

ARTICLE 13 SIGN REGULATIONS

(amended July 2015)

13.01 Purpose.

Signs use private land and the sight lines created by the public right-of-way to inform and persuade the general public by publishing a message. The purpose of these sign regulations is to provide the minimum control of signs to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. This is done by:

- (a) promoting the safety of persons and property by providing signs that do not create a hazard due to collapse, fire, collision, decay or abandonment; do not obstruct fire fighting or police surveillance; and do not create traffic hazards by confusing or distracting motorists, or by impairing the driver's ability to see pedestrians, obstacles or other vehicles, or to read traffic signs;
- (b) promoting the efficient transfer of information in sign messages by providing signs which provide messages and information most needed and sought by the public are given priorities; businesses and services may identify themselves; customers and other persons may locate a business or service; no person or group is arbitrarily denied the use of the sight lines from the public right-of-way for communication purposes; and persons exposed to signs are not overwhelmed by the number of messages presented, and are able to exercise freedom of choice to observe or ignore such messages, according to the observer's purpose; and
- (c) protecting the public welfare and to enhance the appearance and economic value by providing that signs do not interfere with scenic views; do not create a nuisance to persons using the public rights-of-way; do not constitute a nuisance to occupancy of adjacent and contiguous property by their brightness, size, height or movement; are not detrimental to land or property values; and contribute to the special character of particular areas or districts within the City, helping the observer to understand the City and orient himself/herself within it.

13.02 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the following terms, words, phrases, abbreviations and their derivations shall have the meaning herein given. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense, words in the plural number include the singular number and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory. Words not defined shall be given their common or ordinary meaning.

Administrator: The officer or other designated authority, or their duly authorized representative charged with the administration and enforcement of these regulations.

Billboard sign: A sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located or which contains personal messages unrelated to the premises.

Character: Any letter of the alphabet, any numeral or Greek letter.

City: The City of Frankfort, Kentucky

Commercially developed parcel: A parcel of property on which there is at least one walled and roofed structure used, or designed to be used, for other than residential purposes.

Copy. The linguistic or graphic content of a sign.

Election Campaign Sign: A temporary sign directly associated with local, state, or national elections.

Facade: Any separate face of a building, including parapet walls and omitted wall lines, or any part of a building, which encloses or covers usable space. Where separate faces are oriented in the same direction, or in the directions within forty-five degrees of one another, they are to be considered as part of a single facade.

Frontage. The length of any property line or of any one parcel along a street on which it borders.

Height: As applied to a sign, shall be measured as the vertical distance between the lowest part of the sign, including its supporting structure at the average grade of the ground where the sign is located to the highest part of the sign or its supporting structure, whichever is higher.

Intersection: The junction of the centerlines of any two public rights-of-ways or the point at which any expressway interchange ramp intersects the expressway travel pavement.

Major thoroughfare: Any public right-of-way designated by the Comprehensive Plan of the City as an arterial.

Mansard-style roof: A decorative structure that is attached to the fascia of a building, but is not structurally integral to the building. Often creates a false front or parapet on a flat-roofed building.

Occupancy: The purpose for which a building is used or intended to be used. The term shall also include the building or room housing such use. Change of occupancy is not intended to include change of tenants or proprietors.

Premise: Any lot or unplatted tract, or any combination of contiguous lots or unplatted tracts held under single ownership.

Sign: Any object, device, display or structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct, or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location, by any means,

including words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, or images, but excluding striping not integral to the sign.

Sign, air activated: A sign, all or part of which is designed to be moved by action of the air for the purpose of attracting attention, including signs with spangles or moveable colored disks but excluding flags, banner signs and festoons.

Sign area: The total area of the sign face, which is used to display a message, not including its supporting poles or structures. Measurement of sign area is addressed in Section 13.20.

Sign, awning: A sign painted on or attached directly to any part of an awning.

Sign, banner: A temporary sign composed of lightweight material either enclosed or not enclosed in a rigid frame and secured or mounted so as to allow movement of the sign caused by movement of the atmosphere.

Sign, canopy: A sign, other than an under canopy sign, attached to or constructed in or on a canopy.

Sign, changeable copy: A sign designed for frequent changes of message copy, including bulletin boards and kiosks; outdoor advertising signs; changing signs; other signs with electronically-displayed messages, removable letters, or poster panels.

Sign clearance: The vertical distance to grade from the lowest edge of a sign excluding any pole or support structure attached to the ground.

Sign, construction: A non-illuminated sign displayed prior to or during construction and removed thereafter that identifies a building for which a building permit has been issued and which is under construction together with such information as the owner, manager, contractor and subcontractors, architect and engineer, source of financing, projected date of completion, major tenants and related information.

Sign, directional: A nonpremise sign that serves solely to direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic or parking within a premises or to provide related instructions or facility information but that contains no advertising other than the name and logo of the business on the premises

Sign, facing: The surface of a sign upon, against or through which the message is displayed or illustrated.

Signs, Fascia: Any sign attached to, applied on, or supported by, any part of a building façade, such as a wall, window, canopy, awning, or marquee which encloses or covers usable space. No fascia sign shall be allowed to project further than 12" from the face of the building to which it is attached.

Sign, freestanding: A sign that is supported by one or more poles, uprights, pylons, braces or other support(s) on the ground and not attached to a building.

Sign, government-mandated: Any sign or exterior display required to be displayed by government order or regulation including construction signs for government assisted projects.

Sign, government or utility: An informational sign or display maintained by a government body or public utility, including traffic or parking regulating devices, legal notices, warning of hazards and similar displays.

Sign, height: The vertical distance measured from the curb level of the closest public street from which the sign is intended to be viewed to the highest point of the sign.

Sign, illegal: A sign which was not in compliance with this or other applicable ordinance when it was erected, installed, altered, or displayed.

Sign, illuminated: A sign illuminated by a source of artificial light having the principle purpose of furnishing illumination for the sign whether or not such source is part of the structure of the sign.

Sign, incidental: A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary to the use of the lot on which it is located, such as “No Parking,” “Entrance,” “Loading Only,” “Telephone,” and other similar directives. No sign with a commercial message legible from a position off the lot on which the sign is located shall be considered incidental. Incidental signs do not require a permit.

Sign, message board: A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or the surface of the sign and that is attached to either a wall, monument or freestanding sign for the purpose of displaying advertising or other notices.

Sign, menu board: A sign used to display a selection of goods or services offered at a business establishment for the convenience of drive-up or walk-up customers, such as at a drive-in restaurant.

Sign, monument: Any permanent sign, other than a pole sign, in which the entire bottom is in contact with or is close to the ground and is independent of any other structure.

Sign, name-plate: A non-illuminated sign that states only the names, addresses and professions of the businesses or occupants of the lot where the sign is placed.

Sign, on-premise: A sign directing attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, entertainment, person, cause, event or organization conducted, sold, offered, operation or having premises upon the same lot.

Sign, nonconforming: A sign that was erected, installed or displayed in compliance with previous sign regulations, but which is not in compliance with this ordinance, and which has not been reconstructed, altered or otherwise modified since the adoption of this ordinance, except to bring the sign into compliance with the provisions of this ordinance.

Sign, nonpremise: Any sign which is not a premise sign.

Sign, outdoor advertisement (Billboard): A sign that directs attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, entertainment, person, cause, event or organization conducted, sold, offered, operation or having premises elsewhere than on the lot on which the sign is located, and only incidentally, if at all, on such lot.

Sign, Political: Any type of nonpremise sign which refers only to the issues or candidates involved in a political election.

Sign, portable: A sign not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed to be transported including, but not limited to, reader boards, signs designed to be transported by means of wheels, signs converted to "A" or "T" frames; or balloons used as signs. These are addressed as "Special Purpose Signs" in these regulations.

Sign, Premise: Any sign, the content of which relates to the premises on which it is located, referring exclusively to the name, location, products, persons, acclamations, services or activities of or on those premises, or the sale, lease or construction of those premises.

Sign, real estate: A non-illuminated sign used to offer for sale, lease or rent the property upon which or within which the sign is placed or to announce an open house or that the property has been sold.

Sign, roof: A sign erected and constructed either wholly, or in part, upon, against, or above the roof of a building. For purposes of this ordinance, any portion of a building above or behind the fascia or parapet of a building shall be considered part of the roof.

Sign, setback: See Section 13.23.

Sign, Special Purpose: A sign temporarily supplementing the permanent signs on the premises. Included in this classification are banners, streamers, flags, inflatable figures, pennants, temporary retail promotional posters, and reader boards, etc. that are portable and not considered monument or pole signs. The total square footage of these signs shall be counted in the maximum square footage allowed in Table 13.3.

Sign, Support: Any pole, post, strut, cable or other structural fixture or framework necessary to hold and secure a sign, providing that such fixture or framework is not imprinted with any picture, symbol or work using characters in excess of one inch in height, or is internally or decoratively illuminated.

Signs, temporary: A sign, including paper, cardboard and fabric signs, which is used for a limited period of time and is not permanently mounted. These signs may include but are not limited to election signs, and are addressed as “Special Purpose and Temporary Signs” in this ordinance.

Sign, trailer: A portable sign mounted on a trailer designed for support and movement of the sign.

Sign, vehicle: A sign on or within a parked motor vehicle, boat, recreational vehicle, manufactured home or similar vehicle designed to be conspicuously visible for advertising or information purposes from outside the vehicle, other than trailer signs as defined herein; informational, identification or advertising lettering permanently painted on or attached to trucks or other commercial vehicles; transit advertising on buses or taxi cabs; election campaign signs; signs identifying trailer housed offices or displays on construction sites; and bumper stickers.

Sign, wall: A sign erected upon or parallel to an outside building wall which does not exceed more than twelve (12) inches from the face of the wall or higher than the highest point of the roof.

Sign, window: A sign that is placed inside a window, or applied or attached to window panes or glass, and which is visible from the exterior of the window and may or may not be permanently painted or otherwise permanently affixed to the window.

Storefront, primary: An entrance to a building designed and intended for use by the public as the principle means of ingress and egress as determined by the Director of Planning and Building Codes. A solid wall (brick, concrete, etc.) without windows and/or public entrances shall not be considered a storefront.

Storefront, secondary: An entrance to a building providing additional ingress and egress to the general public not constituting a primary storefront and not located on the same building elevation as the primary storefront.

Street frontage: The distance along which a lot line adjoins a public street right-of way from one lot line intersecting the street to the furthest distant lot line intersecting the same street.

Tenant: Anyone who has the occupation or temporary possession of lands or tenements of another.

13.03 Imitation of Traffic and Emergency Sign Prohibited. No person shall cause to be erected or maintained any sign using any combination of forms, words, colors or lights, which imitates standard public traffic regulatory, emergency signs or signals.

13.04 Sign Supports within Right-of-Way Prohibited. No sign support shall be located within the public right-of-way and no sign shall project over any public right-of-way or across the public right-of-way line unless otherwise specified herein.

13.05 Relationship to building and electrical codes. These sign regulations are intended to complement the requirements of the building and electrical codes adopted by the city. Wherever

there is inconsistency between these regulations and the building code or electrical code adopted by the city, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

13.06 Sign Maintenance. All signs, including their supports, braces, guys and anchors, electrical parts and lighting fixtures, and all painted and display areas, shall be maintained in accordance with this code and the building and electrical codes adopted by the city, and shall present a neat and clean appearance. The vegetation around, in front of, behind and underneath the base of ground signs for a distance of ten feet shall be neatly trimmed and free of unsightly weeds, and no rubbish or debris that would constitute a fire or health hazard shall be permitted under or near the sign.

13.07 Other Codes Not in Conflict Applicable. All signs erected or maintained pursuant to the provisions of this article shall do so in compliance with all applicable State laws, with the Kentucky Building Code and the National Electric Code, and other applicable Municipal Codes not in conflict with the provisions of this article.

13.08 Government Signs. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the display of a national or state flag or to limit government flags, government insignia, legal notices or informational, directional or traffic signs which are legally required or necessary to the essential functions of government agencies.

13.09 Variances and Appeals Except for signs proposed within a Planned Unit Development, variances and appeals to these sign regulations shall be as provided in Articles 17 and 18 of the zoning ordinance. The Board of Zoning Adjustments shall have the power to grant variances from the height, area or setback provisions of this article, in accordance with the variance provisions outlined in K.R.S. 100.243, Findings Necessary for Granting a Variance. However, the Board of Zoning Adjustments shall not grant a sign variance that permits the continuance of any nonconformity.

13.10 Violation, Penalty, and Enforcement. If upon inspection the Planning Director or Building Inspector, or designee finds that any sign is abandoned, unsafe or in any way not in compliance with City ordinances, he or she shall issue a written order to the property owner stating the nature of the violation and requiring the repair, replacement or removal of the sign within thirty (30) days of the date of the order. A violation of the provisions of this article shall be penalized in accordance with Section 21.09 of the Zoning Regulations.

13.11 Permits. A permit, issued by the Department of Planning and Building Codes, is required to erect all signs not explicitly exempted by the provisions of this article. Any sign for which a permit is issued shall have a footer inspection, if applicable, and final inspection prior to issuance of a certificate of completion. . If the on-site construction and/or installation of the sign has not commenced within six-months after issuance of the sign permit, the permit shall become null and void. *(Amended 2007)*

13.12 Permit Applications. All applications for permits shall include a statement indicating the purpose of the sign (which may include but are not limited to such purposes as retail sales, election, changes of address, or relocation), a drawing indicating the dimensions of the sign, and all existing signs maintained on the premises, a drawing of the lot or building façade indicating

the proposed location of the sign, and specifications for its construction, lighting, motion and wiring, if any.

13.13 Location and Placement. In addition to other requirements contained herein regarding the location and placement of signs and graphic displays, the Public Works Department and Planning and Building Codes Department shall have the authority to modify these provisions to ensure that the public health, safety and welfare are preserved.

13.14 In Special districts. All nonexempt signs proposed within the Special Capitol and Special Historic districts shall require review and approval by the Architectural Review Board and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to the issuance of a sign permit.

Table 13.1: REGULATORY STATUS OF SIGN TYPES

	EXEMPT	PERMITTED	PROHIBITED
Awning signs		X	
Apartment building Identification signs		X	
Balloons and air-activated signs:			
Temporary		X	
Permanent			X
Banner signs:			
Temporary		X	
Permanent			X
Billboard			X
Canopy signs		X	
Changing signs		X	
Construction signs		X	
Copy change on sign		X	
Directional signs:			
Non-illuminated	X		
Illuminated	X		
Election campaign signs	X		
Flags & institutional insignias	X		
Flashing signs			X
Free-standing signs		X	
Government or utility signs	X		

Government mandated signs	X		
Help wanted signs	X		
Home occupation signs		X	
Industrial park entrance signs		X	
Institutional/government announcement board	X		
Institutional use signs			
Temporary	X		
Permanent		X	
Maintenance, cleaning, repair or painting of sign:			
On-site (b)	X		
Off-site		X	
	EXEMPT	PERMITTED	PROHIBITED
Moving signs, Rotating			X
Mural signs:			
On walls		X	
Elsewhere			X
No trespassing signs	X		
Portable signs		X	
Projecting signs			
In CB or SH districts		X	
Elsewhere			X
Real estate signs			
8 sq. ft. or less	X		
Over 8 sq. ft.		X	
Residential development entrance signs		X	
Roof signs			X
Sandwich type signs, permanent			X
Scoreboards, athletic	X		
Search and beacon lights, temporary		X	
Seasonal displays	X		
Service station signs		X	
Shopping center signs		X	
Sidewalk or curb signs			X
Signs in SC, SH & CB districts		X	
Streamers, festoons, pennants, permanent			X
Street clocks		X	

Street numbers	X	
Strings of lights, permanent		X
Temporary signs, all other		X
Under canopy signs		X
Vehicle signs		X
Vending machine signs	X	
Window signs:		
Temporary	X	
Permanent	X	
Yard sale signs	X	

(see notes for table on next page)

Notes for Table 13.1

Table 13.1 is for general reference purposes only and is not intended to be all inclusive.

- (a) Change in copy of a changeable copy sign or face replacement on a sign not involving structural change, a change in any dimension thereof, removal of all or any part of the sign support structure, or any change of use.
- (b) No sign permit shall be required for maintenance operations, such as removal and reinstallation of sign faces, that do not involve removal of all or any part of the sign support structure
- (c) A sign permit shall be required for:
 - 1. Any maintenance or repair involving removal and reinstallation of all or any part of the sign support structure; or
 - 2. Any structural repair or alteration to the support structure.

13.15. Prohibited signs.

Generally. It shall be unlawful to erect, cause to be erected, maintain or cause to be maintained, any sign not expressly authorized by, or exempted from, this code.

Specifically. The following signs are expressly prohibited unless exempted by section 13.16, or expressly authorized elsewhere in this Article. Requests of waivers shall not be allowed for any prohibited sign.

- A. Signs that are in violation of the building code or electrical code adopted by the city.
- B. Any sign in the professional opinion of the building inspector that is declared to be physically unsafe or unlawful by reason of physical condition and constitutes a safety hazard.
- C. Signs that obstruct the vision of pedestrians, cyclists or motorists traveling on or entering public streets.

- D. Signs tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to trees, utility poles or fences.
- E. Signs that emit audible sound, odor, or visible matter such as smoke or steam.
- F. Signs with lights or illumination that flash, move, rotate, blink, flicker, or vary in intensity or color except for time-temperature-date signs and electronically controlled message centers.
- G. Strings of lightbulbs not mounted to a rigid background used on commercially developed parcels for commercial purposes, other than traditional holiday decorations and strings of lights used to enhance landscaping.
- H. Signs with visible moving, revolving, or rotating parts or visible mechanical movement of any description or other apparent visible movement achieved by electronic or mechanical means, except for traditional “barber poles” and "Trivision" permanent outdoor advertising signs.
- I. Advertising content of abandoned signs.
- J. Signs or sign structures that interfere in any way with free use of any fire escape, emergency exit, or that obstruct any window to such an extent that the light or ventilation is reduced to a point below that required by any provision of this code or other ordinances of the city.
- K. Signs that resemble any official sign or marker erected by any governmental agency, or that by reason of position, shape, or color, would conflict with the proper functioning of any traffic sign or signal, or be of a size, location, movement, content, color, or illumination that may be reasonably confused with or construed as, or conceal, a traffic control device.
- L. Signs that are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or impair the vision of any motorist, cyclist, or pedestrian using or entering a public way, or that are a hazard or a nuisance to occupants of any property because of glare or other characteristics.
- M. Signs that are painted, pasted, or printed on any curbstone, flagstone, pavement, retaining wall, or any portion of any sidewalk or street, except house numbers and traffic control signs.
- N. Signs placed upon benches, bus shelters or public waste receptacles, unless written authorization is granted by the City Manager, for a prescribed period of time.
- O. Signs erected on public property, including within the City, County, or State right-of-way within the City of Frankfort, unless written authorization is granted by the City Manager, for a prescribed period of time.
- P. Signs erected over or across any public street, except governmental signs erected by or on the order of a public officer.

- Q. Sign(s) determined as off-site advertising signs or billboards. No person shall construct or erect an off-site sign, billboard or permanent outdoor advertising sign within the City of Frankfort.

13.16. Exempt signs. In addition to the signs listed specifically in Table 13.1, the following signs are exempt from the requirements in this code, except for maintenance and relationship to building and electrical codes; and no permit shall be required to be obtained for the erection of such exempted signs, provided they are not placed or constructed so as to create a hazard of any kind, nor located within any right-of-way, unless expressly allowed, and provided that they satisfy the restrictions imposed by this section and other relevant parts of this code. Note: Any exempt sign not complying with the requirements of this section is illegal and subject to immediate removal.

- A. Signs necessary to promote health, safety and welfare and other regulatory, statutory, traffic control or directional signs erected on public property with permission as appropriate from the State or Local Government.
- B. Legal notices and official instruments.
- C. Decorative flags, banners, or other type of signs for a celebration, convention or commemoration of significance to the entire community when authorized by the city manager or his designee for a prescribed period of time
- D. Holiday lights and decorations, provided it does not constitute a sign prohibited by section 13.15 of this code.
- E. Merchandise displays behind storefront windows so long as no part of the display contains flashing lights.
- F. Religious displays.
- G. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and dates of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials and attached to the surface of a building. Additional standards apply in the Special Capitol and Special Historic Districts.
- H. Signs incorporated into machinery or equipment by a manufacturer or distributor, which identify or advertise only the product or service dispensed by the machine or equipment, such as signs customarily affixed to vending machines, newspaper racks, telephone booths, and gasoline pumps.
- I. Public warning signs to indicate the dangers of trespassing, swimming, animals, or similar hazards.
- J. Works of art that do not constitute advertising.
- K. Signs carried by a person.

- L. Signs, including banners, to announce or advertise such temporary events as fairs, carnivals, circuses, revivals, sporting events, farmer markets, a campaign event, or any public, charitable, educational or religious event or function. Such sign shall be removed within five (5) days after the special campaign, drive or event.
- M. Flags of the United States, State of Kentucky or other governmental flags shall not be considered a sign nor require a permit, unless such flag is installed with a pole over 35-feet tall. Flags of a business or institution emblems or insignias must obtain a sign permit with review and approval by the Planning Commission Chairperson, who shall have the right to independently approve or require a vote of the majority of the Planning Commission. Poles over 35' tall shall obtain a building permit.

Table 13.2: STANDARDS FOR EXEMPT SIGNS

	Number Permitted per Lot	Maximum Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height (feet)	Minimum Setback (feet)	Other Requirements
Permanent Signs					
Directional signs	--	4	3	--	(a), (b)
Flags and Institutional insignias	--	--	--	--	(c)
Institutional/Government announcement boards	1	16	--	--	--
No Trespassing signs	2	2	--	--	(e)
Flags, business or institutional	1	32	35	10	--
Temporary Signs					
Construction signs	1	32	8	5	(l)
Election Campaign signs	--	32	6	--	(f)
Institutional sign, temporary	--	--	--	--	(i)(j)
Help Wanted signs	1	8	--	--	--
Real Estate signs	--	8	--	5	--
Window signs	--	50%	--	--	(k)
Yard Sale signs	--	4	--	--	(g)
Banner signs	-1	32	--	5	(h) (i)

Notes for Table 13.2

- No restriction except as specified in definitions, footnotes or elsewhere in this zoning ordinance.

- (a) Information on location of entrances and exits, parking, traffic movement and the like. No advertising content other than name and logo of establishment. Shall not be counted as part of allowable sign area.
- (b) Commercial, office and industrial use only.
- (c) The flag, pennant or insignia of any governmental or educational institution.
- (d) Per home occupation or business establishment.
- (e) Includes no hunting, dumping or similar uses.
- (f) Must be removed within five (5) days after date of election.
- (g) Displayed on the premises of the yard sale. Shall not be displayed more than two (2) days prior to the event and shall be removed no later than two days after the event.
- (h) Temporary banners or other temporary signs are permitted only for commercial, office and industrial uses and shall have only one temporary sign on the same property. No temporary sign shall be erected on a premises for a cumulative total of more than sixty (60) days per calendar year. Any applicant that proposes to maintain the same banner sign for a period greater than sixty (60) days per calendar year shall obtain approval from the Planning Commission. However, within the national historic districts, banners may remain longer than 60 days, provided the banner is properly maintained, remains in good condition, and shall not conceal decorative features. *(Amended July 2015 ordinance no. 11, 2015 series)*
- (i) Not permitted for residential uses.
- (j) Announcing a special event of a religious, educational or philanthropic institution and displayed only on property controlled by the institution and for a maximum of fifteen days before the event.
- (k) Percentage of signage allowed is based on each window area containing signage.
- (l) Per street frontage.

13.17 Permitted permanent accessory signs.

13.17.1 Sign types allowed. The following types of permanent accessory signs are allowed, provided that they meet all of the requirements of this code

- A. Historic Zoned property: Any ground sign in the Special Historic and Special Capitol zoning districts shall be reviewed and approved by the Architectural Review Board. All ground signs in these districts shall be monument, constructed with brick or decorative stone, not exceed 6' in height, compatible and consistent with other ground signs in the district, and if lighting is provided, shall be external. See specific guidelines within each zoning district category in Articles 4 & 17.
- B. Ground/fascia signs: Ground and fascia signs are permitted permanent accessory signs provided they comply with the requirements contained herein. Applications for signs that satisfy these guidelines shall be administrative approved through issuance of a sign permit. Applications for signs that deviate from the requirements contained herein, not located within a Planned Unit Development, shall require the review and approval by the Frankfort/Franklin County Board of Zoning Adjustments.

- C. Signs in Planned Unit Developments (PUD): Signs proposed or changes to existing signs shall follow the requirements contained in Article 13.21 contained herein.

Table 13.3: STANDARDS FOR PERMITTED PERMANENT SIGNS

	Number Permitted per lot	Maximum Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height (feet)	Minimum Setback (feet)	Other Requirements
General					
Construction signs	1(7)	32			
Interstate business signs	1	150	55	☆	(5)
Home occupation signs	1	2			(16)
Real Estate signs	1	32	12	5	(4)
Signs in CB district	--	--	--	--	(15)
Signs in SC & SH districts	--	--	6	--	(14)
<i>(amended 7-24-06 Ord # 16, 2006)</i>					
Residential Uses					
Apartment building ID sign	(13)	8	--	--	--
Development entrance sign	1(19)	32	6	10	(12)
Institutional Uses					
	1	32	6	5	(7)
Commercial, Office & Industrial Uses: ◆					
Fascia and awning signs (2)					
Single occupant building: (22)					
A primary storefront	3	200 (20) (3)	25	--	(6)(11)
A secondary storefront	3	-- (3)	12	--	(6)(11)

Multiple occupant building:(22)					
Building Identification sign – Storefront	1	10% of façade area or 200	25	--	(6)
Individual tenant sign, storefront	3	200 (20) (3)	25	--	(6)(11)
Commercial, Office & Industrial Uses:◆					
<i>Freestanding signs</i>					(17)
Message Board	1(8)	(8)	--	--	--
Service Station rate sign	1	20	25	(1)	(9)
All other signs	1	100	25	(1)	(7) *
Shopping Center sign	1	150	25	(1)	(7)(10)(21)
Monument signs	1	40	9	(1)	(7)(18)*

(see notes for table on next page)

Notes for Table 13.3

- No restriction except as specified in definitions, footnotes or elsewhere in this zoning ordinance.
 - * Individual lots shall not contain both a freestanding sign and monument sign.
 - ☆ As required in Article 13.28 contained herein.
 - ◆ See 13.21 for site affected.
- (1) ½ distance of required building setback of zoning district. Shall not be less than five feet in any district. Monument signs shall have a minimum setback of 5’ from property lines.
 - (2) Canopy signage is deducted from the total area of fascia signage for the property. There is no maximum number of canopy signs for the property.
 - (3) The fascia sign area is calculated using the linear distance of the primary storefront at a 1:1 ratio up to a maximum of 200 square feet of signage per building, or in the case of a multiple occupant building, the fascia sign area is calculated using the linear distance of the primary storefront at a 1:1 ratio up to a maximum of 200 square feet of signage per tenant. The calculated fascia sign area may be applied upon the primary storefront, secondary storefront and one elevation containing the exact style, finish, material type and design as the primary storefront.
 - (4) Shall not be illuminated.
 - (5) Allowed only in areas designated in map 13-1. Shall have a minimum spacing of one hundred (100) feet from any residential zoning boundary and a spacing of six hundred (600) feet from any other outdoor advertising sign. No internal illumination permitted. The property owner may waive the right to install an interstate business sign and apply the square footage to any other permitted sign on the property.

- (6) Shall not extend beyond the perimeter of wall, fascia or face of canopy or awning to which sign is attached. Shall not project above roofline, parapet, top or side of canopy or awning. Height may be increased if the building is more than two (2) stories above grade or more than three hundred (300) feet from a public right-of-way.
- (7) Per street frontage per lot.
- (8) Shall be permitted only as part of a freestanding or wall sign and subject to the height and area requirements contained herein.
- (9) Permitted at automobile service stations in addition to other signs permitted herein.
- (10) Shall be the only freestanding sign in the shopping center and may include a message board or directory sign.
- (11) Up to three (3) additional fascia sign(s) may be located upon one separate building elevation containing the exact style, finish, material type and design as the primary storefront. The square footage of such signs shall not exceed that allotted to the primary storefront
- (12) Per entrance or exit to or from street, alley or parking area. Sign shall have a minimum clearance of one (1) foot from bottom of sign to grade. Minimum rear setback of fifty-feet required.
- (13) 1 per building within complex.
- (14) Permitted only after review and approval by the Architectural Review Board and issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness. Shall be constructed with materials compatible with the overall character of the district. Any illumination shall be external. Setback shall be determined by the Architectural Review Board. See additional design requirements in Article 4 of this zoning ordinance.
- (15) Subject to requirements established in Article 4.248
- (16) Per Home Occupation or business establishment.
- (17) Shall have a minimum clearance of nine (9) feet. Multiple occupant signs may include, but are not required to include, the development name of the project. The use of a development name as part of the signage shall count as part of the allowed sign area.
- (18) Shall have a maximum clearance of one (1) foot.
- (19) One sign is allowed per property unless the sign is less than 8 square feet, then two signs of 8 square feet or less may be allowed.
- (20) No occupant shall be deprived of less than twenty-five (25) square feet of wall signage.
- (21) May contain individual tenant panels identifying businesses within the shopping center.
- (22) Any business requesting more than three signs per storefront shall be required to submit a Sign Package application to the Planning Commission for consideration.

13.18 Additional Provisions

13.18.1 Each frontage of a development site may have one ground sign or may combine the allowed signage to increase the overall height and/or width up to 150% of the allowed size requirement for one ground sign only.

13.18.2 Each parcel of land may have two ground signs when the parcel of land has more than 250 lineal feet of public road frontage, provided each sign is a minimum of 100' apart from any sign on the same or adjacent parcel. The owner of such parcel may combine the allowed signage to increase the allowed height or width up to 150% of the allowed size requirement, provided only one ground sign is provided for the site.

13.18.3 When a final development plan is approved for more than one parcel or tract of land and the owners of each parcel or tract agrees in writing, then the allowed ground signage may be shared by the parcels; provided that for each shared ground sign, the size does not exceed 150% of the allowed size requirement and that there is a reduction of at least one ground sign for each shared sign. (Example (1) if 4 parcels of a final development plan each having one frontage of less than 200' desire to combine their signage, then one ground sign of 150% of the allowed size would be authorized for the site and no other ground signs. Example (2) if 2 of the same 4 parcels desire to share a sign, then the overall development would be allowed three ground signs rather than 4 separate signs.) When parcels of a common final development plan propose to combine signage, such signage shall not be considered as off-site advertising. (This additional provision may also be applied to fascia signs so that end lots may provide signage for interior lots/units within the same block/development when part of an approved sign package plan). *(Amended July 2015 ordinance no. 11, 2015 series)*

13.19 Removal of Non-Conforming Signs.

- A. Any temporary or exempt sign that does not meet the requirements of this ordinance shall be removed by the owner within thirty days of written notification by the City of Frankfort.
- B. Any business which has ceased operation (expiration of business license) for sixty (60) days shall, for the purposes of this article, be determined to be abandoned. All signs associated with such an abandoned business shall be removed by the owner of the property upon which the sign is located within thirty (30) days of written notification by the City of Frankfort.
- C. All other nonconforming signs shall adhere to the provisions of Article 15 contained herein.

13.20 Computations: The following principles shall control the computations of sign area and sign height.

A. Computation of Area of Single-Sided Signs.

The area of a sign face, shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle or parallelogram that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, but not including any supporting bracing or decorative features not related to the sign. Specifically, the area within a frame holding the sign panel; when channel letters are used, a geometric shape shall encompass all portions of the letters in a single shape consisting of not more than two (2) of the above mentioned shapes. The area of an awning sign, canopy sign or a sign consisting of individual letters or symbols against a wall shall be the sum of the area within a rectangular envelope completely enclosing the attached group.

B. Computation of Area of Multifaced Sign.

The sign area for a sign with more than one face shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point. When two identical sign faces are placed back-to-back so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than forty-

two (42) inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of only one of the faces.

C. Computation of Height.

The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Normal grade shall be construed to be the lower of: (1) existing grade prior to construction, or (2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign. In cases in which the normal grade cannot reasonably be determined, the average of the grade at the sign base and the grade 6 feet from the sign, shall be determined as the normal grade.

D. Computation of setback.

The setback shall be determined by measuring the shortest horizontal distance between a lot line and the closest part or projection of the sign and/or support structure.

13.21 Sign Package Plan Required in Planned Unit Development Zone District (PR, PM, PC).

In any newly proposed or existing Planned Unit Development Zone District, a Sign Package Plan shall be prepared by the developer and approved by the Planning Commission at the same time the Final Development Plan is approved. In the event that an existing Planned Unit Development shopping center does not have an approved development plan, a Sign Package Plan only will be required for Planning Commission approval for the entire development, not per individual tenant. The Director of Planning can administratively approve signage when proposal is consistent and compatible with other signage in the overall development

The Sign Package Plan shall establish the maximum size, the prototypical design, and the number of signs that will be allowed within the subject planned development. After the Planning Commission has approved the Sign Package Plan, the Frankfort Planning and Building Codes Department shall be authorized to issue sign permits for businesses when the requested sign is in compliance with the approved Sign Package Plan. No permit for any sign shall be issued unless it is in compliance with the approved Sign Package Plan.

The sign package plan shall include the following information:

- A. Front building elevation(s), indicating lengths of individual storefronts, location(s) of signs, and the maximum sign area for each individual business sign.
- B. Location of development identification sign, if any, indicating the setbacks, and maximum sign area for this sign.
- C. Drawings, to scale, of all signs proposed for the Planned Unit Development, including dimensions (height and width).
- D. Color Schemes and Designs for all Signs
- E. The types of structures that will be used to support each sign.

The Sign Package Plan, once approved, shall become a part of the Final Development Plan. Any change to this portion of the plan shall require that an Amended Final Development Plan be submitted by the Developer/Owner of the Planned Unit Development for approval by the

Planning Commission. However, a change to the name or occupant shall not require a submittal of an amended sign package plan, if the replacement sign is in compliance with the original approved plan.

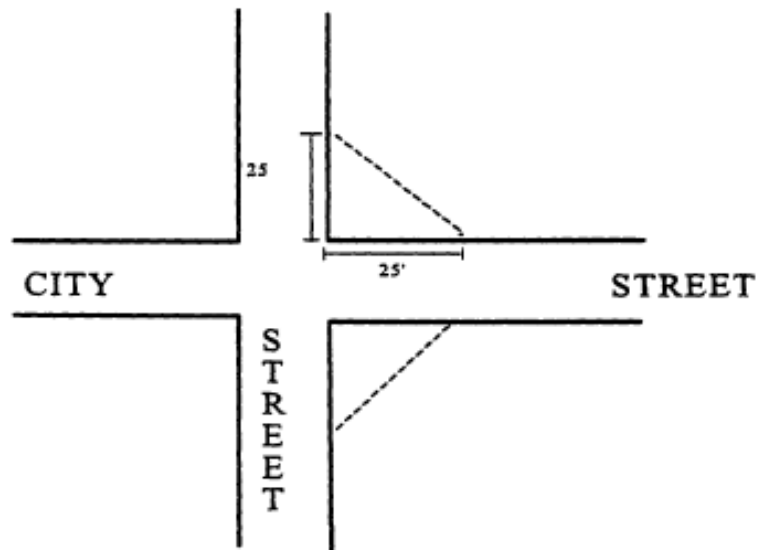
13.22 Special Purpose Signs shall be permitted on a temporary basis only, for no more than ten (10) days at any one time and for no more than six (6) times in any one calendar year (January 1 to December 31). The square footage of these signs shall be included in the calculations determining the maximum limits allowable under Table 13.2.

13.23 Setbacks. Except as otherwise noted herein, the setback for all ground-mounted and pole signs shall be one-half the distance required in the Basic Zone District's Bulk, Density and Height Table. Entrance/Exit signs may be located at the right-of-way, but in no instance shall they project into the right-of-way and shall not be greater than three (3) feet in height.

13.24 Sight Distance Triangle. No ground-mounted business identification sign shall be placed within the sight distance of a street intersection or the intersection of the entrance/exit to a business and the public street. If a pole sign is proposed within this sight triangle, the minimum distance from the ground to the bottom of the sign shall be 15 feet. For the purpose of this section, the following sight distance triangle measurements shall be used:

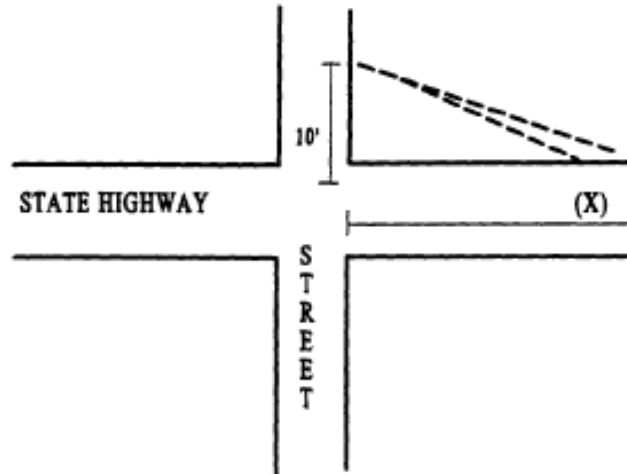
CITY STREETS

When two city streets intersect or a driveway intersects a city street, the sight triangle shall consist of the area between points twenty-five feet (25') along both streets from the intersection of the edges of the pavement



STATE HIGHWAY

Where a city street, driveway or other entrance intersects with a state highway, the sight triangle shall consist of the area between a point ten (10') feet along the street or driveway edge of pavement and a point located along the edge of the state highway pavement, the distance an automobile traveling the speed limit can go in six seconds, as



<u>(X) SIGHT DISTANCE</u>	<u>SPEED LIMIT</u>
484'	55 MPH
396'	45 MPH
308'	35 MPH
220'	25 MPH
132'	15 MPH

indicated in the table below.

13.25 Projection. No sign determined to be a fascia sign shall be allowed to project further than twelve inches (12") from the face of the building.

13.26 Non-Premise Advertising Signs

13.261 Non-premise or advertising signs, including billboards and poster boards shall not be permitted, except as provided for in section 13.27.

13.27 Non-Profit, Church, Organizational Signs (in right-of-way or off site) Non-profit enterprise, charitable organizations or church directional signs are permitted, provided they meet the following criteria:

- A. No sign may be greater than six (6) square feet.
- B. Such signs shall only:
 1. Identify the church, non-profit enterprise, or charitable organization,
 2. Direct the traffic pattern in the direction of its location,

3. Indicate the distance necessary to be traveled to reach the location,
 4. Have a minimum spacing of one hundred feet (100') from any other non-profit, charitable organization or church designated directional sign.
- C. No such sign shall be located closer than twenty feet (20') from the roadway and shall have a distance of five feet (5') from the ground to the bottom of the sign.
- D. Written consent of the owner must be submitted to the City of Frankfort's Inspection Office when the proposed sign is to be located on private property. Such sign shall not count in the total sign allocation for that business or property.

13.28 Interstate Business Signs

13.281 Purpose. The purpose of the Interstate Business Sign section is to allow for business establishments offering goods and services in the interest of the traveling public to inform the motorist of the travel related goods and services available along the Interstate. The Interstate Business Sign regulations shall apply only for pole signs on the individual business site. Regulations for fascia signs shall conform to other sections within this ordinance.

13.282 Definition. For the purpose of this section, Interstate shall be defined as a fully controlled access highway, which gives preference to through traffic and has access only at selected public roads and that has no at-highway grade crossings or intersections.

13.283 Sites Affected. Interstate business signs may be located within a 2,500 foot radius of the center point of the intersection of U.S. Highway 127, South and Interstate 64. No interstate signs are permitted or allowed at any other I-64 intersection for properties within the City limits. A map (Map 13-1) is attached to this section to serve as a general reference in determining eligible properties. The property owner may relinquish the right to an Interstate Business Sign and add 150 square feet of sign area to the subject property for any permitted sign(s) on the property. The Planning Commission shall review the transfer of such square footage and reserves the right to have recorded in the office of the Franklin County Clerk a Certificate of Land Use restriction or other similar documentation evidencing the applicant's relinquishment of an Interstate Business Sign.

13.284 Permit Procedures. A business located within the area identified in Map 13-1 may apply for a building permit to erect an interstate sign. This sign shall meet the height, size, and location requirements contained elsewhere in this section. No sign shall be erected without first applying for and receiving a permit for the erection of this sign.

13.285 Location.

The interstate business sign shall be located on the same site as the business. These signs must meet the following setbacks, as measured from the property lines:

- 100-feet from any residential use or zone as measured from the property line.
- 25-feet from all property lines

Map 13.1

