorized.

28 7. Projecting signs at the entrance to a non-residential building or  
29 of a building:

- 30 a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one (1) sign  
31 with a maximum size of sixteen (16) square feet.
- 32 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign shall  
33 be wall mounted. Such sign shall not project more than  
34 four feet from the building wall or within one foot of an  
35 established curb line and the bottom of the sign is at  
36 least eight (8) feet above a sidewalk or parking area and  
37 at least fourteen and a half (14.5) feet above an alley.  
38 Such sign cannot be higher than twenty (20) feet above  
39 grade measured from the location immediately below  
40 the sign to the top of the sign. Such signs are only

1 permitted to encroach upon a public right-of-way if  
2 permitted by an enacted encroachment ordinance or  
3 which city council has expressly authorized.

4 **Sec. 9-202 – Commercial, Special, Overlay, and Mixed Use district signs.**

5 (A) *Generally.* Except as provided otherwise in this Article, the following signs are  
6 permitted as accessory uses in the CC, CD, CDX, CG, CL, CR, CSL, KR, NR,  
7 CRMU-/L, CRMU/M, CRMU/H, CRMU/X, OC, OCH, OCM (50), OCM (100), and  
8 W-1 Zones.

9 i. **Flags:**

- 10 1. **Number and Size Limits:** One flag per twenty (20) feet (or portion  
11 thereof) of lot width with a maximum size of twenty four (24)  
12 square feet for each flag.
- 13 2. **Mounting and Installation Regulations:** Freestanding flags may  
14 only be attached to a pole less than thirty five (35) feet in height.  
15 Wall mounted flags may only be on a projecting pole no longer  
16 than six (6) feet or may be mounted flat against the wall or on a  
17 window provided that the flag does not cover more than twenty  
18 percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is  
19 installed. The bottom of a projecting wall-mounted flag shall not  
20 encroach within eight (8) feet of the ground directly below the  
21 location where the flag is mounted.

22 ii. **Temporary Signs:**

23 1. **Number, Size and Time Limits:**

- 24 a. A maximum of one (1) sign with a maximum size of one  
25 (1) square feet for each linear foot of building width for the  
26 wall on which the sign is mounted per frontage on a street,  
27 alley, or parking lot only when located on property where a  
28 building permit is active. Such sign shall be wall mounted  
29 and may only be mounted flat against the wall or installed  
30 as a window sign. The area allowed for this temporary  
31 signage shall be deducted from area allowed for permanent  
32 wall signage or other temporary wall signage, as permitted  
33 in section b or in Sections 9-201 (A) iii.6 or iii.7 below.
- 34 b. A maximum of one (1) sign with a maximum size of one  
35 (1) square feet for each linear foot of building width for the  
36 wall on which the sign is mounted per frontage on a street,  
37 alley, or parking lot only when located on property is  
38 actively listed on the MRIS System or actively marketed  
39 for rent. Such sign shall be wall mounted and may only be

1 mounted flat against the wall or installed as a window sign.  
2 The area allowed for this temporary signage shall be  
3 deducted from area allowed for permanent wall signage or  
4 other temporary wall signage, as permitted in section b or  
5 in Sections 9-201 (A) iii.6 or iii.7 below.

- 6 c. Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or  
7 under the direction of any public or court officer in the  
8 performance of his official or directed duties; provided, that  
9 all such signs shall be removed no more than 10 days after  
10 their purpose has been accomplished.
- 11 d. One (1) sign with a maximum size of the lesser of twenty  
12 (20) feet, one-half square feet for each linear foot of  
13 building width for the wall on which the sign is mounted,  
14 or one hundred (100) square feet. The maximum period for  
15 this sign is sixty (60) days per six month period of a year.
- 16 e. One (1) additional window sign per dwelling unit, no more  
17 than two (2) square feet in area.

- 18 2. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign shall be wall  
19 mounted and may only be mounted flat against the wall or installed  
20 as a window sign. Such sign cannot be higher than twenty (20)  
21 feet above grade measured from the location immediately below  
22 the sign to the top of the sign.

23 iii. Permanent Signs:

- 24 1. Minor Signs only permitted in the CC, CG, CR, CSL, CRMU-/L,  
25 CRMU/M, CRMU/H, CRMU/X, OC, OCH, OCM (50), and OCM  
26 (100) Zones, but not permitted in the CD, CDX, CL, KR, NR, or  
27 W-1 zones:
  - 28 a. Number and Size Limits: Maximum of five (5) signs per  
29 property per street frontage with a maximum size of one (1)  
30 square foot for each sign.
  - 31 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding minor  
32 signs may only be less than thirty six (36) inches in height.  
33 Wall mounted signs may only be mounted flat against the  
34 wall.
- 35 2. Signs at the entrance to a neighborhood:
  - 36 a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is permitted  
37 per distinguishable neighborhood with a maximum size of  
38 twenty four (24) square feet for each sign.

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- b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may only be installed as a monument sign with less than six (6) feet in height.
- 3. Signs painted on the curb in front of a property:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: One permanent sign is permitted with a maximum size of six (6) square inches.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs may only be painted directly on the face of a curb on private property.
- 4. Signs at locations within ten (10) feet of the curb of a parking lot or driveway only at intersections or areas where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to turn or change their course of travel:
  - a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one (1) sign is permitted in each direction at an intersection or area where motor vehicles or pedestrians would need to change their course of travel with a maximum size of six (6) square feet for each sign.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: These signs may only be freestanding and less than forty two (42) inches in height.
- 5. Freestanding signs at a property's street frontage:
  - a. Number and Size Limits:
    - i. At a lot containing no more than two businesses, a maximum of one freestanding sign is permitted with a maximum area of fifty (50) square feet and a maximum height of six (6) feet above grade to the top of the sign.
    - ii. At a lot containing three or more businesses, a maximum of one freestanding sign is permitted with a maximum area of one hundred (100) square feet and a maximum height of eight (8) feet above grade to the top of the sign.
    - iii. At a lot containing five or more businesses and at least two hundred (200) feet of continuous street frontage, freestanding signs are permitted with a maximum area of the lesser of one (1) square foot per linear foot of street frontage or one hundred and fifty (150) square feet and a maximum height of eight (8) feet above grade to the top of the sign.

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- iv. A lot with a width of more than two hundred (200) feet at the front lot line may contain two (2) freestanding signs in compliance with either (i) or (ii) above.
  - v. When the street frontage of a lot is in excess of three hundred (300) feet, the number of signs and allowable sign area may be increased with a special use permit.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Freestanding installation shall only be permitted on a lot with a width of at least one hundred (100) feet at the front lot line and only where drive-in service or off-street parking is provided, leaving a distance between the building and a side lot line of twenty five (25) feet or more, or where a building is setback twenty five (25) feet or more from the front lot line. If a freestanding, the sign shall be installed as a monument sign, and it shall be setback at least ten (10) feet from the front lot line.
6. Wall signs:
- a. Number and Size Limits: The total area of all signs displayed on a building wall which faces a street, alley or parking area shall not exceed one square foot for each foot of building width facing the street, alley or parking area.
  - b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such signs shall be wall mounted and may only be mounted flat against the wall. Such sign cannot be higher than twenty (20) feet above grade measured from the location immediately below the sign. Such signs may be mounted on an awning or marquee. Marquees and awnings are only permitted to encroach upon a public right-of-way if permitted by an enacted encroachment ordinance or which city council has expressly authorized.
7. Wall signs higher than twenty (20) feet above grade on a multi-story building:
- a. Number and Size Limits: The total area of all signs displayed on a building wall higher than 20 feet above grade on a multi-story building which faces a street, alley or parking area shall not exceed one square foot for each foot of building width facing the street, alley or parking area. mounted per street frontage.

1 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign shall be  
2 wall mounted and may only be mounted flat against the  
3 wall. No part of this sign is permitted to be lower than  
4 twenty (20) feet above grade measured from the location  
5 immediately below the sign.

6 8. Projecting signs at the entrance to a non-residential building or  
7 non-residential part of a building:

8 a. Number and Size Limits: A maximum of one (1) sign with  
9 a maximum size of sixteen (16) square feet.

10 b. Mounting and Installation Regulations: Such sign shall be  
11 wall mounted. Such sign shall not project more than four  
12 (4) feet from the building wall or within one (1) foot of an  
13 established curb line and the bottom of the sign is at least  
14 eight feet above a sidewalk or parking area and at least  
15 Fourteen and a half (14.5) feet above an alley. Such sign  
16 cannot be higher than 20 feet above grade measured from  
17 the location immediately below the sign to the top of the  
18 sign. Such signs are only permitted to encroach upon a  
19 public right-of-way if permitted by an enacted  
20 encroachment ordinance or which city council has  
21 expressly authorized.

22 iv. Any sign larger than one hundred (100) square feet in area shall have each  
23 letter or symbol installed as a separately mounted unit. No sign that  
24 measures one hundred (100) square feet or larger shall consist of an  
25 individual panel.

26 v. Size and location limitations. Signs permitted within a commercial zone  
27 under section 9-202(A) may be displayed on any building wall which  
28 faces a street, alley or parking area or may be freestanding signs, and shall  
29 comply with the provisions herein.

30 vi. Marquees and awnings. Marquees and awnings may be used as a sign  
31 background.

32 (B) *Window signs.* The total area of window signs, in any one window shall not exceed  
33 twenty (20) percent of the glazing area of the window where it is installed. The total area of  
34 window signs shall be included in determining the total area of signs erected or displayed on the  
35 wall that contains the window.

36 (C) *A-frame signs on the property of individual businesses.* Notwithstanding any provision  
37 to the contrary in this ordinance, A-frame signs are permitted on private property in commercial  
38 districts that are not within the Parker-Gray District or the Old and Historic Alexandria District  
39 subject to compliance with the following standards:

- 1 (1) Location. An A-Frame Sign shall only be located:  
2 a. on the property of the owner of the sign;  
3 b. outside of a minimum lateral walkway clearance of five (5) feet for pedestrian  
4 travel;  
5 c. within fifteen (15) feet of the front facade of the building;  
6 d. not encroaching in the line of vision clearance for motor vehicles; and  
7 e. a minimum of fifteen feet from any driveway or roadway intersection.  
8 (2) Number. A maximum of one (1) sign is permitted per business.  
9 (3) Size. Signs may not exceed forty two (42) inches in height and twenty four (24) inches in  
10 width.  
11 (4) Pedestrian safety. Pedestrian safety shall be preserved through the placement and  
12 securing of signs so as to permit safe and adequate pedestrian throughway along the  
13 walkways, crossing of streets or parking areas, entry and alighting from cars and buses,  
14 and access to curb ramps.  
15 (5) Temporary. All signs, including installation materials, shall be temporary and shall be  
16 readily removable without any damage to the pavement or ground surface.  
17 (6) Time Limits. A-Frame sign is permitted outdoors only during operating hours of the  
18 establishment where the sign is located.  
19 (7) Materials and Design.  
20 a. Only high quality, durable materials shall be used, such as slate, marker board,  
21 stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum composite, laminate plastic or medium  
22 density overlay plywood painted with enamel paint.  
23 b. Illumination is prohibited.  
24 c. Braces are required to ensure that the sign legs remain adequately spread to  
25 prevent it from falling.  
26 d. The sign shall be a minimum weight of twenty (20) pounds properly balanced to  
27 ensure that it would not blow away in the wind.  
28 (8) Compliance with law. All signs shall comply with all applicable city, state and federal  
29 laws and regulations.  
30

31 **9-203 – Industrial district signs.**

32 (A) *Generally.* In the I and UT zones, any sign, marquee and awning permitted in a commercial  
33 zone under section 9-202 may be erected or displayed so long as it complies with all other  
34 applicable requirements of this Article IX; provided, that the total area of any signs in an  
35 industrial or utility zone which face real property in a commercial, industrial or utility zone may  
36 exceed the area allowed in section 9-202 by up to 50 percent.

37 (B) *Window signs.* Window signs are permitted up to twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area  
38 of a window and count toward the maximum square footage of wall signs permitted. Window

1 signs are permitted only on the first floor of a building unless the applicant only has business  
2 operations located on an upper floor where the window sign is to be displayed.

3 **9-204 – Signs Permitted in All Zones**

4  
5 (A) Additional temporary signs no larger than the largest temporary sign allowed on the property  
6 pursuant to Section 9-200 are permitted on any property with the permission of the property  
7 owner for no more than ninety (90) days.  
8

9 **Sec. 9-300 Signs within the Old and Historic Alexandria, Parker-Gray and 100 Year Old**  
10 **Building Districts**

11  
12 **9-301 - Review required.**

13  
14 (A) Certificate of appropriateness. A certificate of appropriateness from the appropriate board  
15 of architectural review is required for the following signs when subject to view from a  
16 public street or place and affixed to a building or structure located in or otherwise  
17 displayed within the Old and Historic Alexandria District or the Parker-Gray District or  
18 when affixed to or displayed on a 100-year-old building designated by city council under  
19 section 11-300:  
20

21 (1) Any sign, marquee or awning permanently affixed or displayed, subject to the  
22 exemptions in section 9-301(B); or

23  
24 (2) Any sign, marquee or awning otherwise affixed or displayed which exceeds four  
25 square feet in area.  
26

27 (B) Exemptions. The following signs shall not be subject to the requirement of section 9-  
28 301(A):  
29

30 (1) One non-illuminated sign, including a window sign, that is less than one square foot  
31 in area per building;

32 (2) Any non-illuminated window sign per building between one square foot and four feet  
33 in area, specially permitted for a temporary period, pursuant to section 9-302, by the  
34 city manager;

35 (3) Signs for which administrative approval is available pursuant to sections 10-113 and  
36 10-213;

37 (4) Temporary Signs as follows:

38 a. One sign, no more than thirty two (32) square feet in area, plus one (1)  
39 additional sign, no more than eight (8) square feet in area, located on property  
40 where a building permit is active. Such sign may be freestanding, wall  
41 mounted, or inserted within a window, provided that it does not cover more  
42 than twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is  
43 installed. Freestanding temporary signs may only be less than forty two (42)

1 inches in height. If wall mounted, installation is prohibited from damaging  
2 the existing building wall material.

3 b. One sign, no more than four (4) square feet in area on any property for sale or  
4 rent during the time the property is actively listed on the MRIS System or  
5 actively marketed for rent. Such sign may be freestanding, wall mounted, or  
6 inserted within a window, provided that it does not cover more than twenty  
7 percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window where it is installed.  
8 Freestanding temporary signs may only be less than forty two (42) inches in  
9 height. If wall mounted, installation is prohibited from damaging the existing  
10 building wall material.

11 c. Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or under the  
12 direction of any public or court officer in the performance of his official or  
13 directed duties; provided that all such signs shall be removed no more than ten  
14 (10) days after their purpose has been accomplished. Such sign may be  
15 freestanding, wall mounted, or inserted within a window, provided that it does  
16 not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of the glazing area of the window  
17 where it is installed. Freestanding temporary signs may only be less than 42  
18 inches in height. If wall mounted, installation is prohibited from damaging  
19 the existing building wall material.

20 (C) Compliance required. Any sign, marquee or awning required to obtain a certificate of  
21 appropriateness under section 9-301(A) and any sign identified in section 9-301(B) may  
22 be erected or displayed only if authorized by and in compliance with all other applicable  
23 requirements of this Article IX.  
24

25 (D) Grandfathered signs. Any sign, marquee or awning legally erected or displayed within  
26 the Old and Historic Alexandria District on or before January 12, 1976, or within the  
27 Parker-Gray District on or before November 16, 1985, or on a lot or building listed under  
28 section 10-300 on or before the date of such listing may continue to be displayed and may  
29 be repainted with the same text, colors and design or repaired without a certificate of  
30 appropriateness; provided, that a certificate of appropriateness shall be required before  
31 any such sign, marquee or awning is altered, rebuilt or moved to a new location.  
32

33 (E) Freestanding signs. One freestanding sign may be permitted on any property zoned  
34 commercial if the area of the sign is no greater than six square feet and if the sign is  
35 approved by the board of architectural review.  
36

37 (F) Prohibited signs. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-301(E), no sign advertising  
38 a business, which sign is within 200 feet of and visible from Washington Street, shall be  
39 permitted unless it is attached to a building in which the business being advertised is  
40 conducted, or unless it is the minimum signage necessary to comply with section 9-7-7 of  
41 the city code.  
42

43 **9-302 - Temporary window signs.**

1  
2 (A) No window sign one square foot or more in area may be displayed in the Old and  
3 Historic District or the Parker-Gray District or in a 100-year old building designated  
4 by city council under Article X without a certificate of appropriateness, except on a  
5 temporary basis, for up to 30 consecutive days, pursuant to special permission from  
6 the city manager or her designee under section 9-302(B); provided, that the manager  
7 may not, on any single occasion, permit any person to display on a temporary basis  
8 more than one window sign for any window located within the building or structure,  
9 or portion thereof, which the person occupies; and provided further, that the manager  
10 or her designee may not authorize any person to display any window signs on a  
11 temporary basis on more than three occasions in any 12-month period.

12  
13 (B) In order to obtain permission for the display of one or more window signs on a  
14 temporary basis, the person seeking the permission must submit the following  
15 information to the city manager or her designee on a form prescribed by the city,  
16 together with a processing fee of \$5.00: (i) the name of the applicant; (ii) the period  
17 of time, not to exceed 30 consecutive days, during which the applicant seeks  
18 permission to display the sign or signs; (iii) the address of the building in which the  
19 sign or signs will be displayed; (iv) the size of the sign or signs; and (v) the number of  
20 occasions within the 12 months preceding the application on which applicant has  
21 obtained special permission pursuant to this section 9-302 to display one or more  
22 window signs on a temporary basis in the same building described in the application.

23  
24 (C) Upon receipt of the applicant's processing fee and upon review of the applicant's  
25 information, the city manager shall permit the display of the applicant's window sign  
26 or signs, for up to 30 consecutive days, if he or she finds that: (i) each sign is less than  
27 four square feet in area; (ii) within the prior 12 months, the applicant has not  
28 displayed window signs on a temporary basis in the same building on more than two  
29 occasions; and (iii) the applicant is not, and has not over the prior 12 months been, in  
30 violation of any provision of this Article IX.

31  
32 **Sec. 9-400 Administration and Enforcement**

33  
34 **9-401 - Removal of illegal signs.**

35 The director shall remove any sign, marquee or awning erected or displayed on, over or across  
36 any street, road, highway, alley or other public right-of-way in violation of this Article IX, shall  
37 impound the sign and within 24 hours of the removal, shall notify in writing, by first-class mail,  
38 the owner of the sign, if ownership is readily determinable, of the location at which the sign is  
39 being stored and of the owner's right to retrieve the sign upon payment of an impound fee of  
40 \$50.00, plus a storage fee of \$10.00 for each day of storage; provided, however, that no such  
41 notice is required when an illegal sign is of *de minimis* value and is less than 12 square feet in

1 area. Signs not retrieved within a period of 30 days after the mailing of such notice may be  
2 destroyed by the city.

3 **9-402 - Nonconforming signs.**

- 4 (A) Signs lawfully in existence on the effective date of this chapter or prior ordinances, which  
5 do not conform with the provisions of this article, and signs which are accessory to a  
6 nonconforming use shall be deemed to be nonconforming signs and may remain except as  
7 qualified below. The burden of establishing nonconforming status of signs and of the  
8 physical characteristics/location of such signs shall be that of the owner of the property.  
9 Upon notice from the zoning administrator, a property owner shall submit verification that  
10 sign(s) were lawfully existing at time of erection. Failure to provide such verification shall  
11 be cause for order to remove sign(s) or bring sign(s) into compliance with the current  
12 ordinance.
- 13 (B) No nonconforming sign shall be enlarged nor shall any feature of a nonconforming sign,  
14 such as illumination, be increased.
- 15 (C) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent keeping in good repair a nonconforming  
16 sign. Nonconforming signs shall not be extended or structurally reconstructed or altered in  
17 any manner, except a sign face may be changed so long as the new face is equal to or  
18 reduced in height and/or sign area.
- 19 (D) No nonconforming sign shall be moved for any distance on the same lot or to any other lot  
20 unless such change in location will make the sign conform in all respects to the provisions of  
21 this article.
- 22 (E) A nonconforming sign that is destroyed or damaged by any casualty to an extent not  
23 exceeding fifty (50) percent of its area may be restored within two (2) years after such  
24 destruction or damage but shall not be enlarged in any manner. If such sign is so destroyed  
25 or damaged to an extent exceeding fifty (50) percent, it shall not be reconstructed but may  
26 be replaced with a sign that is in full accordance with the provisions of this article.
- 27 (F) A nonconforming sign which is changed to becoming conforming or is replaced by a  
28 conforming sign shall no longer be deemed nonconforming, and thereafter such sign shall be  
29 in accordance with the provisions of this article.

30

31