

Sign Ordinance Revisions in Latest Draft

This summary lists revisions to Section 34 of the Zoning Ordinance (known as the Sign Ordinance) in the latest draft that the Planning & Zoning Committee wants Civic Federation members to be aware of. Because revisions to the comprehensive draft will continue for several months and will not be considered by the County Board until June 2011, we do not recommend action by the Civic Federation at this time.

Topic	Current Rule	Revised Rule
Commercial and noncommercial signs signs in the public right-of-way (ROW) <i>Expanded to include all commercial and noncommercial signs—but limited to weekends and holidays.</i>	<u>What:</u> Unlighted directional real estate "for rent" or "sale" signs <u>Where:</u> 1 per intersection per Real Estate company; not placed as to constitute a "vision obstruction" at street intersections as specified in Section 32 of this ordinance. <u>Size:</u> Not exceeding 1.5 square feet in area <u>When:</u> Only from sundown on Friday to sundown on Sundays and on legal holidays <i>No other commercial signs allowed.</i>	<u>What:</u> Unlighted signs bearing a commercial message* providing directions to the location of a commercial activity lawfully conducted within one-half mile of the site of the sign or a noncommercial message. <u>Where:</u> Placement limited to portion of the public right-of-way adjacent to a street, road, highway or sidewalk; no more than 1 sign per intersection per entity <u>Size:</u> Limited to 1.5 square feet in size and a height of 3 feet <u>When:</u> Only from sundown on Friday to sundown on Sundays and on sundown the night before a legal holiday to sundown on that holiday *The offering of real or personal property for sale, rent or lease shall be considered a commercial activity conducted at the location of the property.
Political signs on public property and in the public ROW About the same	<u>Number:</u> A maximum of two political signs per candidate or issue is allowed per median strip segment. Multiple candidates listed on one sign count as one political sign for each candidate listed. <u>Where:</u> At polling place; in median strip* <u>Size:</u> Up to 4.5 square feet in area but not exceeding 3 feet in height, as measured from the ground <u>When:</u> 24 hour limit at polling place; up to 31 consecutive days before a primary or election called by a duly constituted governmental body; removed NLT 5 days after *The portion of the median that is surrounded by a continuous curb or where no curb exists is bordered by a curb cut, street, street intersection, sidewalk, utility or planning strip, but not adjacent to or on any school site, municipal building, parkway or park property.	<u>Number:</u> No person, establishment, candidate, political ticket or other entity shall place or have more than two signs in any median strip. <u>Where:</u> in median strip <u>Size:</u> Limited to 4.5 square feet in size and a height of 3 feet <u>When:</u> 31 consecutive days before an election called by a duly constituted governmental body, including all primaries; removed within 5 days after the election to which they pertain <i>Unclear about "issue signs"</i>

<p>“Temporary” signs on private property</p> <p>Appears to be greatly expanded</p>	<p><i>Current ordinance lists specific types of signs allowed.</i></p>	<p><u>What:</u> Freestanding signs are allowed in one- and two-family uses in all districts.</p> <p><u>Number:</u> 1 permanent, any number of temporary freestanding signs.</p> <p><u>Size:</u> 6.5 sq. ft, maximum height of 5 feet.</p>
<p>Home occupation signs</p> <p>Allowed in R districts one- and two-family homes in all districts</p>	<p>One nameplate identifying a single-family dwelling, its occupant, or its location, or a home professional office (but not a home occupation) not exceeding 1.5 square feet.</p>	<p>The wall sign may contain a commercial message related to an activity lawfully conducted on the premises in accordance with Section 31.A.12 (Home Occupations).</p>
<p>Banners</p> <p>Greatly expanded</p>	<p>Banners are prohibited except when placed by Public Authority.</p>	<p>Any school, house of worship, recreation center or other institutional use or place of public assembly permitted in any district may have 1 banner per main building — maximum 40 square feet.</p>
<p>Holiday lighting</p> <p>Appears to be prohibited</p>	<p>Prohibitions in subsection C.3*. of this section shall not be in effect when used for noncommercial holiday displays.</p> <p>*C.3 prohibitions include any lighted tubing or strings of lights outlining property lines or open sales areas, doors, windows, or wall edges of any building, provided that perimeter shielded down lighting may be used to light open sales areas.</p>	<p><i>Various forms of lighting similar to the type of holiday displays in residential neighborhoods are prohibited. At this time, there is no exception for holiday displays.</i></p>
<p>Removal of illegally placed signs</p>	<p><i>Sign removal of illegally placed signs is not addressed.</i></p>	<p>Removed by staff; no provision for the public to remove illegally-placed signs.</p>
<p>Lighted signs</p> <p>The revisions have a large number of lighting rules.</p>	<p><i>No rules that are not also in the revised draft.</i></p>	<p>A new illumination standard is cited (“nits”). Some rules of interest are to residents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lighted near roof wall signs may not be mounted in a location directly facing and within 100 feet of an R or RA zoning district. A near-roof wall sign may be illuminated only by internal lighting; A near-roof wall sign shall not be illuminated between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. the next morning. – No sign located within 200 feet of an R or RA district shall contain any unshielded lighting except neon-type tubing.
<p>Rooftop signs</p> <p>New treatment</p>		–