




## CHAPTER 17-12 SIGNS


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### 17-12-0100 Purpose.


 **17-12-0101**The *sign* regulations of this chapter are intended to balance the public interest – in promoting a safe, well-maintained and attractive city – with the interests of businesses, organizations and individuals in ensuring the ability to identify and advertise products, services and ideas, and with the interests of the city and other units of government in communicating public service and emergency messages on a city-wide basis in a coordinated and timely manner through an integrated network of city digital signs. The regulations have the following specific objectives:

 **17-12-0101-A** to ensure that *signs* are designed, constructed, installed and maintained in a way that protects life, health, property and the public welfare;

 **17-12-0101-B** to allow *signs* as a means of communication, while at the same time avoiding nuisances to nearby properties;

 **17-12-0101-C** to support the desired character of various neighborhoods and zoning districts and promote an attractive visual environment;

 **17-12-0101-D** to allow for adequate and effective *signs*, while preventing *signs* from dominating the appearance of the area;

 **17-12-0101-E** to ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right of free speech is protected; and

📖 **17-12-0101-F** to enable the city to establish an integrated network of city digital signs.

📖 **17-12-0102**The regulations allow for a variety of *sign* types and sizes, based on zoning and *lot* sizes and requirements needed to establish an integrated network of city digital signs. They do not necessarily ensure every *property owner* or business owner's desired level of visibility.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6)

#### 📖 **17-12-0200 Applicability.**

Sign may be erected, placed, established, painted, created or maintained only in conformance with the standards, procedures, exemptions and other requirements of this Chapter and other applicable city regulations. In the event of conflict between the regulations of this chapter and those of other local, state or federal regulations, the more restrictive regulation governs, to the extent allowed by law.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275)

#### 📖 **17-12-0300 Noncommercial messages.**

Any *sign* allowed under this chapter may contain, in lieu of any other message or copy, any lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to a product, commodity or service for sale or lease, or to any other commercial interest or activity, so long as the *sign* complies with the size, height and other requirements of this chapter.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275)

#### 📖 **17-12-0400 Transitional provisions.**

📖 **17-12-0401** All *signs* legally erected or installed before the effective dates specified in Sec. [17-1-0200](#) may remain in place and in use, subject to Sec. [17-15-0500](#).

📖 **17-12-0402** All holders of permits for *signs* issued legally before the effective dates specified in Sec. [17-1-0200](#) may erect the *signs* that are the subject of such permits within the times allowed by such permits, and such *signs* will then be treated as though they had been erected before the effective dates specified in Sec. [17-1-0200](#) subject to Sec. [17-15-0500](#). However, such permits may not be extended or amended unless the *sign* that is the subject of such permit will conform to all of the requirements of this chapter.

📖 **17-12-0403** All violations of the *sign* regulations repealed by this Zoning Ordinance will remain violations and all penalties and enforcement remedies will be available to the city as though the violation were a violation of this Zoning Ordinance. However, if the effect of this Zoning Ordinance is to make a *sign* that was formerly illegal or nonconforming become conforming, then enforcement action will cease except to the extent of collecting penalties (other than removal of the *sign*) for violations that occurred before the effective dates specified in Sec. [17-1-0200](#).

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 3-9-05, p. 44391)

#### 📖 **17-12-0500 Signs exempt from zoning regulation.**

The following are exempt from regulation under this Zoning Ordinance.

📖 **17-12-0501** Any official *sign*, public notice *sign* or warning *sign* required by a valid and applicable federal, state or local law, regulation or ordinance or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

📖 **17-12-0502** Any *sign* inside a building that is not *legible* from the *public way* or off the *lot* on which it is located;

📖 **17-12-0503** Any *sign* inside an athletic field or other enclosed outdoor space, where the sign is not *legible* beyond the *property line* of the *lot* on which it is located;

📖 **17-12-0504** Works of art with no *commercial message*;

📖 **17-12-0505** Holiday decorations with no *commercial message*; and

📖 **17-12-0506** Any city digital sign; provided, however, that notwithstanding such exemption, city digital signs shall be subject to the regulations set forth in this Title 17, Title 10 and Title 13 that expressly refer to and regulate city digital signs.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 2-13-13, p. 47133, § 2)


📖 **17-12-0600 Measurements.**


📖 **17-12-0601 Sign Area.**


📖 **17-12-0601-A Signs Enclosed in Frames or Cabinets.** The area of a *sign* enclosed in frames or cabinets is determined based on the outer dimensions of the frame or cabinet surrounding the *sign* face.


📖 **Figure 17-12-0601-A**


📖 **17-12-0601-B Back-to-back Signs.** When the *sign* faces of a back-to-back *sign* are parallel or within 30 degrees of parallel, only one side is counted. If the *sign* faces are not parallel or within 30 degrees of parallel, each is considered one *sign* face and both faces are counted.

 **Figure 17-12-0601-B**

 **17-12-0601-C Individual Letters or Elements.** The area of a *sign* comprised of individual letters or elements attached to a building wall is determined by calculating the area of the smallest square or rectangle that can be drawn around the letters and/or elements. *Signs* consisting of individual letters and/or elements will be measured as one *sign* when the distance between the letters and/or elements is less than 2 times the dimension of each letter and/or element.

 **Figure 17-12-0601-C**

 **17-12-0601-D Painted Wall Signs.** The area of a *painted wall sign* is determined by calculating the area of the smallest square or rectangle that can be drawn around all of the *sign* elements, including any painted background. *Sign* elements will be measured as one unit when the distance between the elements is less than 2 times the length of each element.

 **17-12-0601-E Awnings and Marquees.** The area of a *sign* that is incorporated into an *awning* or *marquee* is determined by calculating the area of the smallest square or rectangle that can be drawn around all of the *sign* elements.

📖 **17-12-0601-F Dynamic Image Display Signs.** The area of a *dynamic image display sign* feature is determined by calculating the area of the smallest square or rectangle that can be drawn around the edge of each of the dynamic image display elements.

📖 **17-12-0602 Sign Height.** The height of a *sign* or *sign structure* is measured from the lowest point of the ground directly below the *sign* to the highest point on the *sign* or *sign structure*.

📖 **Figure 17-12-0602**

📖 **17-12-0603 Sign Clearance.** Clearance is measured from the highest point of the ground directly below the *sign* to the lowest point on the *sign structure* enclosing the *sign* face.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5)

📖 **17-12-0700 Prohibited signs.**

The following are prohibited in all zoning districts:

📖 **17-12-0701** strobe lights;

📖 **17-12-0702** *roof signs*, except those allowed as *high-rise building signs* pursuant to the definition of *high-rise building signs* and the standards of Sec. [17-12-1005-D](#);

📖 **17-12-0703** *abandoned sign structure*;

📖 **17-12-0704** *dangerous signs*;

📖 **17-12-0705** portable *electric signs*;

📖 **Figure 17-12-0705**

📖 **17-12-0706** *signs* attached to or painted on a parked *motor vehicle* or parked trailer if visible from the public right-of-way, unless the vehicle or trailer is used in the normal day-to-day operations of the business;

📖 **17-12-0707** *signs* that imitate or resemble official traffic lights, *signs* or signals or *signs* that interfere with the effectiveness of any official traffic light, *sign* or signal;

📖 **17-12-0708** *signs* (including city digital signs) that focus or flash a beam of light into the eyes of a driver of a *motor vehicle* upon a right-of-way within 200 feet from such *sign*; and

📖 **17-12-0709** *signs* erected, constructed or structurally altered that are required to have a permit that were erected, constructed or altered without a permit.

📖 **17-12-0710** *signs* attached, erected, maintained or installed on a fence located on or near the perimeter of any surface parking lot.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 2-13-13, p. 47133, § 2)

📖 **17-12-0711** video display *signs*; provided that this prohibition does not apply to any video display *sign* located within a planned development in which the principal use is: (1) a sports stadium; or (2) an exhibition or convention center.


(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 2-13-13, p. 47133, § 2; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5)


## 📖 **17-12-0800 General standards.**


📖 **17-12-0801 Applicability.** The regulations in this section apply to all *signs* regulated by this chapter.


📖 **17-12-0802 Sign Placement.** All *signs* and *sign structures* must be located on private property, within the boundaries of the *zoning lot*, except when expressly allowed to extend into the right-of-way and provided further, however, that city digital signs and city digital sign structures may be located on public property and may be within, partially within, or outside the boundaries of the zoning lot.

 **17-12-0803 Incidental Signs.**

 **17-12-0803-A** *Incidental signs* that meet the standards of this subsection are allowed in all districts and are not counted in determining the total area of all *signs* on the *lot*.

 **17-12-0803-B** Freestanding *incidental signs* may be up to 6 square feet in area and 42 inches in height. Wall-mounted *incidental signs* may be up to 6 square feet in area and 12 feet in height.

 **17-12-0803-C** Direct or *indirect lighting* is allowed. *Dynamic image displaysign* features and projections into the right-of-way are prohibited.

 **17-12-0803-D** *Incidental signs* that do not meet the standards of this subsection must meet the district-specific standards for *permanent signs* and the area of such *signs* will be counted against a *lot's* total maximum *sign* area limit.

 **17-12-0804 Temporary Signs.**

 **17-12-0804-A Sign Features and Characteristics.** *Temporary signs* may not be illuminated. *Dynamic image displaysign* features and electronic elements are prohibited.

 **17-12-0804-B Temporary Wall Signs.**

1. Residential Districts. In addition to any other *signs* allowed, one temporary *wall sign* is allowed per *street frontage* in R and DR districts. Such a temporary *wall sign*:

- (a) may not exceed 18 inches × 18 inches in area in RS1, RS2, or RS3 districts;
- (b) may not exceed 1 square foot × linear *street* frontage in area in RT 3.5, RT4, RM4.5, RM5, RM5.5, RM6, RM6.5 or DR districts; and
- (c) may not be mounted at a height above one *story* or 20 feet, whichever is less, in any R or DR district.

2. Business, Commercial, Downtown and Manufacturing Districts. In addition to any other *signs* allowed, one temporary *wall sign* is allowed per *street frontage* in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS districts. Such a temporary *wall sign*:

- (a) may not exceed 2 square feet × linear *street* frontage in area;
- (b) may not be mounted at a height above 2 stories or 30 feet, whichever is less; and
- (c) may not remain in place for more than one year.

 **17-12-0804-C Temporary Freestanding Signs.**

1. Residential Districts. In addition to any other *signs* allowed, one temporary *freestanding sign* is allowed per *street frontage* in R and DR districts. Such a temporary *freestanding sign*:

- (a) may not exceed 18 inches × 18 inches in area or 4 feet in height in RS1, RS2, or RS3 districts;

(b) may not exceed 2 square feet × linear *street* frontage in area or 10 feet in height in RT3.5, RT4, RM4.5, RM5, RM5.5 RM6, RM6.5 or DR districts; and

(c) may not project into the *public way*.

2. Business, Commercial, Downtown and Manufacturing Districts. In addition to any other *signs* allowed, one temporary *freestanding sign* is allowed per *street frontage* in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS districts. Such a temporary *freestanding sign*:

(a) may not exceed 2 square feet × linear *street* frontage in area;

(b) may not exceed 24 feet in height;

(c) may not project into the *public way*; and

(d) may not remain in place for more than one year.

 **17-12-0804-D Temporary Banners.** Temporary *banners* are subject to the regulations of this paragraph.


1. Residential Districts. Temporary *banners* in R and DR districts are exempt from the standards for *permanent signs* and are not counted in determining the total area of all *signs* on the *lot*. The following standards apply to temporary *banners* in R and DR districts:

(a) Temporary *banners* are not allowed on *lots* with *detached houses, two-flats* or *townhouses*.

(b) Temporary *banners* are allowed on *lots* with *multi-unit residential buildings*, provided that no more than one temporary *banner* is allowed for each 50 *dwelling units* in the building, up to a maximum of 3 *banners*. Temporary *banners* may not exceed 32 square feet in area and no more than one may be attached to each building wall. The mounted height of the temporary *banner* may not exceed 24 feet. Temporary *bannerson* multi-unit buildings may be in place for no more than 180 days in any calendar year.


(c) One temporary *banner* is allowed on *lots* with allowed nonresidential uses. Such *banners* may not exceed 32 square feet in area and may remain in place for no more than 180 days per calendar year.

2. Business, Commercial, Downtown and Manufacturing Districts. Temporary *banners* in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS are subject to the standards applicable to *permanent signs* and are counted in the total square footage of signage allowed on the site.


 **17-12-0804-E Special Events Signs.** The Zoning Administrator is authorized to issue *temporary sign* permits for special event *signs* and to impose time limits and other restrictions on the use, location, dimensions and characteristics of such *signs* to ensure that they are consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 11-8-12, p. 38872, § 255; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5)

 **17-12-0900 Signs in residential districts.**

 **17-12-0901 Applicability.** The standards of this section apply in all R and DR districts.




 **17-12-0902 Permanent, On-premise Signs.** The following standards apply to permanent, *on-premise signs* in R and DR districts.


For a printer-friendly PDF version of Table 17-12-0902, please [click here](#).


<b>USE GROUP</b>	<b>Maximum Number</b>	<b>Maximum Sign Face Area (sq. ft.)</b>	<b>Allowed Sign Types</b>	<b>Maximum Height of Freestanding Sign (feet)</b>
<b>Use Category</b> Use Type				
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>				
Household Living				
Detached House, Two-flat, Townhouse	1 per street frontage	1	Wall	NA
Multi-Unit (3+ units) Residential, Single-Room Occupancy	1 per street frontage	9	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
Group Living				
Convents and Monasteries, Family Community Home, Temporary Overnight Shelters, Transitional Residences, Transitional Shelters	1 per street frontage	1	Wall, Awning	NA
Assist. Living (Elderly Custodial Care), Group Community Homes, Nursing Homes, Group Living Not Otherwise Classified	1 per street frontage	9	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
<b>PUBLIC AND CIVIC</b>				
Colleges and Universities	1 per building + 1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 64 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6/20 <sup>(1)</sup>
Cultural Exhibits and Libraries	1 per street frontage	Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning	NA
Day Care	1 per street frontage	16	Wall	NA


Hospital	1 per building + 1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 64 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6/20 <sup>(1)</sup>
Lodge or Private Club	1 per street frontage	16	Wall, Awning	NA
Parks and Recreation (except as more specifically regulated)	1 per building + 1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
Public Safety Services	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
Religious Assembly	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 64 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6/20 <sup>(1)</sup>
School	1 per building + 1 freestanding	Freestanding: 64 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6/20 <sup>(1)</sup>
Utilities and Services	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>				
Funeral and Interment Service	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
Lodging				
Bed and Breakfast	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
Medical Service				
Government-operated Health Center	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6
Office				
Foreign Consulates, Philanthropic and Eleemosynary Institutions	1 per street frontage	Freestanding: 32 Wall: 10% of wall	Wall, Awning, Freestanding	6

Residential Support Service	1 per ground-floor business establishment	16	Wall, Awning	NA
(1) Maximum freestanding sign height of 20 feet when such sign is located along a through street, as classified by the Chicago Department of Transportation, otherwise a maximum height of 6 feet.				

 **17-12-0903 Sign Features.**


 **17-12-0903-A Lighting.** *Signs* in R and DR zoning districts may use only *indirect lighting*. *Direct lighting* and *internal lighting* of *signs* is prohibited, except in the case of allowed *dynamic image display signs*.


 **17-12-0903-B Dynamic Image Display Signs.** *Dynamic image display signs* are permitted in R and DR districts when such signs are *freestanding, on-premise signs* for public and civic uses that are located along a through *street* as classified by the Chicago Department of Transportation. *Flashing signs* are prohibited.


 **17-12-0904 Off-premise Signs.** *Off-premise signs* are prohibited in R and DR districts. A city digital sign may be located in an R district, or portion thereof, which consists of land or public way owned by the city or a federal, state, local or other unit of government, in whole or in part, and which is not improved with any residential buildings, subject to the separation requirements in Section 17-12-1201-A.4.


(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 4-14-10, p. 89020, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5)


 **17-12-1000 Signs in business, commercial, downtown and manufacturing districts.**


 **17-12-1001 Applicability.** The standards of this section apply in all B, C, M, DC, DX and DS districts.


 **17-12-1002 Permanent Signs.** Signs are allowed in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS zoning districts in accordance with the Table of Allowed *SignTypes* in Sec. [17-12-1002-F](#).

 **17-12-1002-A Sign Types.** Sign types are defined in Sec. [17-17-0200](#).

 **17-12-1002-B Permitted Uses.** Signs identified with a “P” are permitted by-right in the subject zoning district, subject to compliance with all other applicable standards of this Zoning Ordinance.

 **17-12-1002-C Special Uses.** Signs identified with an “S” may be allowed if reviewed and approved in accordance with the *special use* procedures of Sec. [17-13-0900](#). Such *signs* are subject to compliance with all other applicable standards of this Zoning Ordinance.

 **17-12-1002-D Prohibited Uses.** Signs identified with a “-” are expressly prohibited. *Signs* types that are not listed in the table are also prohibited.


 **17-12-1002-E Standards.** The “Standards” column of the following *sign* table identifies specific standards that apply to some *sign* types. Compliance with such standards is required regardless of whether the *sign* is a Permitted (P) or *special use* (S).

 **17-12-1002-F Table of Allowed Sign Types.** Signs are allowed in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS zoning districts as follows:


Sign Type	B1, B2, M Districts		DC, DX Districts		B3, C3, DS Districts	C1, C2 Districts	Standards
On-premise							
Awning	P	P	P	P			
Freestanding [1]	P	P	P	P			
High-Rise Building							
Hotels/ Hospitals	-	P	P	-			17-12-1005 -D
Other buildings	-	S	S	-			17-12-1005-D
Marquee	P	P	P	P			
Projecting	P	P	P	P			
Wall	P	P	P	P			
Off-premise [1]							
Freestanding	P	- [2]	P	P			
Wall	P	P	P	P			

[1] Freestanding signs and off-premise signs are prohibited on Pedestrian *Streets* (See Sec. [17-3-0500](#) and Sec. [17-4-0500](#) for Pedestrian *Streetlists*).

[2] Except for city digital signs, which are permitted in DX and prohibited in DC, all other off-premises, freestanding signs are prohibited.

 **17-12-1003 Number, Area and Height Standards.** All *signs* in B, C, DC, DX and DS zoning districts are subject to the *Sign Area* and Height Table of Sec. [17-12-1003-E](#).

 **17-12-1003-A Maximum Total Sign Area.** The maximum-total-sign-area standard controls the total combined *sign* face area of all *signs* on a *zoning lot*.

 **17-12-1003-B Maximum Freestanding Sign Area.** The maximum-freestanding-sign-area standard represents an additional control on the total *sign* face area of all *freestanding signs* on a *zoning lot*. It limits the total area of all *freestanding signs* to no more than 50% of the total

maximum area allowed. A lot with 50 feet of *street frontage* in the B1 district, for example, would be allowed a total of 150 square feet of total *signarea*, with no more than 75 square feet of *freestanding signs*.

**17-12-1003-C Maximum Freestanding Sign Height.** The maximum-freestanding-sign-height standard limits the overall height of any *freestanding sign*. The standard varies according to *street frontage* and right-of-way width. The maximum height of a *freestanding sign* on any *zoning lot* with 75 feet of *street frontage* or less is 24 feet. On *lots* with more than 75 feet of *street frontage*, taller *signs* are allowed if the abutting *street* right-of-way is wider than 80 feet.

**17-12-1003-D Minimum Guaranteed Sign Area for Ground-floor Tenants.** This standard is intended to ensure that each ground-floor tenant in a building or shopping center has the opportunity to identify their respective businesses.


**17-12-1003-E Sign Area and Height Table.** The following standards apply to all *permanent signs* in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS districts:


Regulation	B1, B2 Districts	DC, DX Districts	B3, C1, C3, DS Districts	C2, M Districts
Maximum Total Sign Area (square feet)	3 × street frontage or 600 whichever is less	5 × street frontage or 800 whichever is less	4 × street frontage or 1,500 whichever is less	5 × street frontage or 1,800 whichever is less
For lots greater than 1 acre in area with multiple street frontages, the Maximum Total Sign Area standards of this section shall apply per street frontage.				
Max. Freestanding Sign Area	50% of Maximum Total Sign Area Limit (above)			
Maximum Freestanding Sign Height (feet)	24; or 35 if located on a zoning lot with more than 75 feet of street frontage on a single street that has a right-of-way width of more than 80 feet; or 50 if located on a zoning lot with more than 150 feet of frontage on a single street with a right-of-way width or more than 80 feet			
Minimum Guaranteed Wall Sign Area for Ground-floor Tenants	32			
Maximum Wall Sign Area	33% of building wall area			


**17-12-1004 Sign Features and Characteristics.** Signs that are allowed in B, C, M, DC, DX and DS districts are subject to the following standards:

	B1, B2 Districts	DC, DX Districts	B3, C1, C3, DS Districts	C2, M Districts
Allowed Lighting	Direct, Indirect or Internal			
Dynamic Image Display Signs	Allowed, subject to Sec. <a href="#">17-12-1005-B</a> (city digital signs are instead subject to Section <a href="#">17-12-1200</a> )			
Flashing Signs	Prohibited	Allowed, subject to Sec. <a href="#">17-12-1005-C</a>		
Video Display Signs	Prohibited except as allowed in Section <a href="#">17-12-0711</a>	Prohibited except as allowed in Section <a href="#">17-12-0711</a>		

 **17-12-1005 Additional Standards for Specific Types of Signs.**

 **17-12-1005-A Awning Signs.** *Awning signs* must be affixed flat to the surface of the *awning* and not extend horizontally or vertically beyond the limits of the *awning*. *Awning signs* may not contain *internal lighting*.

 **17-12-1005-B Dynamic Image Display Signs.** In B1 and B2 districts, *sign* face area devoted to *dynamic image displaysigns* may not exceed 25% of the maximum total *sign* area allowed under Sec. [17-12-1003](#) or 32 square feet, whichever is less. In all districts, *sign* face area devoted to *dynamic image displaysigns* may not exceed 25% of the maximum total *sign* area allowed under Sec. [17-12-1003](#) or 64 square feet, whichever is less.

 **17-12-1005-C Flashing Signs.**

1. Maximum Area. The total *sign* face area of all *flashing signs* on a *lot* may not exceed 25% of overall *sign* area limit or 100 square feet, whichever is less.

2. Maximum Height. No part of any *flashing sign* may exceed a height of 24 feet.

3. Prohibited Locations. *Flashing signs* are prohibited in the following locations:

- (a) B1 districts;
- (b) B2 districts;
- (c) Within 125 feet of any R or public park with an area of 2 acres or more;
- (d) Within 100 feet of any DR district;
- (e) Within 500 feet of Lake Shore Drive;
- (f) Within 500 feet of any *designated expressway or toll road*; and

(g) Within 500 feet of Michigan Avenue, between Oak Street on the north and Roosevelt Road on the south.

 **17-12-1005-D High-Rise Building Signs.**


1. No more than one *high-rise building sign* is allowed on any building.
2. The maximum *sign* face area of a *high-rise building sign* is limited as follows:

<b>Height of Sign (feet above grade at base of building)</b>	<b>Maximum Area (square feet)</b>
150-199	5 × building wall width at mounted sign height
200-299	6 × building wall width at mounted sign height
300-449	7 × building wall width at mounted sign height
450+	8 × building wall width at mounted sign height

3. *High-rise building signs* must be *individual letter signs*.
4. *High-rise building signs* may not be attached to roof-mounted structures that exist solely for the purpose of supporting the *sign*.
5. No *projecting signs* are allowed as *high-rise building signs*.
6. *High-rise building signs* shall be limited to business identification for the principal tenant of the building or, if applicable, the alternate principal tenant. For purposes of this subsection, “principal tenant” means a tenant that occupies 51% or more of the floor space in a high-rise building. If there is no principal tenant, or if the principal tenant informs the Zoning Administrator, in writing, that it does not wish to display such a *sign*, then an alternate principal tenant may apply to the City for approval of such a *sign* identifying said alternate principal tenant (in place of, and not in addition to, such a *sign* identifying the principal tenant). For purposes of this section, “alternate principal tenant” means a tenant meeting all of the following requirements, through proof acceptable to the Zoning Administrator: (i) is the building's largest tenant or next-largest tenant if there is no principal tenant, or, if there is a principal tenant, is the next-largest tenant; and (ii) occupies the building as its United States headquarters; and (iii) maintains the primary offices of its chief executive and other executive officers in the building; and (iv) employs at least 1,000 persons in its United States operations; and (v) has operated as a going concern for a period of at least five (5) years prior to the date of application to the City for approval of the *sign*, either directly or through predecessor entities.

 **17-12-1005-E Reserved.**

**Editor's note** – Coun. J. 7-20-16, p. 29358, § 2, repealed § 17-12-1005-E, which pertained to marquee signs.

 **17-12-1005-F Projecting Signs.** *Projecting signs* may project into the *public way* provided they are set back at least 18 inches from the curb line. Signs that project over the *public way* by more than 12 inches must have a minimum clearance of 9 feet.

 **17-12-1005-G Reserved.**

**Editor's note** – Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80832, § 5, repealed § 17-12-1005-G, which pertained to video display signs.

 **17-12-1006 Additional Standards for Off-premise Signs.**

 **17-12-1006-A Separation from R and DR Districts.**

1. *Off-premise signs* with a *sign* face area of more than 100 square feet are prohibited within 250 feet of any *residential district*.

2. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited entirely within 100 feet of any *residential district*; except *off-premises dynamic image display signs* are prohibited entirely within 125 feet of any *residential district*. This prohibition does not apply to any *sign* located within a planned development in which the principal use is: (1) a sports stadium; or (2) an exhibition or convention center.

3. These distances are to be measured as a straight-line distance from a point on the *sign* face nearest the R or DR district to nearest *residential district* boundary. (See Sec. [17-1-0803](#) for rules governing interpretation of zoning district boundaries)

 **17-12-1006-B Separation from Residential Buildings in D Districts.**

1. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited entirely within 100 feet of a *residential building* located in a D district.

2. This distance is to be measured as a straight-line distance from a point on the *sign* face nearest the *residential building* to nearest *property line* of the *lot* on which the *residential building* is located.

 **17-12-1006-C Separation from Waterways.**

1. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited within 100 feet of a waterway.

2. The waterways subject to this provision include: Chicago River Main Branch, Chicago River North Branch and North Branch Canal, Chicago River South Branch and South Fork of the South Branch, North Shore Channel, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Calumet River and Lake Calumet, Little Calumet River, Grand Calumet River, Wolf Lake, and Des Plaines River.

3. Measurement of the 100-foot distance from waterways is to be made from the high water mark boundary of the waterway along an axis generally perpendicular to the waterway.


 **17-12-1006-D Separation from Public Parks.**

1. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited within 400 feet of a public park with an area of 10 acres or more if the *sign* face is *legible* from the subject park.

2. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited within 100 feet of a public park with an area of 2 acres or more if the *sign* face is *legible* from the subject park.

3. These distances are to be measured as a straight-line distance from a point on the *sign* face nearest the park to the center line of any *street* bounding the park.



 **17-12-1006-E Lakefront Protection District.** *Off-premise signs* are prohibited within the boundaries of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection District. (See Chapter [16-4](#), “Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance”)


 **17-12-1006-F Separation from Designated Major Streets and Roads.**

1. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited within 500 feet of the following *street* and road rights-of-way:

- (a) Lake Shore Drive;
- (b) any *designated expressway or toll road*;
- (c) Michigan Avenue, between Oak Street on the north and Roosevelt Road on the south.

2. *Off-premise signs* visible from those *street* and roads indicated in Sec. [17-12-1006-F-1](#) but located more than 500 feet of the right-of-way must be at least 500 feet from all other *off-premise signs* located on the same side of the *street* or road.

3. Separation distances from *streets* and roads are to be measured as a straight-line distance from a point on the *sign* face nearest the referenced *street* or road to the nearest right-of-way line of such *street* or road. Separation distances between *off-premise signs* are to be measured as a straight-line distance from points on the respective *sign* faces that are nearest the other *sign*.

 **17-12-1006-G Primary Boulevards.** *Off-premise signs* are prohibited on any *lot* with *street frontage* on a *primary boulevard*.

 **17-12-1006-H Separation from Other Off-premise Signs.**

1. New *off-premise signs* proposed in B or C districts are prohibited within 300 feet of any other *off-premise sign* located on the same side of the *street*.

2. New *off-premise signs* proposed in D or M districts are prohibited within 150 feet of any other *off-premise sign* located on the same side of the *street*.


3. Separation distances between *off-premise signs* are to be measured as a straight-line distance from points on the respective *sign* faces that are nearest the other *sign*.


 **17-12-1006-I Flashing and Video Display Elements.** *Off-premise signs* may not contain flashing elements or video displays, except as allowed in section [17-12-0711](#).

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 3-9-05, p. 44391; Amend Coun. J. 9-13-06, p. 84870, § 2; Amend Coun. J. 5-9-07, p. 105899, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 11-19-08, p. 47220, Art. VII, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 2-13-13, p. 47133, § 2; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5; Amend Coun. J. 5-28-14, p. 82414, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 11-19-14, p. 98820, § 2; Amend Coun. J. 7-20-16, p. 29358, §§ 1, 2; Amend Coun. J. 11-16-16, p. 38287, § 1)

 **17-12-1100 Special sign districts.**

 **17-12-1101 Michigan Avenue Corridor Special Sign District.**

 **17-12-1101-A Boundaries.** The Michigan Avenue Corridor special *sign* district consists of all parcels adjacent to Michigan Avenue, between Oak Street on the north and Roosevelt Road on the south.

 **17-12-1101-B Regulations and Standards.** The following standards apply to *signs* within the Michigan Avenue Corridor special *sign* district. These *sign* regulations are supplemental standards that apply in addition to existing zoning regulations. All existing zoning regulations apply except those that conflict with regulations imposed for the Michigan Avenue Corridor. In case of conflict between the Michigan Avenue Corridor regulations and existing, underlying zoning district regulations, the Michigan Avenue Corridor regulations will govern.

1. Maximum Area. The gross *sign* face area of all *signs* on a *zoning lot* may not exceed 2 square feet times the *lot's street frontage*.

2. Projections.

(a) On Michigan Avenue, all *signs* must be affixed on building walls parallel to the *property line*, and no *sign* may project more than 12 inches across the *property line* into the *public way*. For those *zoning lots* that have *street frontage* on side *streets* perpendicular to Michigan Avenue or Rush Street and St. Clair, however, *signs* may project no more than 36 inches across the *property line* into the *public way*, provided further that no *projecting sign* may be located within 50 feet of the Michigan Avenue right-of-way.

(b) When City Council has authorized a portion of a building wall (other than a *canopy*, *awning*, or other minor feature) to extend over the public right-of-way, *signs* may be affixed to such buildings walls and may project from said wall up to 12 inches on Michigan Avenue and up to 36 inches on Rush Street, St. Clair, or *streets* perpendicular to Michigan Avenue. On *zoning lots* with *street frontage* on side *streets* perpendicular to Michigan Avenue, any *signs* projecting from a building wall may not be located within 50 feet of the Michigan Avenue right-of-way.

3. Roof Signs. *Roof signs* are prohibited.

4. Painted Wall Signs. The surface of any building, wall or fence may not be used for a *painted wall sign*.

5. Freestanding Signs.

(a) Not more than one *freestanding sign* is permitted per *street frontage*.

(b) Freestanding signs may not exceed 15 feet in height.

6. Show Windows. Show windows may be used for regularly changed display of merchandise sold in the building. *Signs* may not be applied to more than 15% of any single window. Window lettering that is less than 2 inches in height will not be counted, provided it is limited to information such as a building's address, hours of operation, product information, and logos.

7. Banners. On Michigan Avenue no *banner* may be placed so that it projects across the *property line* into the *public way*. On those *zoning lots* that have *street frontage* on side *streets* that run perpendicular to Michigan Avenue, *banners* may be installed provided they

do not project more than 36 inches and provided they are not placed within 50 feet of the Michigan Avenue right-of-way. *Banners* may be placed on Rush Street and St. Clair *street* frontages but in no circumstance may any individual *banner* exceed 30 square feet in area.

8. Neon Signs. Neon *signs* and other forms of *direct lighting* using tubes similar in appearance to neon are prohibited when visible from Michigan Avenue. Neon lighting may be used as a source of light when completely shielded and not visible from public *streets*, sidewalks, or *alleys*.


9. Flashing, Dynamic Image Display, Box or Cabinet Sign. No *flashing, dynamic image display, box* or *cabinetsign* is permitted on the exterior of any building or structure on the Michigan Avenue frontage.

10. Awning Signs. Signs on *awnings* counts toward the maximum allowable *sign* area and must be affixed flat to the surface thereof, must be non- illuminated, and may indicate only the name and or address of the establishment. Further, no such *sign* may extend vertically or horizontally beyond the limits of said *awning*. The maximum letter size (height and width) placed on any *awning* may not exceed 9 inches. All *awnings* must be retractable (fabric or canvas) and may project no more than 6 feet over the sidewalk.

11. Temporary Signs. *Temporary signs*, such grand opening *signs*, but specifically excluding *signs* advertising merchandise or special sales, may be permitted for a period not to exceed 6 weeks. In addition, *temporary signs* may be installed on construction barricades during a building's construction, for a period not to exceed 24 months. *Signs* placed on construction barricades may not be placed more than 20 feet above *grade* and may not exceed 8 feet in vertical dimension. Time extensions for *temporary signs* may be granted by the Zoning Administrator upon written request. *Temporary signs* do not count toward the maximum allowable *sign* area.

#### **17-12-1102 Oak Street Corridor Special Sign District.**

 **17-12-1102-A Boundaries.** The Oak Street Corridor special *sign* district consists of all parcels adjacent to Oak Street, between Michigan Avenue on the east side and State Street on the west.

 **17-12-1102-B Regulations and Standards.** The following standards apply to *signs* within the Oak Street Corridor special *sign* district. These *sign* regulations are supplemental standards that apply in addition to existing zoning regulations. All existing zoning regulations apply except those that conflict with regulations imposed for the Oak Street Corridor. In case of conflict between the Oak Street Corridor special *sign* district regulations and other zoning regulations, the Oak Street Corridor regulations will govern.

1. Maximum Area. The gross *sign* face area of all *signs* on a *zoning lot* may not exceed 2 square feet times the *lot's street frontage*, except in the case of buildings that have multiple retail tenants where the gross area of all *signs* may not exceed 1.5 times the *lot's street frontage*.

2. Letter Size. The size of the individual letters on any *sign* may not exceed 18 inches in height or width.

3. Projections. All *signs* must be affixed on building walls parallel to the *property line*, and no *sign* may project more than 12 inches from the building's *façade*.

4. Roof Signs. *Roof signs* are prohibited.

5. Painted Wall Signs. *Painted wall signs* are prohibited.

6. Prohibited Signs. The following types of *signs* are prohibited within the Oak Street Corridor special *sign* district:

(a) free-standing ground *signs*;

(b) *banners*;

(c) neon *signs* (neon tubing may be used as a source of light when completely shielded and not visible from public streets, sidewalks or *alleys*);

(d) flashing,

(e) *dynamic image displaysigns*; and


(f) *off-premise signs*.

7. Show Windows. Show windows may be used for regularly changed display of merchandise sold in the building. *Signs* may not be applied to more than 15% of any single window. Window lettering that is less than 2 inches in height will not be counted, provided it is limited to information such as a building's address, hours of operation, product information, and logos.


8. Awning Signs. *Signs* on *awnings* counts toward the maximum allowable *sign* area and must be affixed flat to the surface thereof, must be non- illuminated, and may indicate only the name and or address of the establishment. Further, no such *sign* may extend vertically or horizontally beyond the limits of said *awning*. The maximum letter size (height and width) placed on any *awning* may not exceed 9 inches. All *awnings* must be retractable (fabric or canvas) and may project no more than 6 feet over the sidewalk. No *awning* may be installed with vertical supports and back-lit or *internal lighting* of *awning signs* is prohibited.

9. Temporary Signs. *Temporary signs*, such grand opening *signs*, but specifically excluding *signs* advertising merchandise or special sales, may be permitted for a period not to exceed 6 weeks. In addition, *temporary signs* may be installed on construction barricades during a building's construction, for a period not to exceed 24 months. *Signs* placed on construction barricades may not be placed more than 20 feet above *grade* and may not exceed 8 feet in vertical dimension. Time extensions for *temporary signs* may be granted by the Zoning Administrator upon written request. *Temporary signs* do not count toward the maximum allowable *sign* area.

#### **17-12-1103 State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor Special Sign District.**

 **17-12-1103-A Boundaries.** The State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor consists of all parcels adjacent to State Street and Wabash Avenue between Wacker Drive on the north and Harrison Street on the south. The State Street/Wabash Corridor extends west of State Street to

the east right-of-way line of North and South Dearborn Street and extends east of Wabash Avenue to the west boundary line of the Michigan Avenue Corridor.

 **17-12-1103-B Regulations and Standards.** The following standards apply to *signs* within the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor special*sign* district. These *sign* regulations are supplemental standards that apply in addition to existing zoning regulations. All existing zoning regulations apply except those that conflict with regulations imposed for the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor special *sign* district. In case of conflict between the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor regulations and existing, underlying zoning district regulations, the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor regulations will govern.

1. Area.

(a) On State Street the gross *sign* face area of all *signs* on a *zoning lot* may not exceed 4 square feet times the *lot's street frontage*. The gross *sign* face area of any single *sign* may not exceed 2 square feet times the *lot's street frontage*.

(b) On Wabash Avenue the gross *sign* face area of all *signs* on a *zoning lot* may not exceed 6 square feet times the *lot's street frontage*.

(c) On all other *streets* in the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor, the gross *sign* face area of all *signs* on a *zoning lot* may not exceed 4 square feet times the *lot's street frontage*.

2. Projections.

(a) On State Street, all *signs* must be affixed on building walls parallel to the *property line*, and no *sign* may project more than 12 inches across the *property line* into the *public way*, except for theaters and hotels. Hotel *signs* and theater *signs* may project across the *property line* into the *public way* up 6 feet.

(b) On Wabash Avenue, *signs* may project up to 4 feet across the *property line* into the *public way*, so as to increase the visibility of businesses located under the CTA elevated tracks. Hotel *signs* and theater *signs* may project across the *property line* into the *public way* up 6 feet.

(c) On all other *streets* in the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor, *signs* may project up to 4 feet across the *property line* into the *public way*, except for hotel *signs* and theater *signs*, which may project up to 6 feet into the *public way*.

3. Roof Signs. *Roof signs* are prohibited.

4. Show Windows. Show windows may be used for regularly changed displays. No paper or vinyl *signs* may be attached to show windows, and *signs* placed in windows must be set back at least 3 feet from the glass.

5. Banners. *Banners* are permitted in the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor. No *banner* may project more than 4 feet from the *building line*.

6. Flashing and Dynamic Image Display Signs. Except for theater *signs* and *marquees*, no flashing or *dynamic image display signs* are permitted on the exterior of any building or structure in the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor.

7. Box and Cabinet Signs. Any box or cabinet *sign* must have an opaque and non-illuminated face with illuminated lettering or logos only. *Individual letter signs* are encouraged.


8. Off-premise Signs. *Off-premise signs* are prohibited in the State Street/Wabash Corridor special *sign* district.


9. Awning Signs. *Signs* on *awnings* are permitted on the valance only, and must be affixed flat to the surface thereof, must be non-illuminated, and indicate only the name and/or address of the establishment. No *sign* may extend either vertically or horizontally beyond the limits of any *awning*. *Awning* lettering placed on the valance may not exceed 12 inches in height. All *awnings* must be metal, fabric or canvas. Retractable *awnings* are encouraged.

10. Nonconforming Signs. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Zoning Ordinance, a *nonconforming sign* that has been in lawful existence for 50 or more years may be reconditioned and/or replaced with a *sign* that substantially conforms to the size and placement of the pre-existing *sign*.

11. Freestanding Signs. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Zoning Ordinance, including without limitation Section [17-12-1002-F](#) hereof, the Zoning Administrator is authorized to approve one or more *Freestanding Signs* for a *zoning lot* within the State Street/Wabash Avenue Corridor so long as: (i) the Zoning Administrator has determined that the *Freestanding Sign* otherwise complies with the provisions of [17-12-1003-B](#); (ii) the *Freestanding Sign* identifies a significant corporate headquarters employing in excess of 1,000 full-time persons or the *offices* of a governmental agency; and (iii) the *Freestanding Sign* does not project across the *property line* into the public way.

#### **17-12-1104 Chicago River Corridor Special Sign District.**

 **17-12-1104-A Boundaries.** The Chicago River Corridor Special Sign District consists of: (i) all *lots* adjacent to the Chicago River from Roosevelt Road on the south to Kinzie Street on the north and Lake Shore Drive (extended) on the east, and (ii) all *lots* with *street frontage* on Wacker Drive from Lake Street to Lake Shore Drive (extended).

 **17-12-1104-B Regulations and Standards.** The following standards apply to *signs* within the Chicago River Corridor Special Sign District. These *sign* regulations are supplemental standards that apply in addition to existing zoning regulations.

1. Maximum Area for Signs. The maximum area for all *signs* shall be in strict compliance with the zoning district, or in the case of a *planned development*, the zoning district before the *planned development* was created, except that the maximum area for high-rise building *signs* shall be as set forth in subsection [17-12-1104-B 2](#).

2. High-Rise Building Signs. *High-rise building signs* shall:

- (a) comply with subsections [17-12-1005-D](#)(1), (3), (4), (5) and (6);
- (b) count towards the maximum total allowable *sign* area;
- (c) be located directly below the highest *roof line* of the *building*;
- (d) not be illuminated, except that the letters may be halo-lit; and

(e) not exceed a maximum *sign* face area as follows:

<i>Height of Building</i>	<i>Maximum Sign Face Area</i>
150 - 199 feet	250 square feet
200 - 299 feet	350 square feet
300 - 499 feet	450 square feet
500 or more feet	550 square feet

3. Limitation on Signs above a Certain Height. Except as provided for *high-rise building signs* in subsection [17-12-1104-B\(2\)\(c\)](#), no *sign* shall be located more than two *stories* above *grade* on any *building* side that is adjacent to the Chicago River.

4. Projections. All *signs* must be affixed on *building* walls parallel to the *property line*, and no *sign* may project more than 12 inches from the *building's* *façade*.

5. Prohibited Signs. The following types of *signs* are prohibited within the Chicago River Corridor Special Sign District:

(a) *banners*;

(b) *neon signs* (neon tubing may be used as a source of light when completely shielded and not visible from the Chicago River, public *streets*, sidewalks or *alleys*);

(c) *flashing signs*;

(d) *dynamic image display signs*;

(e) *roof signs*;

(f) *painted wall signs*; and

(g) *off-premises signs*.

6. Show Windows. Show windows may be used for regularly changed display of merchandise sold in the *building*. *Signs* may not be applied to more than 15% of any single window. Window lettering that is less than 2 inches in height and that is limited to information such as a *building's* address, hours of operation, product information, and logos will not be counted towards the percentage.

7. Awning Signs. *Signs* on *awnings* count toward the maximum allowable *sign* area and must be affixed flat to the surface thereof, must be non-illuminated, and may indicate only the name and or address of the establishment. Further, no such *sign* may extend vertically or horizontally beyond the limits of the *awning*. Letter size placed on any *awning* may not exceed 9 inches in height or width. All *awnings* must be retractable (fabric or canvas) and may project no more than 6 feet over the sidewalk. No *awning* may be installed with vertical supports, and backlit or internally-lit *awning signs* are prohibited.


8. Temporary Signs. *Temporary signs*, such as grand opening *signs*, but specifically excluding *signs* advertising merchandise or special sales, may be permitted for a period not to exceed 6 weeks. In addition, *temporary signs* may be installed on construction barricades during a *building's* construction, for a period not to exceed 24 months. *Signs* placed on construction barricades may not be placed more than 20 feet above *grade* and may not exceed 8 feet in height. Reasonable time extensions for *temporary signs* may be granted by the Zoning Administrator upon written request. *Temporary signs* do not count toward the maximum allowable *sign* area.

9. In the event there is a conflict between this section and other provisions of the code, the more restrictive shall apply.

10. No member of the city council or other municipal officer shall introduce, and no committee of the city council shall consider or recommend, any ordinance or amendment thereto, including any council order pursuant to Section [13-20-680](#), that is contrary in any way to any of the requirements of this section.

(Added Coun. J. 5-26-04, p. 25275; Amend Coun. J. 9-13-06, p. 84917, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 9-13-06, p. 84921, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 11-19-08, p. 47220, Art. VII, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 11-8-12, p. 38872, § 256; Amend Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5; Amend Coun. J. 11-5-14, p. 96204, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 11-19-14, p. 98820, § 2)

#### **17-12-1200 City digital signs.**

 **17-12-1201-A Regulations and Standards.** The following regulations shall apply to city digital signs, which, except as regulated hereby, are exempt signs under Section [17-12-0506](#).

1. **Number, Area And Height Standards.** The provisions of Section [17-12-1003](#) shall not apply to city digital signs. The maximum height of a city digital sign shall be 100 feet, measured from the lowest point of the ground directly below the city digital sign structure to the highest point on the sign or sign structure.

2. **Dynamic Image Display Signs.** The sign face of a city digital sign may not exceed 1,200 square feet.

3. **Flashing Signs.** City digital signs must not be wall signs, awning signs, flashing signs, high-rise building signs, marquee signs or video display signs.

4. **Separation from R and DR Districts.** Subject to Section [17-12-0904](#), city digital signs are prohibited within 125 feet of any R and DR district, provided, however, that such separation requirement may be reduced by 25% if (a) the city digital sign is not operated from 12:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M., except for emergency purposes, and (b) either (i) the sign face is not visible from the front yard of residences in the abutting R or DR district, or (ii) the sign face is angled to primarily face an expressway or toll road, as designated by the Chicago Department of Transportation. For purposes of testing such proximity restriction, property that is zoned as an R or DR district but which consists of land or public way owned by the city or a federal, state, local or other unit of government, in whole or in part, and which is not improved with any residential buildings, shall not be regarded as an R or DR district for purpose of such proximity restriction.

5. **Separation from Residential Buildings in D Districts.** City digital signs are prohibited entirely within 100 feet of a residential building located in a D district.



6. **Separation from Waterways.** City digital signs are prohibited within 100 feet of a waterway described in Section [17-12-1006-C](#).

7. **Separation from Public Parks.** City digital signs are prohibited within 100 feet of a public park of two acres or more (other than a linear park that is more than one mile in length and is primarily located within the public way, as to which no proximity restriction shall apply) if the sign face is legible from the subject park.

8. **Lakefront Protection District.** City digital signs are prohibited within the boundaries of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection District.

9. **Separation from Designated Major Streets and Roads.** City digital signs are prohibited within the following boundaries:

- (a) within 500 feet of Lake Shore Drive;
- (b) Michigan Avenue, between Oak Street on the north and Roosevelt Road on the south.

For purposes of clarity, the proximity restriction in Section [17-12-1006-F](#). 1 (b) applicable to expressways or toll roads, as designated by the Chicago Department of Transportation, shall not apply to city digital signs, and the separation between sign requirements set forth in Section [17-12-1006-F.2](#) shall not apply to city digital signs, except as to signs described in Section [17-12-1201-A\(10\)](#).

10. **Separation from Other Off-Premises Signs.** City digital signs shall be subject to the separation requirement in Section [17-12-1006-H](#), provided, however, that such separation requirement shall only apply to off-premises signs lawfully established with and operated pursuant to a current and valid permit, including, without limitation, the correct ownership information, the payment of all fees and other amounts due the city, and the operation of the sign within the limitations (e.g., size, height, type of sign) included in the approved permit for such signs, or otherwise applicable.

11. **Flashing and Video Display Elements.** City digital signs may not contain flashing elements or video displays.

12. **Overlay Districts.** City digital signs are prohibited in overlay districts established pursuant to Chapter [17-7](#).

13. **Special Sign Districts.** City digital signs are prohibited in special sign districts established pursuant to Section [17-12-1100](#).

14. **Planned Developments and Planned Manufacturing Developments.** City digital signs may be located on land or public way owned by the City and located within planned developments, so long as the underlying zoning for such planned development is not predominantly residential, and, notwithstanding Section [17-6-0403-F](#), on land or public way owned by the city and located within a planned manufacturing district.

(Added Coun. J. 12-12-12, p. 44485, § 6; Amend Coun. J. 4-30-14, p. 80382, § 5)