

CHAPTER NINE

SIGNS

9000. PURPOSE AND INTENT	1
9100. GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	2
9110. PERMIT REQUIRED	2
9120. RELATIONSHIP TO BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL CODES.....	2
9130. MAINTENANCE	2
9140. OBSOLETE/ABANDONED SIGNS	3
9150. NONCOMMERCIAL MESSAGES.....	3
9200. TYPES OF SIGNS AND SIGN STANDARDS.....	3
9210. EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING	3
9212. SIGNS SUBJECT TO LIMITED REGULATION.....	6
9220. PROHIBITED SIGNS	7
9230. MEASUREMENT DETERMINATIONS	9
9231. DISTANCE BETWEEN SIGNS	9
9232. SIGN AREA FOR FREESTANDING (GROUND) AND PROJECTING SIGNS....	9
9233. SIGN AREA FOR WINDOW SIGNS	11
9234. SIGN AREA FOR MARQUEE SIGNS.....	12
9235. SIGN AREA FOR WALL SIGN/BUILDING MOUNTED.....	12
9236. SIGN AREA FOR OTHER SIGNS	12
9237. SIGN HEIGHT	12
9238. NUMBER OF SIGNS.....	13
9239. LOCATION AND DESIGN STANDARDS	14
9240. FLASHING SIGNS, MOVING SIGNS, AND CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS	15
9250. ON-SITE SIGNS.....	16
9260. PORTABLE SIGNS.....	18
9270. TEMPORARY SIGNS	19
9280. OFFSITE SIGNS	21
9285. DIRECTIONAL SIGNS.....	21
9290. BILLBOARDS	22
9400. SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS	25
9410. DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFICATION SIGNS.....	25
9420. MODEL HOME CENTERS.....	27
9430. MODEL HOMES	27
9500. NONCONFORMING SIGNS.....	28
9510. NONCONFORMING SIGNS IN RIGHTS-OF-WAY	28
9520. CONTINUATION OF NONCONFORMING SIGNS	28

CHAPTER NINE

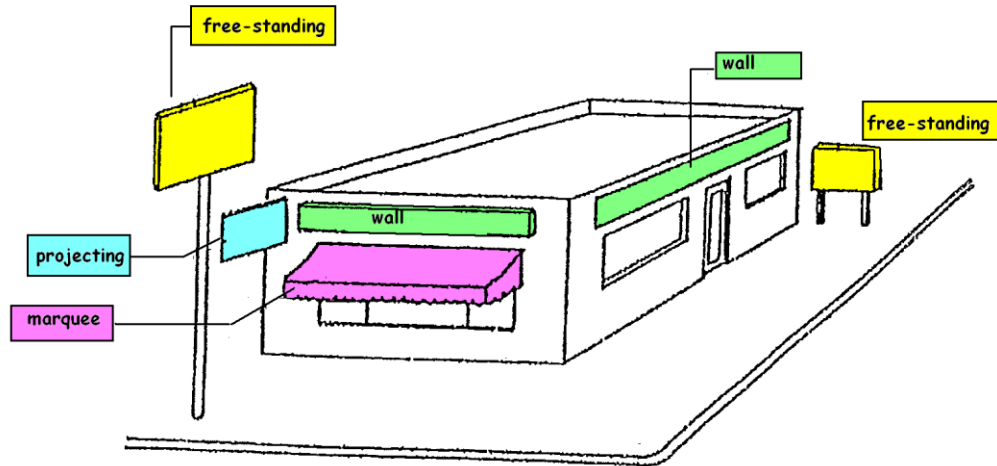
SIGNS

9000. PURPOSE AND INTENT

- A. This chapter shall be construed and implemented to create a comprehensive and balanced system of a sign control that accommodates both the need for a well maintained, safe, and attractive community and for effective business identification, advertising, and communication. It is the intent of the BCC to promote the health, safety, convenience, aesthetics, and general welfare of the community by controlling signs intended to communicate to the public and to authorize use of signs which are:
1. Compatible with their surroundings;
 2. Designed, constructed, installed, and maintained in a manner that does not endanger public safety or unduly distract motorists;
 3. Appropriate to the type of activity to which they pertain;
 4. Large enough to convey sufficient information about the owners or occupants of a particular property, the products or services available on the property, or the activities conducted on the property, and small enough to satisfy the needs for regulation; and
 5. Reflective of the identity and creativity of individual occupants.
- B. The standards and regulations are designed to protect the County against:
1. Unlimited proliferation in number and location of off-site and onsite signs, including portable and temporary signs;
 2. Construction and placement of oversized, unsightly, animated, flashing, and other aesthetically unpleasant signs that dominate and detract from the surrounding visual environment;
 3. Commercial and other signs being placed in residential or rural neighborhoods which unpleasantly commercialize and clutter such neighborhoods for residents and travelers;
 4. Signs being constructed and placed without first obtaining proper permits as well as permission of the owner of the property on which the signs are placed;
 5. Signs failing to be properly maintained once erected and placed; and

6. Signs placed dangerously in or near street intersections and rights-of-way so as to pose actual or potential hazards to traffic and pedestrians.

9100. GENERAL PROVISIONS



9110. PERMIT REQUIRED

All signs, except signs listed as exempt herein, shall require a sign permit.

9120. RELATIONSHIP TO BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL CODES

These regulations are intended to compliment requirements of the building and electrical codes enforced by the County. Wherever there is inconsistency between these regulations and the building or electrical code, the latter shall apply.

9130. MAINTENANCE

All signs including their supports, braces, guys and anchors, electrical parts and lighting fixtures, and painted and display areas shall be maintained in accordance with the building and electrical codes enforced by the County and shall present a neat and clean appearance. The vegetation around, in front of, behind, and underneath the base of grounds signs for a distance of 10 feet shall be neatly trimmed and free of unsightly weeds. No rubbish or debris that would constitute a fire or health hazard shall be permitted under or near a sign.

9140. OBSOLETE/ABANDONED SIGNS

Signs which are improperly maintained so as to be unsafe or illegible shall be required to be removed or repaired, whichever is appropriate, by the property owner within 30 days upon written notice by the Director of the Land Development Division.

9150. NONCOMMERCIAL MESSAGES

A noncommercial message, not constituting advertising as defined herein, may be substituted for an advertising message or any other message on a permitted permanent sign. This provision shall not be construed to increase the number of or sign area of permanent signs permitted by these regulations.

9200. TYPES OF SIGNS AND SIGN STANDARDS

9210. EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING

The following types of signs are exempt from permit requirements, provided that each sign is placed and constructed so as not to create a hazard, is not electrified, and provided that the location requirements of this LDC are met:

- A. Decorative flags and bunting for a celebration, convention, or commemoration when authorized by the County for a prescribed period of time.
- B. Memorial signs or tablets depicting historic events, names of buildings and dates when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials and attached to the surface of a building.
- C. 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 trucks, telephone booths, and gasoline pumps.



- D. Advertising and identifying signs located on taxicabs, buses, trailers, trucks, or vehicle bumpers provided such sign does not violate this LDC.

- E. Warning signs that do not exceed two square feet and are located within the property lines are exempt from permitting. Warning signs may include, but shall not be limited to: "No Trespassing," "Beware of Dog," "No Dumping," "No Loitering," and "No Parking." Such signs will be limited to one per residential lot of 150 feet or less of frontage. Signs intended for the purpose of meeting the definition of posted lands as defined in Chapter 810.011(5), Florida Statutes, (F.S.), or its successor, are not subject to separation requirements.
- F. Signs for occupant identification are subject to the following standards:
 - 1. One sign not to exceed one-square foot in area; and
 - 2. The sign designates the occupant or a lawful home occupation.
- G. Directional signs for a house of worship, schools, public assembly facility, or hospital/emergency room located on a local street are subject to the following standards:
 - 1. The sign(s) shall not be located in the public right-of-way;
 - 2. The sign(s) shall not exceed three square feet in areas; and
 - 3. One sign for each arterial or collector providing access; however, a total of no more than three signs shall be allowed for each qualifying use.
- H. Legal notices and official instruments.
- I. Holiday, cultural, ethnic or religious symbols or displays bearing no commercial message.
- J. Signs carried by a person.
- K. Signs that are not designed or located so as to be visible from any street or adjoining property.
- L. One sign announcing the candidacy of any person or persons for elected public office is subject to the following standards:
 - 1. The total area of any such sign located in a residential district shall not exceed eight square feet in area and shall be located at least five feet from all property lines.

2. The total area of any such sign located in all other districts shall not exceed 32 square feet and shall be located at least five feet from all property lines.
 3. Signs relating to individuals who are unsuccessful in any election shall be removed within seven days of their last election date.
 4. All other political signs shall be removed within seven days following the date of the general (or last) election.
- M. Special events signs, to be removed within seven days after the event.
- N. For sale, rent, lease, or "Open House" signs by owner or agent are subject to the following standards:
1. One sign not to exceed six square feet per residential lot;



2. One sign not to exceed 32 square feet per nonresidential lot; and
 3. Sign shall be removed seven days after title transfer.
- O. Flags, when displayed on a flagpole at a minimum height clearance of 10 feet, and satisfying one or more of the following standards:
1. Flags in any location may bear noncommercial messages, including but not limited to, symbols representing governmental, religious, social or non-profit entities;



2. If located in a residential district or area, a flag may not contain a commercial message; and
 3. Flags in nonresidential areas may bear a name, logo or other symbol representing a business or product. Any flag containing a more complete commercial message – such as one saying “sale,” or a price or the name or depiction of a particular product (as contrasted to a corporate name that may generically identify products) shall be considered a sign and shall be subject to the other provisions of this chapter;
- P. Time, temperature, or date signs.
- Q. Traditional barber poles.
- R. Residential name plates.



- S. Construction in progress signs. No more than two signs may be displayed after a project application has been submitted for review. Each sign shall be limited to 32 square feet in size and shall be removed when construction is completed.

9212. SIGNS SUBJECT TO LIMITED REGULATION

The following signs may be erected or constructed without a permit, but may be subject to additional regulations under this section. Where a sign is erected pursuant to a state statute or a court order, the sign may exceed the size standards of this ordinance or otherwise deviate from the standards set forth in this ordinance to the extent that the statute or court order expressly required the larger size or other deviation. In all other respects, such signs shall conform to the standards of this ordinance:

- A. Signs conforming to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and bearing no commercial message (see Figure 9-1);

- B. Signs installed by employees or officials of a state or federal agency in the course of their governmental duties and bearing no commercial message;
- C. Signs installed by employees or officials of Citrus County or of a municipality located partly or wholly within the County in the course of their official duties and bearing no commercial message;

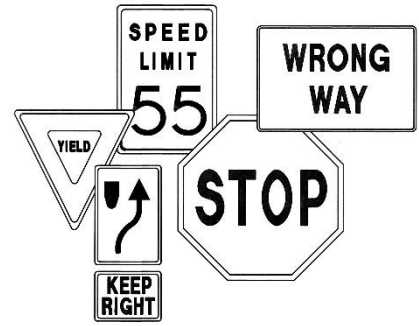


Figure 9-1 Traffic Control Signs.

- D. Signs required by a state or federal statute; or code;
- E. Signs required by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
- F. Signs installed by public utilities in their rights-of-way or on their facilities and bearing no commercial message other than such message is necessary to identify the use;
- G. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in the Citrus County, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route;
- H. House numbers erected in accordance with E-911 Uniform Property Numbering System; and
- I. Signs placed pursuant to Section 337.407, F.S., Signs and Lights in the Right-of-Way.

9220. PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following signs are prohibited unless authorized by variance pursuant to the standards of this LDC.

- A. Obsolete or abandoned signs.
- B. Signs or sign structures that interfere in any way with free use of any fire escape, emergency exit, standpipe, or which obstruct any window to such an extent that light or ventilation is reduced to a point below that required by any provision of this LDC or other ordinance of the County.
- C. Signs which resemble any official sign or marker erected by any government agency or which 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 which may be reasonably confused with or construed as or conceal a traffic control device.

- D. Signs which obstruct the vision of pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists.
- E. Signs that are of such intensity or brilliance so as to cause glare or impair the vision of any motorist, cyclist, or pedestrian or which are a hazard or a nuisance to occupants of any property because of glare or other characteristics. Foot candle power of lighting related to such signage shall not exceed three-foot candle power from source to point of reception by motorists, etc.
- F. Illuminated signs in any residential area except residential name plates and street address signs that are illuminated by soft and muted light.
- G. Signs made of any material whatsoever and attached in any way to a utility pole, tree, fence post, stake, stick, or any other similar object located or situated on public or private property except as otherwise expressly allowed by, or exempted from, this section.
- H. Signs on public property, including rights-of-way, other than signs erected by a public authority for public purposes.
- I. Signs on any vehicle with a total sign area in excess of 10 square feet when the vehicle is:
 - 1. Parked for more than 60 consecutive minutes within 25 feet of any street right-of-way;
 - 2. Within 25 feet of and visible from a street right-of-way; and
 - 3. Not used in the conduct of the business advertised on the vehicle.
- J. Signs, commonly referred to as wind signs, consisting of one or more pennants, ribbons, spinners, streamers, captive balloons, or other objects or material fastened in such a manner as to move upon being subjected to pressure by wind.

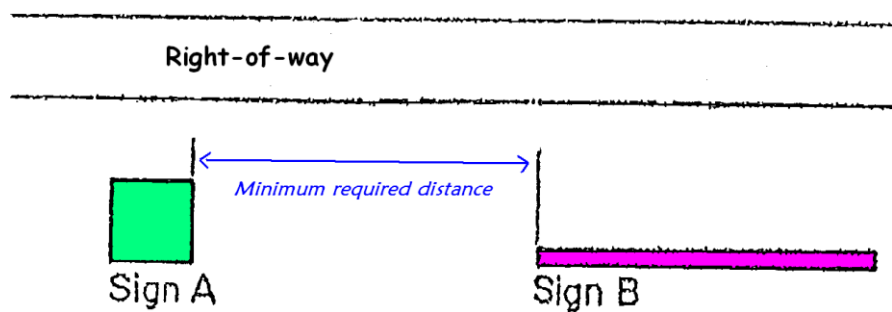


- K. Signs which are painted, pasted, or printed on any curbstone, flagstone, pavement, or any portion of any sidewalk or street except house numbers and traffic control signs.

9230. MEASUREMENT DETERMINATIONS

9231. DISTANCE BETWEEN SIGNS

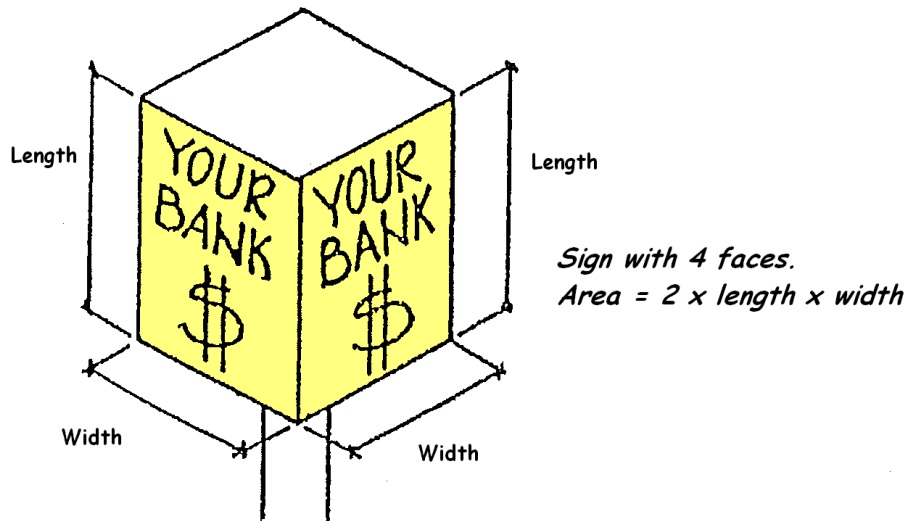
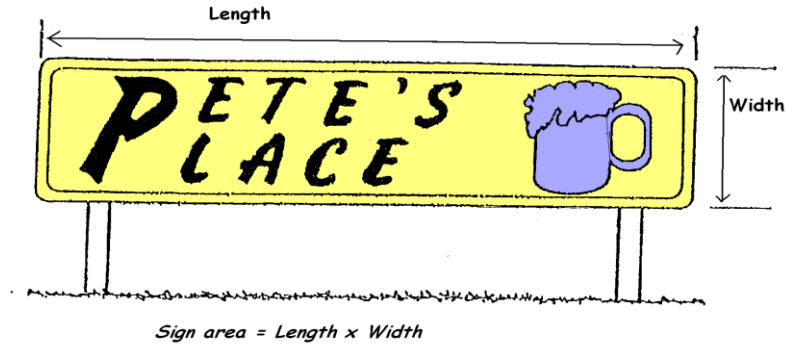
The minimum required distance between signs shall be measured along street rights-of-way from the closest parts of any two signs.



Sign Separation

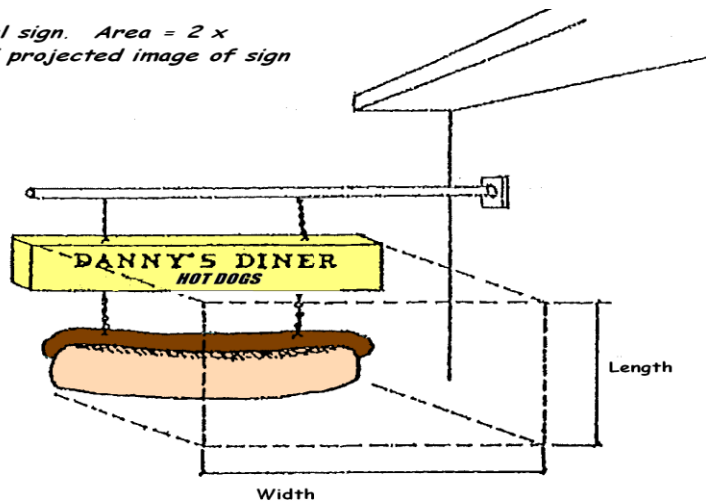
9232. SIGN AREA FOR FREESTANDING (GROUND) AND PROJECTING SIGNS

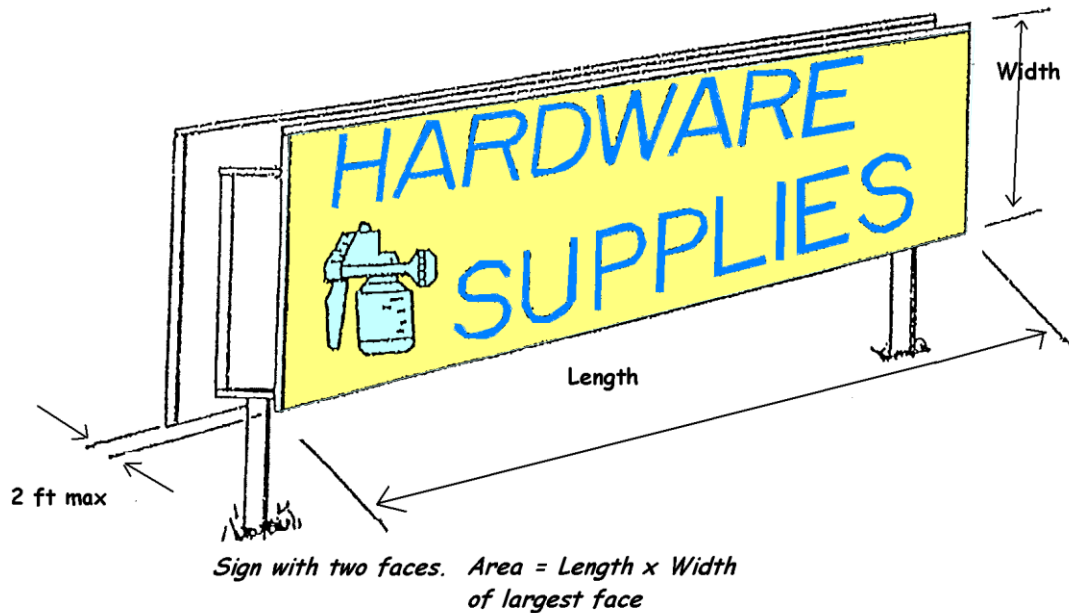
- A. The sign area is a regular geometric shape that contains the area within a single continuous perimeter. The sign area encloses the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem, or any figure or similar character together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the background against which it is placed. This excludes the necessary supports or uprights on which the sign is placed. Where a sign has two display faces, placed back to back and at no point more than two feet from one another, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of one face if the two faces are of equal area or as the area of the larger face if the two faces are of unequal area. Where a sign has more than one display face, all areas that can be viewed simultaneously shall be considered as the sign area.



- B. In the case of three dimensional product displays, the area shall be determined by drawing a geometric figure around the projected image of the sign and multiplying that area by two. The "projected image" is that image created by tracing the largest possible two dimensional outline of the sign.

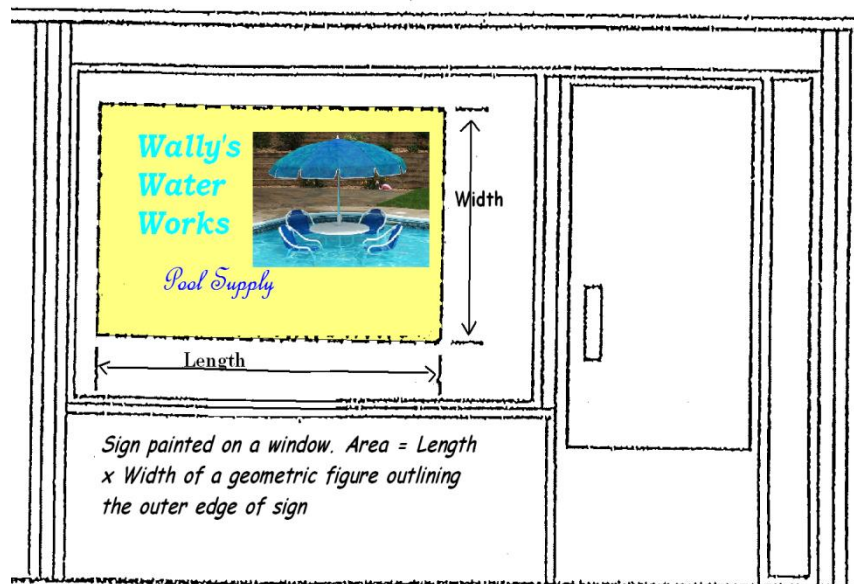
Three-dimensional sign. Area = 2 x length x width of projected image of sign





9233. SIGN AREA FOR WINDOW SIGNS

The area of any sign painted directly on a window shall be the area within a continuous geometric figure formed by extending lines around the extreme limits of writing, representation, or any figure of similar character depicted on the surface of the window. The area of any permanent sign placed on or behind the window glass shall be measured as shown.



The combined area of permanent signs placed on or behind windows shall not exceed 50 percent for buildings having 50 square feet or less of total window area or 25 percent for buildings having greater than 50 square feet of the total window area at the same floor level on the side of the building or unit upon which the signs are displayed.

9234. SIGN AREA FOR MARQUEE SIGNS

The area of signs applied directly to the fabric of a marquee shall be the total of all signs on all faces of the structure. All sign copy on each face shall be computed within one geometric figure formed by extending lines around the extreme limits of writing, representation, or any figure or similar character depicted on the surface of the face of the marquee. The area of any sign suspended from or attached to a marquee shall be regulated by this section of the LDC,

9235. SIGN AREA FOR WALL SIGN/BUILDING MOUNTED

The area of any sign painted or affixed on a wall shall be the area within a continuous geometric figure formed by extending lines around the extreme limits of writing or affixation, representation, or any figure of similar character depicted on the surface of the wall.

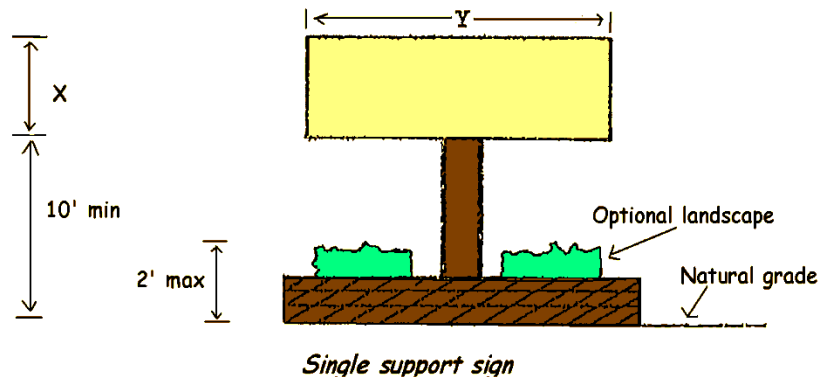
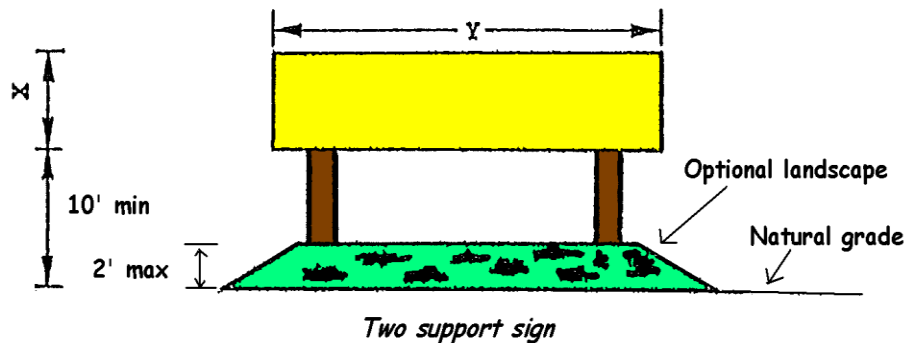
9236. SIGN AREA FOR OTHER SIGNS

In the case of a sign (other than freestanding, projecting, or marquee) whose message is fabricated together with a background that borders or frames the message, the sign face area shall be the total area of the entire background.

In the case of a sign (other than freestanding, projecting, or marquee) whose message is applied to a background with no border or frame, the sign face area shall be the smallest regular geometric shape that can encompass all words, letters, figures, emblems, and other elements of the sign message.

9237. SIGN HEIGHT

The vertical distance from the finished grade at the base of the supporting structure to the top of the sign or its frame or supporting structure, whichever is higher, is limited to 35 feet for steel and 25 feet for wood.



9238. NUMBER OF SIGNS

For the purpose of determining the number of signs, a sign shall be construed to be a single display surface, effect, or device containing elements organized, related, and composed to form a single unit. In cases where material is displayed in a random or unconnected manner or where there is a reasonable doubt as to the intended relationship of such components, each unrelated component or element shall be considered to be a single sign. Where a sign has two faces placed back to back and at no point more than two feet from one another, it shall be counted as one sign. If a sign has four faces arranged in a square, rectangle, or diamond, it shall be counted as two signs.

9239. LOCATION AND DESIGN STANDARDS

The following requirements shall apply to all signs permitted in the County:

- A. Signs shall not obstruct free and clear vision of operators of motor vehicles in intersections of streets, highways, or driveways.
- B. Illumination used in connection with any permitted sign shall be located and installed in such a manner that it will not result in direct undue glare upon a public street or upon any adjacent property.
- C. Signs and supports constructed of steel (or its functional equivalent) structures shall not exceed a height of 35 feet above grade as measured at the base of the sign at natural grade.
- D. Signs and supports constructed of wood shall not exceed a height of 25 feet above grade as measured at the bottom of the sign to natural grade.
- E. All signs and illumination thereof shall be designed, constructed, and maintained in conformity with applicable provisions of the building and electrical codes enforced by the County.
- F. The following illumination standards shall apply to all signs:
 - 1. Colored lights are permitted except that the lights may not be designed or located so as to cause confusion with traffic lights.
 - 2. Floodlight illumination is permissible provided none of the light emitted shall shine directly onto an adjoining property or into the eyes of motorists or pedestrians.
 - 3. Searchlights shall not be utilized to illuminate signs or properties, to advertise or promote a business, or to attract customers to a property.
 - 4. All transformer boxes and other accessory equipment of illuminated signs shall not be visible from the exterior.
 - 5. Illuminated signs shall not have lighting reflectors that project more than 18 inches perpendicularly from any surface of the sign over public space and no projection may be less than 10 feet above a sidewalk and 15 feet above a vehicular driveway.
 - 6. Signs with lights that change automatically or through human intervention are subject to the regulations for changeable copy signs.

9240. FLASHING SIGNS, MOVING SIGNS, AND CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS

- A. Signs that move, flash or simulate movement are allowable pursuant to criteria in this section. A changeable copy sign is considered a different classification of sign under this chapter. Conversion of an existing sign to a changeable copy sign is allowed only if the modified sign will conform with all standards in this section and with all other applicable standards related to the location, height, size and other characteristics of the sign.



- B. Automatic changeable copy signs shall be allowed only on signs for which “changeable copy sign, automatic” is listed as a permitted sign characteristic and shall be subject to the following additional restrictions:
1. Such technology shall be programmed so that the message or image on the sign changes no more often than every eight seconds.
 2. There shall be no effects of movement, flashing, scintillation, or similar effects in the individual images.
 3. Changes of image shall be substantially instantaneous as seen by the human eye and shall not use fading, rolling, window shading, dissolving or similar effects as part of the change.
 4. Video technology in signs shall use automatic level controls to reduce light levels at night and under cloudy or other darkened conditions, in accordance with the following standards.
 - a. All electronic or digital display unit message boards shall have installed ambient light monitors, and shall at all times allow such monitors to automatically adjust the brightness level of the electronic board based on ambient light conditions.
 - b. Maximum brightness levels for electronic or digital display boards shall not exceed 5,000 nits when measured from the billboard’s face at its

maximum brightness, during daylight hours and 500 nits when measured from the board face at its maximum brightness between dusk and dawn, i.e., the time of day between sunset and sunrise.

- c. Any sign using electronic or electro-mechanical technology for changeable copy message boards, which malfunctions, fails, or ceases to operate in its usual or normal programmed manner causing therein motion, movement, flashing or any other similar effects, shall be repaired or disconnected within 48 hours by the owner or operator of such sign.

9250. ON-SITE SIGNS

Each parcel of land may be permitted onsite signs subject to the following requirements:

- A. Each parcel shall be allowed one freestanding sign. Each business on the parcel shall be allowed one of the following sign types: projecting, wall, or marquee pursuant to the standards of this LDC.
- B. When a use takes pedestrian or vehicular access from more than one arterial or collector road, one additional freestanding sign shall be allowed for each arterial or collector road to which it has access.
- C. The maximum area per sign face for a freestanding sign shall be two square feet of a sign area for each linear foot of building front width, up to the maximum requirements outlined below. The table below establishes sign face areas as a function of setback and height. Any sign with a height between three feet and eight feet shall meet visibility triangle setbacks as well as the setbacks established below:

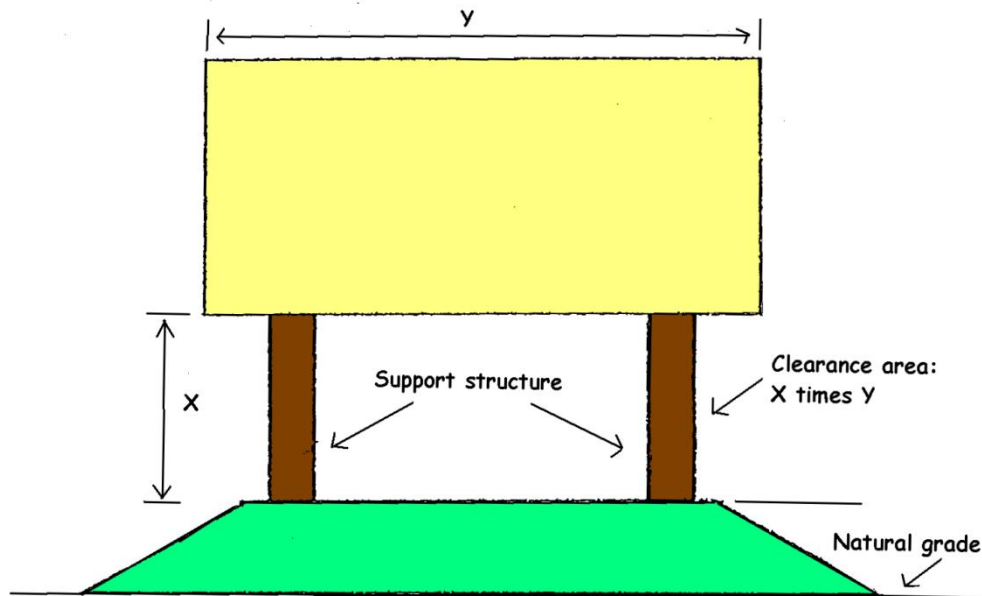
Sign Face In Square Feet	Minimum Setback From Right-of-Way	Height Requirements
0 to <75	5 Feet	3 Feet or Less* or 8 Feet or More**
75 to <150	10 Feet	8 Feet or More**
150 to 200	20 Feet	8 Feet or More**

* Total Sign Height

** Measured from natural grade to the bottom of sign and maintained without obstruction except for structural pylon supports

- D. Vehicular movement signs such as entrance, exit, parking, and other similar information shall not exceed three square feet. Such signs may be permitted up to the property line and shall not be considered a freestanding sign for purposes of this LDC.

- E. Any proposed freestanding sign shall be located at least 75 feet from an existing freestanding sign.
- F. The top of a freestanding (ground) sign constructed on steel or its functional equivalent shall not exceed 35 feet when measured from the natural grade at the sign base. The top of a freestanding sign constructed of wood shall not exceed 25 feet from natural grade at the sign base.
- G. No freestanding sign shall be erected within the minimum buffer required by the use of the site on which it is erected.
- H. Wall or projecting signs shall conform to the following requirements:
 - 1. Signs shall not project more than two feet beyond the face of a building.
 - 2. Sign area shall not exceed the equivalent of one and one-half square feet for each linear foot of building front width.
 - 3. Wall signs shall not extend more than three feet above the intersection of the roof and the vertical wall.
 - 4. A wall sign shall not project beyond the top or edge of any parapet wall to which it is attached.
 - 5. The bottom of a projecting sign shall be a minimum of eight feet above grade.
- I. Marquee signs shall conform to the following requirements:
 - 1. Marquee signs shall not be larger than 80 percent of the marquee sign face area.
 - 2. Marquee signs may be on the vertical faces of marquees and may project no more than 12 inches below the lower edge of the marquee. The bottom of marquee signs shall be no less than eight feet above the sidewalk or grade at any point. No part of the sign shall project above the vertical marquee face or beyond the marquee itself. This does not prohibit placement of the sign message on the sloping portion of the awning.
- J. The support structure(s) for any freestanding sign shall not exceed 75 percent in area of the total clearance area.



- K. When a parcel is developed as a multi-unit development, the parcel shall be allowed one secondary freestanding sign. Such signs shall not exceed 80 percent of the total area for the primary sign and shall be a minimum of 300 feet from the primary sign.
- L. A multi-unit development shall be defined as a group or grouping of establishments originally developed as one project regardless of whether the development is under single or diverse ownership.

9260. PORTABLE SIGNS

- A. For the purpose of this section, a Portable Sign shall be defined as any sign designed to be moved easily and not permanently affixed to the ground or to a structure or building. Signs shall be affixed only by temporary and removable anchoring systems (non-permanent).
- B. Each developed lot or parcel shall be limited to one special portable sign which shall advertise only the use(s) on that site.



- C. Portable Signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in total area and shall not exceed five feet in total height.
- D. Signs shall maintain a minimum setback of five feet from all rights-of-way and shall not encroach into the visibility triangle.
- E. Signs shall not be placed within a defined driveway access aisle required loading zone, parking place, or drainage retention area.
- F. Signs which are improperly maintained so as to be unsafe, illegible, or which advertise uses or businesses no longer in existence shall be removed by the property owner within 30 days upon written notice by the Director of the Land Development Division.
- G. Signs shall not occupy that area beneath a freestanding sign reserved for clear visibility.
- H. Special Portable Signs shall be non-illuminated except as provided elsewhere within this LDC.

9270. TEMPORARY SIGNS

Unless otherwise specified, temporary signs shall not exceed 40 square feet and shall be removed within five days of the event being advertised unless specified herein. In addition to the general standards of this LDC, the following standards shall be met by any temporary sign:

- A. A permitted temporary sign shall be placed on private property outside any required buffer, landscaping, off-street parking area, or detention/retention area.

- B. Each sign shall be in full compliance with building and electrical codes enforced by Citrus County.
- C. The maximum height shall not exceed five feet.
- D. One temporary sign is allowed on a parcel.
- E. A temporary sign shall not contain advertising except as follows:
 - 1. To indicate that an owner, either personally or through an agent, is actively attempting to sell, rent, lease, or conduct an open house on the property on which the sign is located. No permit is required for such sign.
 - a. A residential for sale, rent, lease, or open house sign shall not exceed six square feet in size;
 - b. A nonresidential for sale, rent, lease, or open house sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in size; and
 - c. Such signs shall be removed within seven days after the sale, rental, lease, or open house.
 - 2. To indicate the grand opening of a business or other activity such sign may be displayed for a period of three months that the occupancy is open for business. A permit is required for such sign. Such sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in size.
 - 3. To indicate the existence of a new business or a business in a new location if such business has no permanent signs. The sign may be displayed for a period of not more than 60 days or until installation of permanent signs, whichever shall occur first. A permit is required for the sign. The sign shall be limited to 40 square feet in size and five feet in height.
 - 4. To announce or advertise temporary uses such as fairs, carnivals, circuses, revivals, sporting events, or any other public, charitable, educational, or religious event or function. The sign(s) may be erected 21 days before the special event and the sign shall be removed within five days after completion of the special event. A permit is not required for the sign. The sign shall be limited to 32 square feet in size.
 - 5. To announce or advertise "Yard Sale" or "Garage Sale" on the parcel where the "Sale" is to be held. The signs shall not exceed eight square feet in area and shall be set back from any property line a minimum of five feet. A permit is not required for the signs.

- F. The area of the sign face shall be included in any computation of total sign face area permitted on the parcel.

9280. OFFSITE SIGNS

For the purpose of this LDC off-site signs shall be categorized as either a Directional Sign or a Billboard. All other signs, not otherwise defined, relating to products, accommodations, services, or activities available to the public that are only available off the premises on which the sign is located shall be considered illegal signs.

9285. DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

The County may permit local business directory signs for the purpose of providing direction and information to the public. These signs shall be subject to the following standards:

- A. One sign per parcel not to exceed 16 square feet in total area and shall not exceed five feet in total height.
- B. Directional signs shall not be illuminated.



- C. Directional signs shall be limited to one per business and may contain the following information:
 - 1. Business name, address, phone number, e-mail, website, etc.
 - 2. Directions to the business from the sign location.
 - 3. Days/hours of operation.
 - 4. Owner/proprietor, manager.

9290. BILLBOARDS

Billboards shall be subject to the following standards:

- A. Billboards shall only be located within the GNC, LIND, or IND Districts and designated in like areas within a Development of Regional Impact per approved Master Site Plan (or vested non DRI project). Any such permitted billboard shall be located on a preexisting parcel or lot of record that is otherwise vacant and on a designated roadway below.

No preexisting parcel or lot of record on which there is currently a billboard shall be subdivided in such a manner so as to create a parcel or lot of record which is smaller than the minimum allowed under the LDC. If the land use of a parcel or lot of record is changed to an exclusively single family residential zoning classification that does not allow billboards and a land use change is made at the request or direction of the property owner, and a nonconforming billboard is located on a parcel or lot of record, the nonconforming billboard must be removed.

- B. All billboards legally erected shall be allowed to continue operation. At termination of any easement agreement upon its own terms, the billboard shall be considered nonconforming. The county shall not recognize new billboard easements created after the effective date of this ordinance.



- C. The billboard may be single-faced, double-faced (back to back), or v-shaped and shall not have more than the following square footage of advertising visible:

US-41, US-19, US-98, SR-44, SR-200, CR-491, and CR-486	382 sq. ft.
CR-488, CR-490, CR-39, and CR-48	300 sq. ft.

1. The billboard may be increased by an additional 10 percent for the purpose of enhancements and embellishments.
2. An automatic changeable facing may be allowed, but shall be subject to the provisions of Section 9240 of this LDC, or its successor, addressing Flashing Signs, Moving Signs, and Changeable Copy Signs.

- D. No such sign structure shall be located within 100 feet of any side or rear lot line of any adjoining lot not in the GNC, LIND, and IND Districts.
- E. All such structures shall be properly preserved and maintained and the surrounding lot area shall be kept clean and free from any objectionable or unsightly material.
- F. The face on which the advertising message is placed shall not exceed outside dimensions of 12.5 feet in height or 40 feet in width, exclusive of supports or framing.
- G. All billboards shall be located in compliance with the front, side, and rear yard requirements applicable to the land use district in which the property is located or in the alternative shall conform to the front, side, and rear yard requirements listed in this section of the LDC.
- H. No billboard shall be permitted to exceed the following height limitation as measured from the natural ground elevation or the crest of the road, whichever is greater:

US-41, US-19, US-98, SR-44, SR-200, CR-491, and CR-486 35 feet

CR-488, CR-490, CR-39, and CR-48 25 feet

- I. Billboards shall be separated from each other by the following distance along the same side of a highway:

US-41, US-19, US-98, SR-44 and SR-200 1,000 feet

CR-491 and CR-486 2,000 feet

CR-488, CR-490, CR-39, and CR-48 3,000 feet

Any billboard proposed for one of the highways listed above shall be no closer than 660 feet to another billboard on a second highway listed above. .

- J. Billboards erected, operated, or maintained within any controlled area of the State Highway System outside of incorporated areas, or on any part of the Interstate or Federal-Aid Primary System shall have a permit from the Florida Department of Transportation and comply with Chapter 479, F.S. and 14-10, F.A.C., or successor in function. Whenever there is inconsistency between these regulations, and the County's standards, the more stringent shall apply.
- K. Setbacks for billboards exceeding 30 feet in height shall be measured from the closest portion of the sign and shall maintain no less than 15 feet setback from the right-of-way. Billboards of 30 feet or less in height shall meet standard building and visibility triangle setbacks but shall have a minimum

setback of 35 feet from any right-of-way and 25 feet from any adjacent property line.

- L. Nonconforming Billboards: A nonconforming billboard is a billboard that was legally erected, but would not be allowable in accordance with this LDC.
 - 1. A nonconforming billboard must remain substantially the same as it was on the date that it became nonconforming. Reasonable repair and maintenance, including change of advertising message, is permitted and is not a change, which would terminate the nonconformity. Reasonable repair and maintenance includes, but is not limited to,:
 - a. Replacement of nuts and bolts;
 - b. Additional nailing, riveting, or welding;
 - c. Cleaning and painting;
 - d. Manipulation to level or plumb the device, but not to the extent of adding guys or struts for stabilization of the billboard structure;
 - e. Replacement of the billboard facing with materials similar to the existing billboard faces.
 - 2. Some activities, which are not considered reasonable repair and maintenance, and which are prohibited, are:
 - a. Changes to the size of the billboard facing;
 - b. Raising the height of the billboard structure;
 - c. Enhancements to the billboard's visibility or the period of time the billboard is visible;
 - d. Adding new lighting or increasing the existing lighting on a nonconforming billboard, whether the illumination is part of the billboard, or detached and directed at the billboard;
 - e. Changes in the billboard structure, such as substituting metal supports for wooden ones, or substituting a monopole for I-beams;
 - f. Enlarging the supports of a billboard structure, adding supports, or adding or increasing the size of footers;
 - g. Changes in the billboard face, such as replacing stationary panels with rotating ones;

- h. Adding another face to the billboard structure; and
 - i. Relocating the billboard except to a conforming site.
- 3. Embellishments may be added to nonconforming billboards subject to the limitations regarding size of sign facing and provided they do not extend more than five feet beyond the permanent billboard face and do not exceed 10 percent of the area of the billboard facing prior to the addition of the embellishment.
- 4. A nonconforming billboard, which is destroyed, cannot be re-erected. Destroyed is defined as when more than half of the ground support members are broken apart from the structure. A nonconforming billboard destroyed by vandalism may be re-erected in essentially the same form as existed prior to destruction. A nonconforming billboard is considered "abandoned" and has lost its nonconforming status when the face has remained void of advertising copy for 12 months or longer. A billboard which displays a bona fide public interest message, which is legible and contains professional/commercial artwork as is typically presented on billboards in the area, is not considered void of advertising. A nonconforming billboard is also considered abandoned when it is in obvious disrepair for a period of 60 days or longer (missing panels, broken panels, or supports), when it is completely screened by vegetation so that none of the advertising message is visible from the road, or when the advertising is for a business which has been out of operation for 12 months or longer.

9400. SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Signs located in areas developed and used for residential purposes shall be limited to subdivision and multifamily development identification signs and signs for model home centers.

9410. DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFICATION SIGNS

Development identification signs shall be subject to the following standards:

- A. Signs may be located at each principal entrance to a development up to two such identification signs at each principal entrance. Principal entrances are considered to be those locations involving the intersection of a subdivision street or the intersection of a private multifamily development street with a collector or arterial roadway.



- B. Signs shall be set back at least five feet from any property line. Signs shall not exceed 80 square feet in area for a single sign or 40 square feet per sign when two signs are erected at a single entrance. No single subdivision identification sign may exceed eight feet in overall height measured from natural grade, and no two subdivision identification signs (when two signs are used at a single entrance) may exceed four feet in overall height measured from natural grade.
- C. The following maintenance requirements shall be met:
1. Provisions shall be made for establishment of an owner's association or other appropriate means for continuing maintenance of residential development signs after the project developer no longer has maintenance responsibility.
 2. If maintenance responsibilities are not provided, signs shall be removed by the developer following sale of the last lot or dwelling unit.
 3. In order to assure removal, the developer shall post bond to Citrus County in an amount sufficient to cover removal cost as provided by the developer. This bond shall be submitted to the Director of the Land Development Division at the time of permitting.
- D. Signs shall not obstruct clear visibility triangles. However, ground mounted signs not exceeding three feet in height above natural grade shall be allowed and shall not be considered to impede clear visibility.
- E. The area of any supporting structure for subdivision identification signs shall not exceed 25 percent of the area for the sign it supports. (Example: 80 square feet sign plus 20 square feet or 25 percent = 100 square feet total sign area including support structure).

9420. MODEL HOME CENTERS

A model home center shall be defined as a facility consisting of two or more model homes on a single block that does not contain occupied residences shall be eligible for identification signs subject to the following requirements:

- A. One sign may be permitted per model home.
- B. Each permitted sign shall be located on the same property as the model home.
- C. Signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in area.
- D. Signs shall be set back from any property line a minimum of five feet.
- E. Illumination of identification signs is limited to the hours between sunset and 10:00 PM.
- F. One single-pole flag per street frontage may be permitted. Flags shall not exceed 12 square feet each. Flags shall be displayed only between dawn to dusk.
- G. Wind signs, streamers, banners, and wind socks are expressly prohibited in any area.

9430. MODEL HOMES

A model home which does not qualify as part of a model center described in Section 9420. of this LDC may be eligible for an identification sign, subject to the following requirements:

- A. One sign may be permitted per model home.
- B. Each permitted sign shall be located on the same lot as the model home.
- C. Signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in area.
- D. Signs shall be set back a minimum of five feet from any property line.
- E. One flag per model home may be permitted. The flag shall not exceed 12 square feet and shall be displayed only between dawn to dusk.
- F. Signs shall be removed within seven days after title transfer.

9500. NONCONFORMING SIGNS

9510. NONCONFORMING SIGNS IN RIGHTS-OF-WAY

- A. For the purpose of this section, a nonconforming sign shall be any sign that existed within a County regulated right-of-way prior to August 15, 1979.
- B. Continuation of nonconforming signs within rights-of-way shall be limited to non-portable signs and subject to approval by the Director of the Land Development Division based upon submittal of evidence of existence prior to August 15, 1979. Evidence may include all or part of the following:
 - 1. Business records such as sales receipts, rental receipts, proof of ownership or tenancy (deed or lease) or other proof of continuous use.
 - 2. Affidavits from the owner and neighboring property owners who have knowledge of the existence of the use.
- C. Decisions of the Director of the Land Development Division pertaining to this section may be appealed by an aggrieved party to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), subject to the requirements found in this LDC.

Note: Those road rights-of-way that are regulated by the Florida Department of Transportation shall not be subject to this section.

9520. CONTINUATION OF NONCONFORMING SIGNS

A nonconforming sign may be continued and shall be maintained in good condition. A nonconforming sign shall not be:

- A. Structurally changed though its pictorial content may be changed.
- B. Structurally altered to prolong the life of a sign except to meet safety requirements.
- C. Altered in any manner that increases the degree of nonconformity.
- D. Expanded.
- E. Continued in use after cessation or change of the business or activity to which the sign pertains.
- F. Reestablished after damage or destruction if the estimated cost of reconstruction exceeds 50 percent of replacement cost.

G. Continued in use when a sign or sign structure is permitted and erected on the same premises or unit.

H. Continued in use when any land use to which the sign pertains has ceased for a period of 30 consecutive days.

(Ordinance 2013-A08, Section 9250., adopted April 23, 2013)

(Ordinance 2016-A07, Section 9250., adopted April 12, 2016)