

A. Outdoor **advertising** signs are permitted, subject to the following:

1. The total sign face area on each I-405, I-110 or SR-91 Freeway Corridor sign structure or any pre-Ordinance No. 01-1237 sign structure shall not exceed eight hundred (800) square feet and digital displays can be installed on said sign face areas if approved within a development agreement, with appropriate conditions and public benefits to be negotiated with the City and complying with all other conditions imposed by this Chapter. The interval between the change of digital display shall be a minimum of eight (8) seconds. The total sign face area on any other new sign structure shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet and digital displays are not allowed on these other new sign structures.
2. The height of an I-405, I-110 or SR-91 Freeway Corridor sign structure or any pre-Ordinance No. 01-1237 sign structure shall either be the height of the current off-premises sign if said sign is being rebuilt or maintained on the same parcel of land or if the proposed off-premises sign is not replacing an existing off-premises sign on the same parcel of land, then said sign shall not exceed forty-two (42) feet measured from the higher of either the ground level at the base of the sign structure or the finished grade of the road which the sign is **advertising** thereto. The height of any other new sign structure shall not exceed twenty (20) feet measured from the ground level at the base of the sign structure.
3. A new sign structure shall be erected only on a property that abuts the Alameda Corridor or abuts either the I-405, I-110 or SR-91 Freeway Corridor. For purposes of this provision, the term "Alameda Corridor" means that portion of Alameda Street between Del Amo Boulevard and Lomita Boulevard. For purposes of this Section, the term "I-405 Freeway Corridor" means that portion of the I-405 Freeway that is on the north side of the I-405 Freeway and that is also between Main Street and Figueroa Street ("Main Street Portion") and that portion of the I-405 Freeway that is between the west line of Alameda Street and a point that is two thousand one hundred (2,100) feet west of the west line of Alameda Street ("Alameda Street Portion"). The term "I-110 Freeway Corridor" means that portion of the I-110 Freeway that directly abuts the east side of the I-110 Freeway, is zoned Manufacturing Light (ML), and is located on MTA owned property between Sepulveda Boulevard and Lomita Boulevard. The term "SR-91 Freeway Corridor" means that portion of the SR-91 Freeway that directly abuts the north side of the SR-

91 Freeway, is zoned Manufacturing Light (ML), and is located on APN 7319-033-064 property between Avalon Boulevard and Central Avenue.

4. The I-405, I-110 and SR-91 Freeway Corridor static outdoor **advertising** signs shall not be erected within five hundred (500) feet of any other outdoor **advertising** sign on the same side of the freeway and a digital display shall not be erected within one thousand (1,000) feet of any other digital display on the same side of either freeway, but in no case shall there be more than two (2) digital display faces allowed on the north side of the I-405 Freeway Corridor within the entire Alameda Street Portion, no more than two (2) digital display faces allowed on the south side of the I-405 Freeway Corridor within the entire Alameda Street Portion, no more than two (2) digital display faces allowed on the I-110 Freeway Corridor, and no more than two (2) digital display faces allowed on the SR-91 Freeway Corridor. Other than an I-405, I-110 or SR-91 Freeway Corridor sign structure which shall not have a sign face area of more than six hundred seventy-two (672) square feet with the exception of no more than one hundred twenty-eight (128) square feet in extensions, no new sign structure having a total sign face area of more than eighty (80) square feet but not exceeding one hundred fifty (150) square feet shall be erected within:

- a. Two hundred (200) feet of an outdoor **advertising** sign structure having a total sign face area greater than eighty (80) square feet; or
- b. One hundred (100) feet of any other outdoor **advertising** sign structure located on the same side of the public street or other right-of-way.

5. No new sign structures having a total sign face area of eighty (80) square feet or less shall be erected within one hundred (100) feet of any outdoor **advertising** sign structure located on the same side of the public street or other right-of-way.

6. Other than an I-405, I-110 or SR-91 Freeway Corridor sign structure, any such sign having a sign face visible from and within a distance of six hundred (600) feet of the edge of the right-of-way of a freeway or scenic highway measured horizontally along a line perpendicular to the centerline of such freeway or scenic highway shall not be permitted if placed or directed so as to be viewed primarily by persons traveling thereon.

7. Such sign shall not be permitted on the roof of a building, and a freestanding sign shall not be permitted to project over the roof of a building.

8. Such signs shall not encroach over public rights-of-way.

9. Any such sign structure shall not be permitted within two hundred (200) feet of a residential zone located on the same side of a public street or right-of-way.

10. Other than an I-405, I-110 or SR-91 Freeway Corridor sign structure or any pre-Ordinance No. 01-1237 sign structure, any such sign structure shall be designed in the simplest form and shall be free of any bracing, angle iron, guy wires, cables, etc.

11. All exposed backs of such signs, which are visible to the public, shall be suitably covered in order to conceal the structure and shall be properly maintained.

12. An approved development agreement shall be required for each new sign structure. The provisions of this subsection shall govern the processing of applications for a development agreement for an outdoor **advertising** sign. Unless an extension is agreed to in writing by the applicant, the City Council shall render its decision on an application for a development agreement for an outdoor **advertising** sign within three (3) months of the date of acceptance of the application. An application for a development agreement for an outdoor **advertising** sign shall be approved by the City Council if the proposed sign structure conforms to the requirements of this code and applicable laws.

B. Business signs are permitted, subject to the following:

1. All business signs and sign structures shall be permitted in conformance with development plans which have been approved pursuant to the Site Plan and Design Review procedures (including the number of signs and sign structures to be permitted) as provided in CMC [9172.23](#). All signs and sign structures shall also comply with the minimum requirements, as outlined in this Section of the Zoning Ordinance.

2. The total sign area per lot shall not exceed an area in square feet equal to two (2) times the linear feet of lot frontage on a public street or streets for the first one hundred (100) feet of frontage, plus one-half (1/2) times the frontage in excess of one hundred (100) feet. Window signage shall not exceed ten (10) percent of window area. Lot frontage on a freeway shall not be considered in computing this figure.

When the total frontage of a lot is less than the square root of the lot's area, said frontage shall be deemed to be equal to the square root of the lot's area for the purpose of determining the permitted sign area.

Any primary use which is developed commercially may be permitted to have a sign area equal to that permitted by CMC [9136.7\(B\)\(2\)](#); provided, that a deed restriction is recorded in the offices of the County Recorder, restricting the use on the property to a commercial use, and proof of such recordation is submitted to the satisfaction of the Director.

3. *Repealed by Ord. 16-1602.*

4. A ground sign in excess of six (6) feet in height shall not be permitted. The distance between ground elevation and the bottom of a ground sign shall not exceed one (1) foot. Not more than one (1) ground sign shall be permitted on a lot. No ground sign shall be erected until written approval is obtained from the City Traffic Engineer. Such signs shall be in conformance with development plans which have been approved pursuant to the Site Plan and Design Review procedure as provided in CMC [9172.23](#).

5. A sign may be affixed to a building but shall not project above the height of the building wall or roof fascia.

6. A sign shall not project into an existing or future right-of-way.

7. No "A" frame or "sandwich" sign or scintillating, flashing or revolving sign shall be permitted.

8. Electronic message center signs are permitted, subject to the following:

(a) Such sign shall be at least one hundred (100) feet from a residential zone.

(b) Such sign shall be at least five hundred (500) feet from any other electronic message center sign.

(c) Such sign shall be affixed to a pole and subject to the pole sign limitations of this Chapter.

(d) A conditional use permit (CUP) shall be required for all electronic message center signs in accordance with provisions set forth in CMC [9172.21](#). Approval shall not be granted if the Commission finds that the proposed sign would interfere with traffic signals, disrupt normal traffic flow or otherwise create a safety hazard.

C. Streamers, banners, pennants, and similar displays are permitted subject to the following:

1. Streamers, banners, pennants, and similar displays may be exhibited in connection with grand openings and other special events upon written approval of the Community Development Director.

Requests for such displays shall be submitted to the Community Development Director, in writing, thirty (30) days prior to the event. All approvals shall be limited to no longer than sixty (60) consecutive days at any one (1) time with a minimum of thirty (30) days in between the next display period for a total of one hundred twenty (120) days of display per calendar year per business. An additional thirty (30) days of display is permitted; provided, that a new banner permit is issued and a fee is paid.

2. Any streamer, banner, pennant, or similar displays shall be suspended so as to maintain at least seven (7) foot clearance.

3. No streamer, banner, pennant, or similar displays shall be exhibited if, in the opinion of the Director, such displays are not adequately maintained.

4. Christmas decorations displayed between thirty (30) days prior to and fifteen (15) days after December 25th, and during official public events, are not subject to this subsection.

5. Streamers, banners, pennants and similar displays may be attached directly upon the structure of a lawfully erected fireworks stand (see CMC [3101.0](#) through [3101.10](#)) without necessity of a banner permit.

D. Real Estate **Advertising**. Real estate **advertising** signs are permitted, subject to the following:

1. One (1) unlighted sign structure is permitted per lot; except, on parcels larger than five (5) acres, one (1) such sign structure is permitted for each street frontage of the parcel.

2. A sign structure may have any number of sign faces but the total sign area shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet per sign structure.

3. All portions of a sign structure shall be not less than ten (10) feet from the inside line of the sidewalk, or if there is no sidewalk from the lot line, except, if the building setback is less than ten (10) feet, the sign structure shall be not less than one-half (1/2) the setback from the inside line of the sidewalk or lot line.

4. A freestanding real estate **advertising** sign shall not exceed thirty (30) feet in height.

5. A sign may be affixed to a building but shall not project above the height of the building wall or roof fascia.

6. **Advertising** copy shall pertain only to the premises upon which the sign is located.

7. Any such signs shall be removed within two (2) weeks after the execution of a sales agreement, escrow instructions or lease agreement.

8. Off-site open house signs for residential properties may be placed on commercial properties with the permission of the commercial property's owner, and consistent with the provisions of Section 9126.7(A)(8).

9. Violations.

a. Violations of this subsection (D) shall be subject to the following civil fines within a calendar year: (a) \$50.00 for the first violation; (b) \$75.00 for the second violation; and (c) \$100.00 for the third and any subsequent violation.

b. Fines shall be payable within thirty (30) days of issuance. Late payment shall incur a late penalty equal to the amount of the fine. The failure of any person, within sixty (60) days of the date of issuance of a fine, to pay the fine and any applicable late penalty, may result in the matter being referred to the Director of Finance to file a claim with the small claims court. Alternatively, the City may pursue any other legal remedy to collect the civil fines. The City may also recover its collections costs according to proof.

c. Violations shall be recorded by realtor office address, rather than by individual property for sale; provided, that if the property is being sold by its owner, the violations shall be recorded against the property that is for sale.

d. The remedies provided in this Section are in addition to any other remedies and penalties that may be available under the Carson Municipal Code and the laws of the State of California.

E. Except as provided for violations of subsection (D) of this Section, any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Section shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be punishable as provided in Chapter 2 of Article I. (Ord. 79-479, § 8; Ord. 79-473; Ord. 80-513, § 2; Ord. 80-531, § 1; Ord. 80-532, § 5; Ord. 88-856, § 2; Ord. 89-873, § 3; Ord. 90-915, § 4; Ord. 01-1225, § 5; Ord. 01-1237, § 3; Ord. 03-1272, § 2; Ord. 09-1434, § 3; Ord. 10-1455, § 3; Ord. 11-1475, §§ 3, 4; Ord. 12-1500, § 2; Ord. 15-1563, §§ 7, 8; Ord. 16-1590, Exh. B (§ 11); Ord. 16-1602, § 8; Ord. 17-1625, § 2)

\*See CMC [9526](#) for different sign regulations applicable to petroleum operations.

## 9146.8 Utilities. SHARE ... SHARE ...

All new utility lines, other than major transmission lines, shall be placed underground. This requirement may be waived by the Commission where topography, soil, undue financial hardship or other conditions make such underground installation unreasonable or impractical. Undergrounding shall be in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the utility, as currently on file with the California Public Utilities Commission.

All aboveground equipment (other than pole lines when permitted), such as transformers and pedestal terminals, which are visible from an adjacent public street or walkway, shall be within a solid enclosure or otherwise screened from public view. Such enclosure/screening shall be in accordance with the utility's service requirement.

## 9146.9 Site Planning and Design. SHARE ... SHARE ...

In the case of a commercial or industrial use located on a corner lot, no public pedestrian entrance from a side street shall be located less than one hundred (100) feet from any residential zone.

Roof-mounted structures and equipment shall not extend more than ten (10) feet above the roof, measured from the point of attachment. If such roof projections are not incorporated in the building design as architectural features, they shall be screened from view from any adjoining public street or walkway.

Mechanical equipment not enclosed within a building shall be screened from view from any adjoining public street or walkway.

Within one hundred (100) feet of a residential zone, there shall be no opening in the wall of a nonresidential building where such wall faces a residential zone.

Within any D (Design Overlay) designated area, all development subsequent to the date of such designation shall be in conformance with development plans which have been approved pursuant to the Site Plan and Design Review procedure as provided in CMC [9172.23](#). No permit shall be issued for grading or construction involving significant exterior changes, as determined by the Director, which is not in conformance with such approved development plans.

## Division 7. Signs SHARE ... SHARE ...

## 9167.1 Signs. SHARE ... SHARE ...

In no case shall a lighted sign or lighting device thereof be so placed or directed so as to permit the beams and illumination therefrom to be directed or beamed upon a public street, walkway or adjacent premises so as to cause glare or reflection that may constitute a traffic hazard or nuisance.

When signs are constructed with two (2) or more faces, all faces may be used except as otherwise specified in this Chapter; provided, that the total sign face area shall be considered to be the sum of the areas of the faces.

Any sign which does not conform to the provisions of this Chapter shall be made to conform or shall be removed as provided in Division 2 of Part 8 of this Chapter.

All signs shall be maintained in good repair, including display surfaces which shall be kept neatly painted or pasted.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provisions of this Section shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be punishable as provided in Chapter 2 of Article I of this Code. (Ord. 79-479, § 10)

### 9167.2 Exempt Signs.

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The provisions of this Chapter regulating signs shall not apply to the following signs except as otherwise indicated herein:

- A. Official notices issued by any court, public body, or public officer.
- B. Notices posted by any public officer in performance of a public duty, or for any person in giving legal notices.
- C. Traffic, directional, warning or informational signs required or authorized by the public authority having jurisdiction.
- D. Official signs used for emergency purposes only.
- E. Permanent memorial or historical signs, plaques or markers.
- F. Public utility signs, provided such signs do not exceed three (3) square feet in sign face area.

### 9167.3 Prohibited Signs.

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The following advertising signs shall be prohibited in all zones:

- A. "A" frame or "sandwich board" signs.



B. Flashing or scintillating **signs**. (Ord. 80-513, § 3)

C. Revolving **signs**.

D. Devices dispensing bubbles and free-floating particles of matter.

E. Any notice, placard, bill, card, poster, sticker, banner, sign, advertising, or any device calculated to attract the attention of the public which any person posts, prints, sticks, stamps, tacks or otherwise affixes or causes the same to be done to or upon any public street, walkway, crosswalk, or right-of-way, curb, lamp post, hydrant, tree, telephone, lighting system, or any fixture of the police or fire alarm system.

F. Devices projecting, or otherwise reproducing, the image of an advertising sign or message or any surface or object.

G. **Signs** which project into an existing or future street right-of-way.

H. **Signs**, affixed to a building, which project above the height of a building wall or roof fascia.

I. **Signs**, Flags, Streamers, Etc., on Vehicles. No real estate advertising sign or open house sign, and no flag, streamer, pennant, lead-in, or directional sign, or similar sign that is not permanently affixed to a vehicle, shall be placed in or upon any vehicle, trailer or other device that is parked on a public street, right-of-way, or place for the purpose of drawing attention to any property for sale, lease or rent. No person owning or having possession or control of any vehicle shall permit a vehicle to be used for such purpose. (Ord. 15-1563, §§ 9, 10)

### **9167.6 Tobacco and Alcoholic Beverage Outdoor Billboard Advertisements.**



*Repealed by Ord. 12-1500. (Ord. 98-1140, § 2)*

### **9167.7 Substitution Clause.**



Any sign authorized by Article IX (Planning and Zoning) of the Carson Municipal Code may contain noncommercial copy in lieu of any other copy. **Signs** containing noncommercial copy are subject to the same time, place, and manner restrictions as business **signs**. (Ord. 15-1563, § 11)

### **9167.8 Removal of Unauthorized **Signs** from the Public Right-of-Way.**



The Director may summarily and without prior notice remove any unauthorized sign in the public right-of-way that is placed in violation of any of the provisions of the Carson Municipal Code. Provided, that the owner of the sign appears on the face of the sign, the Director may mail written notice within forty-eight (48) hours after such removal to the sign's owner or agent.

The Director shall release any sign removed pursuant to this Section to the owner thereof upon payment of a per-sign fee, as determined by City Council resolution, for the removal and keeping of the sign. If the sign is not claimed within ten (10) days after removal, the Director shall order the destruction of the sign. (Ord. 15-1563, § 12)