

Romeoville, IL Code of Ordinances

SIGNAGE

§ 159.121 SIGNS PURPOSE.

The regulation of signs by this chapter is intended to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare by:

- (A) Reducing the depreciation of property values caused by signs that are incompatible with surrounding land uses;
- (B) Creating a viable economic and business climate within the commercial and industrial areas of the village;
- (C) Enhancing and protecting the physical appearance of all areas of the village; and
- (D) Reducing the distraction, obstructions and hazards to pedestrians and vehicular traffic caused by the indiscriminate placement and use of signs.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.122 SCOPE.

- (A) The regulations of this section shall govern and control the erection, enlargement, expansion, alteration, operation, maintenance, relocation and removal of all signs within the village and any sign not expressly permitted by these regulations shall be prohibited.
- (B) The regulations of this section related to the location of signs, by function and type, within zoning districts and shall be in addition to provisions of the Romeoville Building Code.
- (C) For the purposes of this section, a sign shall mean any object, device, display, or structure or part thereof situated outdoors or, when situated indoors, intended to be seen from the outdoors which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means including words, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, motion, illumination, or projected images.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.123 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following signs shall not be permitted in any zoning district:

- (A) Flashing signs, except electronic message boards/dynamic display signs, as defined and permitted in this chapter, which show temperature, time, business or public service messages for not less than ten seconds with no animation effects;
- (B) Signs which constitute a hazard to public health or safety;
- (C) Signs displaying obscene, indecent or immoral matter;
- (D) Signs mounted on trailers or motor vehicles, provided that signs containing the name, address or business identification of the owner or user and displayed on a motor vehicle in use and portable signs defined herein are exempt from this section;
- (E) Signs which are mounted on the roof and project above the highest point of the building or roof to which they are attached; (See diagram, Appendix B (Q))
- (F) Attention-getting devices including, but not limited to, moving, rotating or undulating signs, or light beams, strobe lights, flashing lights, or animated light displays;
- (G) Inflatable devices, except as otherwise permitted with a special events permit;
- (H) Signs which, by reason of size, location, content, color, or manner of illumination, obstruct the vision of motorists or interfere with the visibility or effectiveness of any traffic sign or control device on public streets;

(I) Signs which make use of words such as "Stop," "Look," "One-Way," "Danger," "Yield," or any similar word, phrase, symbol or light so as to interfere with or confuse pedestrian or vehicular traffic;

(J) Signs displayed within or extended over public right-of-way, except those erected or authorized by a government authority having jurisdiction of the public right-of-way;

(K) Signs which obstruct ingress or egress from any fire escape, door, window, or other exit or entrance;

(L) Wall mounted box signs or cabinet signs;

(M) Advertising, business, or identification signs on light poles of establishments, unless such signs are owned by the village, the Chamber of Commerce, or another government agency as part of a community-wide event or marketing campaign;

(N) Signs painted directly on trees, rocks and fences and other structures or objects, except walls;

(O) Festoon lighting.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.124 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(A) Sign area. The following principles shall control the computation of sign area and sign height within the village: (See diagram, Appendix B (R) and (S))

(1) Individual signs. The area of a sign shall be the smallest rectangle which encloses the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the back drop or structure against which it is placed, but excluding the supporting framework, bracing, or decorative fence or wall when such fence or wall otherwise meeting zoning code regulations and is clearly incidental to the sign display itself.

(2) Multiple-faced signs. The sign area for a sign with more than one surface shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign surfaces visible from any one point. When two identical sign surfaces are placed back to back, so that both faces can not be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign surfaces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than 12 inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the sign surfaces.

(3) Number of signs. For the purpose of determining number of signs, a sign shall be considered to be a single display surface or display containing elements organized, related, and composed to form a unit. Where matter is displayed in a random manner without organized relationship to elements, or where there is reasonable doubt as to the relationship of elements, each element shall be considered to be a single sign.

(B) Sign height. The height of sign shall be the distance measured between the top of the nearest public street curb and the highest point of the sign for freestanding signs. For all other signs, the distance measured between finished grade adjoining the wall on which a wall, projecting, awning, or window sign is attached and the highest point of said sign.

(C) Illumination. An illuminated sign is any sign from which artificial light emanates either by means of exposed lighting on the surface of the sign or through transparent or translucent material from a source within the sign, or a sign which reflects artificial light from a source intentionally directed upon it.

(1) Illuminated signs permitted in Residential Districts or located in any other zoning district adjacent a residential zoned lot shall not be illuminated between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., unless the use to which the sign pertains is open;

(2) No illuminated sign shall be positioned or maintained so as to permit the beams and illumination there from to be directed or beamed upon any adjacent property nor to cause glare or reflection that may constitute a nuisance or traffic hazard;

(3) A photometric plan may be required by the village in order to confirm that light emitted by the sign does not exceed zero foot candles at the property line of the parcel or lot on which the sign is located.

(4) See § 159.129(L) for additional illuminance standards set forth for dynamic display/electronic message board signs.

(D) Setback. Except as otherwise provided herein, freestanding signs shall be located at least ten feet from any driveway and lot line. The setback of a sign shall be measured as the distance between the point of reference specified and the closest point on the sign. (See diagram, Appendix B (T))

(E) Electrical elements. All wiring, fittings, and materials used in the construction, connection and operation of electrically illuminated signs shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Romeoville Building Code and shall be contained in rigid conduit or enclosed in poles or raceways. No wiring may be exposed on the surface of any element of the sign.

(F) Sign maintenance. The owner of a sign or the premises on which such sign is located shall be liable for maintenance of such sign, including its source(s) of illumination, its neat and orderly condition (free of any debris), maintenance to ensure good working order at all times (i.e. functional light bulbs), and for preventing deterioration of the physical appearance (i.e. sign fading) or safety of such sign. Message board signs must be designed in such a manner that the message area is resistant to damage by wind and vandalism.

(G) Structural elements. The construction and structural components of all signs shall be in accordance with the standards and regulations of the Romeoville Building Code.

(H) Sight triangle. To protect the visibility of automotive traffic, bicyclists, and pedestrians, signs, and any concealed support elements supporting a sign, shall not be located within any sight triangle described in § 159.014.

(I) Overhang. Except awning, canopy and projecting signs, no sign may overhang any part of a structure, sidewalk, parking or loading space, driveway or maneuvering aisle.

(J) Window surface area. For the purposes of calculating window signage, window surface area shall be defined as all the glass surfaces, including windows and doors of a single tenant building or of a space in a multiple tenant building occupied by a single user, that make up the street-facing facade.

(1) All window signs shall occupy no more than 50% of the total window surface area of a storefront facing the public street.

(2) The Zoning Administrator or Village Manager may revoke the use of window signs at a particular location at any time if the window signage is deemed to limit visibility into a location in a manner that compromises public safety.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15; Am. Ord. 15-1229, passed 11-18-15)

§ 159.125 SIGNS EXEMPTED FROM THIS SECTION.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as exempting the following signs from the provisions of § 159.123 and § 159.124 or from any provisions of the Building Code or those portions of the Village Code other than this chapter which may be applicable to signs. The following signs are otherwise exempt from regulations of this section.

(A) Flags, symbols or crests of nations, states, cities or political, fraternal, religious or civic organizations, provided the number of such flags does not exceed four. One flag displaying the

name or logo of a company or business shall be allowed provided that it is flown along with the American flag and shall not be larger than said flag. These flags shall be flown in accordance with protocol established by the Congress of the United States for the Stars and Stripes.

(B) Decorations customarily and commonly associated with a national, local or religious holiday, or recognized local special event, provided that such decorations shall not be displayed for more than 60 days.

(C) Signs in non-residential districts not exceeding two square feet in area bearing only the name or logo of the occupant, or address of the lot, or indicating building entrances or exits. Only one such sign per occupant entrance or exit shall be permitted. Such signs may be illuminated.

(D) Legal notices, identification, informational, directional, traffic or other sign erected or required by governmental authority under the law, statute or ordinance.

(E) Memorial signs or tablets containing the names of a building and the date of construction, when cut into any masonry surface so as to be part of the building or when constructed of bronze or some other non-combustible material and permanently attached to a building.

(F) Non-illuminated signs displayed on windows provided the area of all window signs occupy no more than 50% of the window surface area.

(G) For purposes of marketing lots or parcels for sale, lease, or development (real estate), for advertising activities related to construction taking place on a lot, and/or for purposes of announcing a business opening soon on a lot in non-residential districts, the following shall be exempt:

(1) For one property less than ten acres in size having one real estate, construction, and/or coming soon sign erected on site. Contiguous lots under the same ownership shall be considered one property for the purposes of this section. Such sign shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Sign shall be more than six square feet in area but not exceeding 32 square feet in area, and not more than eight feet in height. This sign shall be for marketing a lot or parcel for sale or lease or development, and for indicating the name of the owner, agent or broker having a role or interest with respect to the sale or lease or development of the lot or parcel. It may also be for a lot on which construction is taking place that indicates the name of the architects, engineers, landscape architects, contractors, and similar artisans, and the owners, financial supporters, sponsors and similar persons or firms having a role or interest with respect to the structure or project. Additionally, the sign may advertise a future business opening on the lot, i.e. Coming Soon.

(b) Sign shall be located on vacant or non-residential property in any zoning district, or on a lot under construction. Said sign shall be a wall or freestanding sign, shall not be illuminated, and shall be set back not less than ten feet from any lot line.

(c) Such real estate signs must be removed within two days of closing or lease transaction.

(2) For one property over ten acres in size having no more than one real estate, construction, and/or coming soon sign erected on each street frontage, but not to exceed two total on site. Contiguous lots under the same ownership shall be considered one property for the purposes of this section. Such signs shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Signs shall be more than six square feet in area but not exceeding 32 square feet in area, and not more than eight feet in height. These signs shall be for marketing a lot or parcel for sale or lease or development, and for indicating the name of the owner, agent or broker having a role or interest with respect to the sale or lease or development of the lot or parcel. They may also be for a lot on which construction is taking place that indicates the name of the architects,

engineers, landscape architects, contractors, and similar artisans, and the owners, financial supporters, sponsors and similar persons or firms having a role or interest with respect to the structure or project. Additionally, the signs may advertise a future business opening on the lot, i.e. Coming Soon.

(b) Sign shall be located on vacant or non-residential property in any zoning district, or on a lot under construction. Said sign shall be a wall or freestanding sign, shall not be illuminated, and shall be set back not less than ten feet from any lot line.

(c) Such real estate signs must be removed within two days of closing or lease transaction.

(H) Signs attached to the underside of a canopy provided such signs do not exceed six square feet in area and are mounted at right angles to the building facade and provided a minimum clearance of seven feet above the sidewalk is maintained and that no portion of such sign is within one foot of the edge of the canopy. (See diagram, Appendix B (V))

(I) Public telephone, gasoline pump and vending machine graphics, logos and instructions.

(J) Residential signs. All signs in residential zoning districts are subject to the following.

(1) The maximum size of an individual sign is 2' x 3'. The maximum total allowed square footage of sign area per lot is 24 square feet.

(2) Signs which are mutilated, damaged, faded, destroyed or rendered unreadable must be removed or replaced by the person that erected them or caused their creation.

(3) Signs are not allowed to obstruct vision and not allowed to be located in the vision triangle.

(4) No sign shall be illuminated.

(K) Works of art that do not include a commercial message, graphic or logo.

(L) One menu board sign for a drive-thru window operation provided such sign does not exceed 32 square feet in area and eight feet in height.

(M) Religious symbols or identification emblems of religious orders, no greater than 32 square feet in area, in connection with a place of worship or religious assembly.

(N) When located on agricultural property used for agricultural purposes, signs no greater than two square feet in area pertaining to seed, fertilizer or hybrid products used, produced or cultivated on the property, and signs no greater than 32 square feet in area pertaining to the sale in season of agricultural products grown or produced on the property.

(O) In non-residential districts, signs no greater than four square feet in area, which may not be illuminated, with only one such sign per business entrance.

(P) One portable sign no larger than ten square feet in area when displayed on a sidewalk adjacent the facade of a tenant space or a building occupied by a commercial use, provided such sign is displayed only during the hours of operation of the commercial use, is not illuminated, the sign does not interfere with pedestrian movement, and that it does not require transport by a motor vehicle. Such signs are intended to benefit and to attract the attention of pedestrians.

(Q) Permanent public park and pathway signs no greater than 32 square feet in area.

(R) Directional signs within the public right-of-way in conjunction with a license agreement with the village.

(S) Public agency or unit of government special event signage. Temporary signs for festivals, programs, or special events hosted by a public body. Such signage may be located on-site or off-premise with the permission of the property owner. Signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in area and eight feet in height. Portable signs are permitted provided they shall not be internally illuminated. Such signage must follow the applicable standards in this chapter for duration of display, sight triangle, and sign maintenance.

(T) Village signage including entryway signs, public building identification signs, and public information/address signage. Such signage may include electronic message boards.

(Ord. 15-1190. Passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.126 CLASSIFICATIONS OF SIGNS.

For purpose of this section, signs shall be classified according to their function and structural type, defined as follows:

(A) Sign Classification Table. For purposes of convenience, the following table is provided to clarify which sign structural types may be used for particular types of sign functions. An "X" shall indicate the only permitted use of various sign structural types for various types of sign functions:

<i>FUNCTIONAL TYPE</i>	<i>STRUCTURAL TYPE</i>							
	<i>AWNING</i>	<i>CANOPY</i>	<i>FREE STANDING</i>	<i>PORTABLE</i>	<i>PROJECTING</i>	<i>ROOF</i>	<i>WALL</i>	<i>WINDOW</i>
ADVERTISING			X					

BUSINESS	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
DEVELOPMENT			X					
TENANT IDENTIFICATION			X					
MESSAGE BOARD			X					
GRAND OPENING	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
IDENTIFICATION	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
REAL ESTATE			X				X	X
TIME/ TEMPERATURE			X					
TEMPORARY			X				X	X
POLITICAL			X					
DIRECTIONAL			X				X	
TEMPORARY			X					

(B) Functional type.

(1) Advertising sign. A sign, commonly known as a billboard, which directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered at a location other than the lot on which the sign is located; or, a sign which directs attention to a business that is no longer conducted or to a product that is no longer sold on the lot on which the sign is located. An advertising sign shall be a freestanding sign.

(2) Business sign. A sign which directs attention to a business or profession conducted, or to a commodity or service sold, offered or manufactured, or to an entertainment offered on the premises where the sign is located or to which it is affixed. A business sign shall be an awning, canopy, roof, wall or window sign.

(3) Development sign. A sign designating the name and/or address of the development. A development for the purpose of this section shall mean a building or buildings located on a lot not less than 100 feet in width at the front property line and under unified ownership or control. A development sign may be used for the identification of residential or non-residential subdivisions or developments. A development sign shall be a freestanding sign and may include tenant identification signs, time and temperature signs, and message board signs.

(4) Tenant identification sign. A sign giving the name of a tenant on a lot on which two or more tenants or businesses are located. Said sign shall only indicate the name of the tenant or business establishment or a logo or symbolic representation of the type of business. Tenant identification signs shall be uniform in size and shape and be designed for maximum legibility.

(5) Message board/dynamic display/digital sign. A sign designed so that characters, letters, or illustrations can be changed or rearranged electronically, electrically, or manually without altering the face or surface of the sign. A message board sign shall only be accessory and incidental to a development, identification, or business sign, and shall only utilize LCD or LED technology that cannot be read past the property line on which the sign is placed.

(6) Grand opening sign. Any sign used for the purpose of advertising a grand opening or grand re-opening of a new business. A grand opening sign may be an awning, canopy, freestanding, portable, roof, temporary, wall or window sign. Grand opening signs shall not be used for promotions, special sales, seasonal sales, or going-out-of-business sales.

(7) Identification sign. A sign giving the name and address of a residential building, business, development, industry, or other building or establishment. Such signs may be wholly or

partly devoted to a readily recognized logo or symbol. An identification sign shall be an awning, canopy, freestanding, projecting, roof, wall, or window sign.

(8) Real estate sign. A sign indicating the sale, rental, lease, or development of a building or lot, or a portion thereof, on which the sign is located. A real estate sign may be a freestanding, wall or window sign.

(9) Time and temperature sign. A sign that provides current time and/or temperature information to the public. Such signs may be wholly or partially devoted to a readily recognized logo or symbol. A time and temperature sign shall only be accessory and incidental to a freestanding development, identification, or business sign.

(10) Temporary sign. Any sign, banner, pennant, streamer, or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard, or other light-weight material without a frame. A temporary sign shall be a wall, window, awning or canopy sign. (See diagram, Appendix B (W))

(C) Structural type.

(1) Awning sign. A sign that is mounted on or attached to an awning that is otherwise permitted by this section. An awning may be fixed or retractable and shall be securely attached to and supported by the building. No posts or columns shall be permitted to support the awning. Awnings shall be designed to provide unobstructed flow of pedestrian traffic along any sidewalk. The construction materials and the manner of construction of all awnings shall be in accordance with the Romeoville Building Code.

(2) Canopy sign. A sign that is mounted on or attached to a canopy that is otherwise permitted by this section. A canopy shall not encroach upon the required building line on a lot. The construction materials and the manner of construction of all canopies shall be in accordance with the Romeoville Building Code.

(3) Freestanding sign. A sign supported independently of any structure. Such sign may be referred to as a ground, monument, or pole sign.

(4) Portable sign. A freestanding sign, no face of which shall exceed 32 square feet, attached to or mounted upon a frame intended to be moved from place to place. Such sign may be used as a grand opening sign and may or may not include moveable lettering and/or electrical equipment for use as illuminated signs. All illuminated portable signs shall be wired with a UL approved ground fault interrupter, and all service connections shall be approved by a Romeoville electrical inspector. No flashing lights or other moving displays shall be permitted on such sign, and all illumination shall be of an indirect or diffused nature.

(5) Projecting sign. A sign attached perpendicular to a wall of a building, supported solely by the building, and having not more than two faces which may be no more than 12 inches apart.

(6) Roof sign. A sign attached to or mounted on a roof of a building and shall not project or extend above the peak or deck line of a gambrel, gable, hip, or mansard roof. No sign shall be attached, anchored or located above the deck of a flat roof.

(7) Wall sign. A sign painted on or fastened to the wall of a building or structure in such a manner that the wall becomes the supporting structure for, or forms the background surface of, the sign and which does not project more than 12 inches from such building or structure. No sign shall extend beyond the width of the facade of the building to which it is attached.

(8) Window sign. A sign which is painted, applied, or attached to, or located within three feet of the interior of a window, which sign may be seen through the window from the exterior of the structure.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.127 PERMITTED SIGNS.

Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in these regulations, the following signs shall be permitted in the village as accessory structures, subject to the following and all other applicable standards:

(A) Awning signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, awning signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(1) Number. Not more than one awning sign shall be permitted on each awning.

(2) Location. Individual letters, words or symbols may be affixed or applied to any awning surface facing a public street or mounted over a public entrance to an establishment and shall not face a residential lot.

(3) Height. The maximum height of an awning sign shall be the highest point of the awning to which the sign is attached or 16 feet, whichever is less.

(4) Sign display area limits. The awning sign shall not extend beyond the awning surface on which the sign is located, nor beyond the premises of a particular establishment.

(5) Sign area. The area of an awning sign shall not exceed one and one-half square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of awning, and the actual signage face shall not exceed three feet in height.

(6) Illumination. Awning signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(7) Clearance. A minimum clearance of eight feet shall be provided between finished grade and the lowest point of an awning sign, but in no instance shall an awning sign extend below the lowest point of the awning to which the sign is attached.

(8) Projection. No awning sign and the awning to which it is affixed shall project more than eight feet from the building wall, but shall not project into or over the roadway of any street or driveway.

(9) Setback from curb. No awning sign and the awning to which it is affixed shall project within two feet of the curb of a street or driveway or parking space.

(B) Canopy signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, canopy signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(1) Number. Not more than one canopy sign shall be permitted per street frontage per building or tenant space having an exterior public entrance.

(2) Location. Canopy signs shall be mounted on the face of a canopy.

(3) Height. The maximum height of a canopy sign shall be the highest point of the canopy to which said sign is attached or 18 feet, whichever is less.

(4) Sign display area limits. The canopy sign shall not extend beyond the canopy face on which the sign is located, nor beyond the premises of a particular establishment.

(5) Sign area. The area of a canopy sign shall not exceed one and one-half square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of awning, and the actual signage face shall not exceed three feet in height.

(6) Illumination. Canopy signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(7) Clearance. A minimum clearance of eight feet shall be provided between finished grade to the lowest point of a canopy sign, but in no instance shall a canopy sign extend below the lowest point of the canopy on which the sign is attached.

(8) Projection. No canopy sign shall project more than 12 inches from the canopy to which it is attached.

(C) Freestanding signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, freestanding business, identification and development signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(1) Development signs.

(a) Number. Each multiple tenant development having a minimum of 25 acres of area shall be permitted one freestanding development sign for each 25 acres of land area, but in no case shall more than two such signs be permitted on a development parcel and provided there is only one such sign per street frontage.

(b) Location. No development sign shall be located closer than ten feet from any property line, and shall be located not less than 25 feet from any residential zoned lot. No development sign shall be located closer than 100 feet to another permanent freestanding sign.

(c) Height. No development sign shall exceed 25 feet in height.

(d) Sign area. The maximum sign area shall be 150 square feet.

(e) Illumination. Development signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(f) Time and temperature displays. Time and temperature displays may be incorporated into a development sign provided location, area and other technical requirements herein are satisfied. The area of any time and temperature displays shall be included in the maximum sign area.

(g) Message board sign. Message board/dynamic display signs shall be permitted when incorporated into a development sign subject to all applicable standards set forth § 159.129(L).

(h) Distance from buildings. No development sign shall be located closer than ten feet to a building.

(i) Sign landscaping. All development signs shall be located in a landscaped area separated and protected from vehicular circulation and parking areas. A minimum of two square feet of landscaping area shall be required for every one square foot of sign surface area provided, but no development sign landscape area shall be less than 50 square feet in area. Said landscape area shall be landscaped appropriately. (See diagram, Appendix B (X))

(j) Architectural feature. All development signs shall be designed and constructed as an integral architectural element of the overall development incorporating elements and details and building materials used in the principal building(s). The area and height of the architectural feature shall not be computed as part of the development sign area and height.

(k) Multi-tenant signs. Any sign constructed with tenant panels must not have blank tenant panels at any time.

(2) Business and identification signs.

(a) Number. Each lot or development having less than 25 acres of area shall be permitted one freestanding business or identification sign for each street frontage.

(b) Location. No freestanding business or identification sign shall be located closer than ten feet from any property line, and shall be located not less than 25 feet from any residential zoned lot. No freestanding business or identification sign shall be located closer than 100 feet to another permanent freestanding sign.

(c) Height. No freestanding business or identification sign shall exceed ten feet in height.

(d) Sign area. The maximum sign area shall be 25 square feet.

(e) Illumination. Freestanding business or identification signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(f) Time and temperature displays. Time and temperature displays may be incorporated into a freestanding business or identification sign provided location, area and other technical requirements herein are satisfied. The area of any time and temperature displays shall be included in the maximum sign area.

(g) Message board sign. Message board/dynamic display signs shall be permitted when incorporated into a business identification sign subject to all applicable standards set forth in § 159.129(L).

(h) Distance from buildings. No freestanding business or identification sign shall be located closer than ten feet from a building.

(i) Sign landscaping. All freestanding business or identification signs shall be located in a landscaped area separated and protected from vehicular circulation and parking areas. A minimum of two square feet of landscaping area shall be required for every one square foot of sign surface area provided, but no development sign landscape area shall be less than 50 square feet in area. Said landscape area shall be landscaped appropriately. (See diagram, Appendix B (Y))

(j) Decorative sign base. All freestanding business or identification signs shall be designed and constructed with an integral decorative base constructed of wood, metal, masonry, or stone to conceal the sign's support structure(s) and to visually compliment the building materials used on the principal building(s) on the lot. The decorative base shall be equal to at least 75% of the width of the sign face. The area of the decorative sign base shall not be computed as part of the sign area. The height of the decorative sign base shall be computed in determining the sign height.

(k) Multi-tenant signs. Any sign constructed with tenant panels must not have blank tenant panels at any time.

(D) Portable signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, portable signs shall be permitted subject to the following: (See diagram, Appendix B (Y))

(1) Number. No more than one portable sign shall be permitted on a lot at any one time. Such sign that must be transported by motor vehicle and/or on a trailer may only be used as a grand opening sign.

(2) Location. Portable signs shall comply with all location requirements for free-standing signs, with the exception that portable signs may be located closer than 100 feet from a freestanding sign.

(3) Sign area. The area of a portable sign shall not exceed 32 square feet.

(4) Duration of display.

(a) No portable sign shall be displayed for more than 30 consecutive days within six months of occupancy of a building or tenant space.

(b) Portable signs may be displayed only for grand opening or grand re-opening celebrations.

(E) Projecting signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, projecting identification signs shall be permitted subject to the following: (See diagram, Appendix B (AA))

(1) Number. Not more than one projecting sign per establishment shall be permitted on a building wall facing a public street and/or having a public entrance, provided no canopy or roof sign for the establishment are located on the same building wall.

(2) Location. Projecting signs shall be affixed to the wall having the establishment's public entrance and shall not be located beyond the premises of a particular establishment.

(3) Height. No projecting sign shall extend above the roof line or the highest point of the wall of the building on which it is located or 14 feet from finished grade, whichever is less.

(4) Sign area. The area of a projecting sign shall not exceed 16 square feet.

(5) Illumination. Projecting signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(6) Clearance. Projecting signs shall provide a minimum clearance of eight feet between the finished grade below the sign to the lowest edge of the sign.

(7) Projection. No projecting sign shall project from the building wall more than six feet. The innermost edge of the projecting sign shall be no more than one foot from the wall of the building to which it is attached. Projecting signs may swing, but all projecting signs shall be permanently attached to the building.

(8) Setback from curb. No projecting sign shall project within two feet of the curb of a street or driveway or parking space.

(F) Roof signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, roof signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(1) Number. Not more than one business or identification roof sign per street frontage shall be permitted, provided no wall or canopy sign for the same establishment is directed to the same street frontage, except that:

(a) No roof sign shall face a residential lot and shall be at least 50 feet from a public street.

(b) No roof sign shall be allowed for individual tenants in a multi-tenant building or a multi-story building.

(2) Location. A roof sign shall be located on a decorative mansard, penthouse or other architectural element of a building which extends vertically beyond the roof line, and shall be single-faced and be mounted directly vertical as a wall sign, with no visible angle-iron, guy wires, braces or secondary supports and all hardware concealed. A roof sign shall be displayed parallel to the eave line of the roof to which it is attached, or parallel to the penthouse or architectural element above the roof line to which it is attached, and shall face a public street.

(3) Height. The maximum height of a roof sign shall be 30 feet from finished grade or two stories, whichever is less.

(4) Sign display area limits. The roof sign shall not extend beyond the dimensions of the roof, mansard, penthouse or architectural element on which the sign is located, or beyond the premises of a particular establishment.

(5) Sign area. The area of a roof sign shall not exceed one and one-half square feet per lineal foot of eave line of the roof, and the actual signage face shall not exceed three feet in height.

(6) Illumination. Roof signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(G) Temporary signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, temporary signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(1) Location. Temporary signs shall comply with all location requirements for awning, canopy, and wall signs.

(2) Number. No more than one-third of the businesses on any individual lot may display temporary signs concurrently.

(3) Height. Temporary signs shall comply with the height requirements for awning, canopy, and wall signs.

(4) Sign area. No freestanding temporary sign shall exceed 32 square feet in area and eight feet in height. No temporary sign attached to an awning, canopy, or wall shall exceed 60 square feet in area.

(5) Illumination. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated.

(6) Duration of display.

(a) Temporary signs shall be permitted for no more than 30 consecutive days.

(b) Temporary signs shall not be displayed more than three times in any one calendar year by an establishment on a lot. The three permits may be issued consecutively.

(H) Wall signs. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, wall signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(1) Number. Not more than one business and identification wall sign per street frontage or per building wall having a public entrance per establishment shall be permitted, provided no canopy or roof sign for the same establishment is directed to the same street frontage, except that:

(a) Not more than one business or identification wall sign may be permitted on walls not facing a street or having a public entrance, provided the wall does not face a residential lot and is at least 50 feet from the nearest property line or another building on the lot.

(b) No wall signs shall be allowed for individual tenants in a multi-story or a multi-tenant building having no exterior building entrance for each tenant.

(2) Location. Wall signs shall be affixed only to a wall having the establishment's public entrance or a wall facing a public street.

(3) Height. The maximum height of a wall sign shall be 30 feet from finished grade adjacent the wall to which the sign is attached.

(4) Sign display area limits. The wall sign display area shall not extend above the wall of a building, beyond the premises of a particular establishment in a building, or over clear breaks in architectural facade on the wall face.

(5) Sign area. The total area of all wall signs per wall shall not exceed one and one-half square feet per lineal foot of wall to which the sign is attached.

(a) For individual tenant spaces under 30,000 square feet, the actual signage face shall not exceed three feet in height.

(b) For individual tenant spaces in the P-B, M-1, or M-2 District 30,000 square feet or greater, wall signs may not exceed five feet in height. The sign must also be framed by at least two feet of clear wall space preceding and following any text or image.

(6) Illumination. Wall signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(I) Window signs, illuminated. Where permitted in § 159.126(A), Sign Classification Table, illuminated business and identification signs may be placed or positioned within three feet of the interior of window glass subject to the following:

(1) Location. Window signs may be displayed only in windows facing a public street, or in windows in a wall having a public entrance, but in no instance in any windows facing a residential lot.

(2) Sign display area. Each illuminated window sign shall be located within the exterior glass surface area of all permitted windows, but excluding doors and superficial borders or trim.

(3) Sign area. All window signs shall occupy no more than 50% of the total window surface area of a storefront facing the public street.

(4) Illumination. Window signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124. (Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.128 SIGN AREA BONUSES.

(A) To encourage higher quality of design and increased effectiveness of graphics in the village, the village will reward the use of certain design features and criteria by permitting the property owner to increase the area of a sign if any of the following design criteria are employed. Such bonuses shall be granted cumulatively for compliance with each of the criterion, up to a maximum of 50%. The percentage increase shall be based on the original permitted maximum sign area.

(1) Twenty-five percent bonus for preparation of a Comprehensive Sign Plan for a lot having more than one principal building or more than one tenant in the principal building. The Comprehensive Sign Plan shall specify the standards for consistency among all signs on the lot

with regard to color, lettering or graphic style, illumination, decorative lighting, materials, location of signs on the building(s) and on the lot, and dimensions of signs.

(2) Fifteen percent bonus for any sign using natural material in the construction of the sign surface area.

(3) Fifteen percent bonus for any freestanding sign which utilizes an opaque or non-illuminated background sign surface.

(4) Ten percent bonus for any wall sign if the background color matches the color of the building material behind the sign.

(B) Signs erected under the bonus provisions contained in this section shall be adequately and continuously maintained, including landscaping as provided herein, by the owner and such successors and assign as benefit from the bonus provisions in this section.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.129 SPECIAL SIGNS.

In addition to the foregoing, the following signs shall be permitted subject to the following:

(A) Gasoline stations, service stations and mini-marts. Each gasoline station, service station or mini-mart shall be allowed: (See diagram, Appendix B (BB))

(1) One freestanding development sign per street frontage. Gasoline price signs shall be integrated into the development sign but not included in the calculation of allowable square footage. Price signs may be digital.

(2) One business sign per pump island, the total area of which shall not exceed two square feet per gasoline pump and no such sign may be located more than eight feet above grade. This sign may advertise products and goods sold at the station premises and can be an electronic screen incorporated into the design of the pump. For the purposes of this section, a pump is the above ground equipment used to dispense and measure multiple grades of gasoline for full-service or self-service use of the customer and may have one or more pump nozzles attached thereto for dispensing fuel to up to two cars at one time.

(3) Identification signs at each pump island, the total area of which shall not exceed six square feet per gasoline pump island, and no such sign. (See diagram, Appendix B (CC))

(4) Business and identification signs located at the pump island shall not be illuminated, unless the sign being incorporated is an electronic screen and such screen cannot be read past the property line.

(5) For the purpose of this section, a pump island shall mean one or more pumps arranged in a row. More than one pump island may be located under a protective canopy or other roof-like structure.

(6) No gas station signs may be displayed except with a valid sign permit.

(B) Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealership. Each such dealership shall be allowed a second freestanding development sign only if the lot is used for both new and pre-owned vehicles, or if two or more makes or product lines are offered for sale on the same lot. No more than two such signs shall be allowed: one identifying the new vehicle product line, and one identifying pre-owned vehicles or the sale of a second vehicle product line. Each sign shall otherwise conform to the height, area and location requirements, herein.

(C) Grand opening signs. A grand opening sign may be displayed only within six months of issuance of an occupancy certificate. Any combination of portable and temporary signs shall be permitted for grand opening or grand re-opening celebrations, not to exceed three such signs and subject to the following:

(1) Permit required. No grand opening sign may be displayed except with a valid sign permit.

(2) Portable signs.

(a) Number. No more than one portable sign shall be permitted on a lot at any one time.

(b) Location. Portable signs shall comply with all location requirements for freestanding signs, with the exception that portable signs may be located closer than 100 feet from a freestanding sign.

(c) Sign area. The area of a portable sign shall not exceed 32 square feet.

(d) Illumination. Portable signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(3) Temporary signs.

(a) Number. A maximum of two temporary signs shall be displayed on the premises, not including flags, pennants and streamers.

(b) Sign area. No temporary sign attached to a freestanding sign shall exceed 32 square feet in area and eight feet in height. No temporary sign attached to a wall, canopy, or awning shall exceed 60 square feet in area and shall conform to the sign display area limits for such awning, canopy and/or wall signs.

(c) Location. Temporary signs shall comply with all location requirements for awning, canopy, freestanding, roof, and wall signs.

(d) Illumination. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated.

(4) Duration of display.

(a) No portable and/or temporary sign(s) used for advertising a grand opening of a new business shall be displayed for more than one period of time not exceeding 30 consecutive days within a calendar year and shall be displayed only within six months of new occupancy of a building or tenant space.

(b) All portable and temporary signs used for advertising a grand opening of a new business or a business anniversary shall be displayed simultaneously.

(c) Portable signs may be displayed only for grand-(re)opening promotions or business anniversaries.

(D) Advertising signs. In addition to the terms and conditions of the special use permit, advertising signs shall comply with the following:

(1) Permit required. Advertising signs shall only be permitted in the zoning districts where such signs are identified as a special use.

(2) Number. Not more than one advertising sign per street frontage per lot shall be permitted.

(3) Area and height. The area and height of advertising signs shall not exceed the maximum specified for freestanding signs in § 159.127(C).

(4) Distance to residential lots. No advertising sign shall be located closer than 100 yards to a residential zoning lot.

(5) Distance between signs. No advertising sign shall be located closer than 100 feet to another freestanding sign.

(6) Setback. No advertising signs shall be located closer than ten feet to any right-of-way line or closer than 75 feet to any side lot line.

(7) Advertising signs shall be permitted only on unimproved property.

(8) Advertising signs shall be removed at such time the lot on which they are located is improved.

(9) Advertising signs shall not be illuminated.

(E) Marquee sign.

(1) Marquees shall be designed and specified by a registered structural engineer or registered architect and shall be subject to approval by the Romeoville building official.

(2) Marquees shall be supported solely by the building to which they are attached; no columns or posts shall be permitted as supports. Marquees shall be designed to provide unobstructed flow of pedestrian traffic along any sidewalk.

(3) No marquee shall project within two feet of the curb of any street, alley or driveway.

(F) Model home signs. For the purpose of this section, a model home sales area shall mean one or more lots or dwellings arranged, developed and displayed in such a manner as to showcase on a temporary basis various dwelling styles, features, exteriors, and other design options to the general public, and at least one such model home or a temporary structure may be used for sales presentations, consultations and displays for prospective purchasers. A model home sales area shall provide accessory off-street parking, and may include model homes for sale by more than one builder. A model home sales area is usually located in the same recorded subdivision as the lot(s) on which the dwellings are to be constructed. Model homes may be furnished and decorated.

(1) Master sign plan required. A master sign plan for model home sales areas shall be provided by the builder and/or subdivider. The master sign plan shall specify the standards for consistency among all signs in the model home sales area and subdivision, if applicable, with regard to color, lettering or graphic style, illumination, decorative lighting, materials, location of signs on the building(s) and in the model home sales area and subdivision, and dimensions of all signs, subject to the following:

(a) Model home sales area identification sign.

1. Number. One freestanding sign identifying the model home sales area shall be permitted.

2. Location. The freestanding model home sales area identification sign shall be located in the model home area it is identifying.

3. Height. The freestanding model home sales area identification sign shall not exceed 15 feet in height.

4. Sign area. The maximum area of the model home area identification sign shall be 64 square feet, provided that if the model home sales area consists of two or less adjacent lots or buildings, or the recorded subdivision has a development gateway sign(s), said freestanding sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in area.

(b) Temporary signs. Temporary signs may be displayed in a model home sales area subject to the requirements of this subchapter. In addition, flags, banners, pennants and streamers may be displayed in a model home sales area provided same are kept in good appearance.

(c) Additional model home sales area signs. Signs identifying individual model homes, manufacturers, suppliers, builders or sponsors shall be permitted provided the total area of such signs shall not exceed 16 square feet per model home and no individual sign shall exceed six square feet in area and six feet in height. Said signs may be freestanding or wall signs.

(d) Subdivision directional signage. Signs directing customers to the site of the subdivision or model home. Signs may be located on-site or off-premise with the permission of the property owner. Signs may be no more than 15 square feet in area and three feet in height. No more than three such signs shall be permitted per subdivision. If located off-premise, no more than one such signs shall be located on any individual property. A maximum of two off-site signs

are allowed per intersection of public streets. Off-site signs shall be a minimum of 1,000 feet from one another. Signs shall be constructed of durable materials and kept in good condition. The Zoning Administrator shall have the authority to approve the materials and to order the sign removed at any time if it is deemed to be in disrepair. The duration of display shall be subject to division (F)(3) of this section except that applications for off-site signs must be submitted prior to February 1, 2010.

(2) Illumination. Model home sales area signs may be illuminated subject to the standards in § 159.124.

(3) Duration of display. The model home sales area sign shall be displayed as long as the model home(s) is(are) open to the general public and are actively marketed. In no instance shall such signs be displayed continuously for more than two years. The Village Board may grant extensions of time for no more than one year for each request by the subdivider.

(4) Permit required. No model home sales area signs shall be displayed except with a valid sign permit.

(G) Directional signs. Signs which direct or regulate the movement of pedestrians or vehicles into or within a site, shall comply with the following:

(1) No directional sign shall be displayed except with a valid sign permit;

(2) No more than one such sign is displayed per driveway intersection;

(3) In M-1, M-2, and P-B Zoning Districts, the sign area may be a maximum of 12 square feet and the sign may be a maximum of six feet tall. In all other zoning districts, the sign does not exceed six square feet in area or three feet in height from finished grade for freestanding signs or eight feet in height from finished grade for wall signs; and

(4) No more than 10% of the area of the sign is used to advertise any business, product or service provided on the lot.

(H) Political signs in non-residential zoning districts. Signs or posters announcing or describing candidates seeking a public office at a particular election or announcing or describing political issues and data pertinent to a specific election thereto shall be permitted. Such signs shall be permitted according to the following:

(1) Public rights-of-way. None allowed.

(2) Private property. Not to exceed 16 square feet:

(a) Signs or posters relating to such candidates for office shall be "free standing" only.

(b) These signs cannot be attached to any utility poles, traffic control devices, street signs or street lights.

(c) Signs cannot be placed so as to interfere with visibility or cause a traffic hazard.

(d) Signs shall be posted no more than 60 days prior to an election.

(e) The signs or posters must be removed by the person who placed them or caused them to be placed within ten days following the election, or when mutilated, damaged, or unreadable, whichever comes first.

(3) Political signs/posters are of a temporary nature and shall not be illuminated by any type of artificial lighting sources; i.e. flood light, porch light, Christmas lights or lights that cast light onto the sign/poster placed by individuals, and not exclusive of street lights, traffic lights or existing lighting prior to the sign being placed on the property.

(4) No political sign/poster shall be placed on any property or right-of-way owned by the village except as allowed by Section 7-41 of the Illinois Election Code (ILCS Ch. 10, Act 5, § 7-41).

(I) Temporary signs. All temporary signs, defined herein, except grand opening signs, shall comply with the following standards unless otherwise stated:

- (1) No temporary sign may be displayed except with a valid sign permit.
- (2) No temporary sign shall be located upon any easement or right-of-way.
- (3) No temporary sign shall be located in such a way as to pose a traffic hazard.
- (4) All temporary signs shall be located entirely on the property being served by the sign.
- (5) All temporary signs shall comply with all other applicable regulations regarding the use and placement of such signs.

(6) All temporary signs shall be removed within 24 hours after the expiration of the authorization date, or if, in the opinion of the Zoning Administrator, the sign becomes damaged or poses an immediate danger to the general health, safety, and welfare of the community.

(7) Inflatable devices. Any cold air inflatable device, including balloons, identifying a sale or promotional event for a business or a non-profit entity shall be considered a temporary sign. In addition to the standards for temporary signs set forth herein, such cold air inflatable devices:

- (a) Shall not exceed 25 feet in height.
- (b) Shall not exceed 15 feet in diameter.
- (c) Shall not be located on the roof of a building or atop any other structure.
- (d) Shall be securely anchored to the ground.

(J) Bank drive-through and ATM signs. Signs which advertise special events, services, or promotional campaigns occurring on the bank premises, shall comply with the following standards:

(1) Advertising signage at each drive-through and ATM shall not exceed two square feet in area and no such sign may be located more than six feet above grade. This sign may advertise products and services offered, or special events occurring on the bank premises. Said sign can be an electronic screen incorporated into the design of the drive-through or ATM that cannot be read past the property line.

(K) Permanent residential development entrance signs. Each subdivision located on ten or more acres shall be permitted to install entryway signage at entrances off major or secondary arterials, or major collector as defined by § 159.03 and the Village of Romeoville Master Transportation Plan (§ 157.03(E)), and shall comply with the following standards:

(1) Location. Signs are only permitted in easements or out lots specifically designed or designated for such structure. No residential development entrance sign shall be located in the sight triangle as described in § 159.124.

(2) Height. No residential development entrance sign shall exceed five feet in height.

(3) Sign area. The maximum area of each sign shall be 32 square feet.

(4) Materials. The facade of the residential development entrance sign shall be installed on a masonry base and/or framed by masonry columns. Any lettering, ornaments or other graphics on the structure must be constructed of stone or brick, wrought iron, anodized aluminum or engraved into a quality hardwood like redwood or cedar.

(5) Landscaping. The residential development entrance sign shall be located in a landscaped area. Said landscape area shall be landscaped appropriately so as to be equally attractive in winter and summer.

(6) Illumination. The freestanding residential development sign shall not be internally illuminated.

(L) Message board/dynamic display/digital signs. A dynamic display sign or digital sign is allowed as a message board.

(1) Maximum dynamic display sign area. The dynamic display portion of the sign may not exceed 50% of the total sign area allowed. The dynamic display element is incorporated into the sign's total area. The remainder of the sign may not have the capability to have dynamic display even if not used. Only one, contiguous dynamic display is allowed on a sign face.

(2) General regulations. The following regulations apply to all message board/dynamic display or digital signs:

(a) The images and messages displayed on a dynamic display must have a minimum dwell time of at least ten seconds and may not contain any movement, animation, audio, video, pyrotechnics or other special effects.

(b) The transition or change from one message to another must occur in one second or less and involve no animation or special effects.

(c) The images and messages displayed must be complete in and of themselves within the required dwell time.

(d) Dynamic displays must be equipped with a default mechanism that freezes the display in one position or presents a static or blank display if a malfunction occurs.

(e) Dynamic displays may not have a brightness of such intensity or brilliance that they impair the vision or endanger the safety and welfare of any pedestrian, cyclist or person operating a motor vehicle.

(f) Dynamic displays must be equipped with a light detector/photocell that automatically adjusts the display's brightness according to natural ambient light conditions.

(g) The maximum brightness level of a dynamic display may not exceed 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter) during daylight hours or 250 nits between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise, as those times are determined by the National Weather Service (Actual Time). Brightness must be measured from the brightest element of the sign's face. Before the issuance of a sign permit, the applicant must provide written clarification from the sign manufacturer that the light intensity has been factory preset so that it will not exceed 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter).

1. For the purpose of verifying compliance with maximum brightness level requirements, the Zoning Administrator will measure brightness levels with the dynamic display sign set to run full white copy with a luminance meter positioned at a location perpendicular to the sign face center. When taking the luminance reading, the sign face must be the only subject visible in the viewfinder.

2. If the measurement is more than the maximum allowed, the brightness level is in violation of the subchapter and must be adjusted downward. Failure to make such adjustments may result in other available enforcement actions to be taken by the village.

(h) Regulations governing dynamic displays are subject to ongoing monitoring and future modification in the exercise of the village's police powers. No vested right is ever created in an existing dynamic display. If regulations governing operational aspects of dynamic displays (i.e. dwell time, transitions, illumination/brightness, etc.) are modified by the village, sign owners and operators are required to bring dynamic display advertising signs into compliance with all applicable dynamic display regulations.

1. Proposals for dynamic displays must be reviewed and approved by the Community Development Department for compliance with all applicable building, safety and electrical code.

Applications must include appropriate documentation from an Illinois licensed design professional of the sign structure's ability to accommodate the dynamic display technology.

(i) A freestanding sign with a dynamic display incorporated into the sign must not be closer than 500 feet to any other dynamic display sign.

(M) I-55 Corridor freestanding business identification signs. A larger freestanding sign shall be allowed with a special use permit in the B-3 and P-B Zoning Districts for businesses along I-55. Businesses or properties that are within 150 feet of the I-55 right-of-way (measured from property lines as defined by the village GIS) shall be allowed the following:

(1) Number. Not more than one business identification sign per I-55 frontage shall be permitted per lot.

(2) Location. The sign must meet setbacks defined in § 159.127(C)(2).

(3) Height. The sign must not exceed 40 feet.

(4) Sign area. The sign area must not exceed 200 square feet.

(5) Dynamic display. See § 159.129(L). If a dynamic display message board is incorporated into the sign, the sign must not be closer than 1,000 feet to any other dynamic display message board sign in the corridor.

(6) Sign landscaping. A minimum of two square feet of landscaping area shall be required for every one square foot of sign surface area provided, but no sign landscaping shall be less than 50 square feet in area.

(7) Decorative sign base. The I-55 business identification sign shall be designed and constructed with an integral decorative base constructed of masonry or stone to conceal the sign's support structure(s) and to visually compliment the building materials used on the principal building(s) on the lot. The decorative base shall be equal to or at least 75% of the width of the sign face. The area of the decorative base shall not be computed as part of the sign area. The height of the decorative base shall be included when determining the sign height.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.130 PERMITS REQUIRED.

If a sign requiring a permit under the provisions of this section is to be placed, constructed, erected, or modified on a zoning lot, the owner of the lot shall secure a sign permit prior to the construction, placement, erection, or modification of such sign in accordance with the requirements of this section. Furthermore, the property owner shall maintain in force, at all times, a sign permit for such signs in accordance with § 159.131. No signs shall be erected in the public rights-of-way except in accordance with § 159.125 and the permit requirements of § 159.133. No sign permit of any kind shall be issued for an existing or proposed sign unless such sign is consistent with the requirements of this code (including those protecting existing signs) in every respect and with the Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan in effect for the property.

(A) Permit procedures. The following procedures shall govern the application for, and issuance of, all sign permits under this subchapter, and the submission and review of a Master or Common Signage Plan.

(1) Application. All applications for sign permits of any kind and for approval of a Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator, or his or her duly authorized agent, on the application form or in accordance with application specifications published by the village.

(2) Fees. Each application for a sign permit or for approval of a Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan shall be accompanied by the applicable fees, which shall be established by the governing body of the village from time to time by resolution.

(3) Completeness of application. Within five business days of receiving an application for a sign permit or for a Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan, the Zoning Administrator shall review it for completeness. If the Zoning Administrator finds that it is complete, the application then shall be processed. If the Zoning Administrator finds it to be incomplete, the Zoning Administrator shall, within the five business days, send notice to the applicant of the deficiencies, with appropriate references to the applicable sections of this subchapter.

(4) Decisions. Within seven business days of the submission of a complete application for a sign permit, the Zoning Administrator shall either:

(a) Issue the sign permit, if the sign(s) that is the subject of the application conforms in every respect with the requirements of this section and of applicable Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan; or

(b) Reject the sign permit if the sign(s) that is the subject of the application fails in any way to conform with the requirements of this section and of the applicable Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan. In case of rejection, the Zoning Administrator shall specify in the rejection the section or sections of the Code or applicable plan with which the sign(s) is inconsistent.

(5) Action on Plan.

(a) On any application for approval of a Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan, the Zoning Administrator shall take action on the applicable one of the following dates:

1. Fourteen business days after the submission of a complete application if the application is for signs for existing buildings; or

2. On the date of final action on any related application for building permit, site plan, or development plan for signs involving new construction.

(b) On or before such applicable date, the Zoning Administrator shall either:

1. Approve the proposed plan if the sign(s) as shown on the plan and the plan itself conforms in every respect with the requirements of this section; or

2. Reject the proposed plan if the sign(s) as shown on the plan or the plan itself fails in any way to conform to the requirements of this section. In case of a rejection, the Zoning Administrator shall specify in the rejection the section or sections of the Code with which the plan is inconsistent.

(B) Permits to construct or modify signs. Signs to be erected, installed, or created only in accordance with a properly issued and authorized building permit from the Building Inspector. Such permits shall be issued only in accordance with the following requirements and procedures:

(1) Permit for modification of existing signs. No application or permit shall be required for the replacement or simple face changing of signs currently established on the zone lot. An application and fee shall be required if additional signs are being requested or current signs are being changed with regards to size or height.

(2) Permit for new sign. An application for construction, creation, or installation of a new sign or for modification of an existing sign shall be accompanied by detailed drawing to show the dimensions, design, structure, and location of each particular sign, to the extent that such details are not contained on a Master Sign Plan or Comprehensive Sign Plan then in effect for the zone lot. One application and permit may include multiple signs on the same zone lot.

(C) Inspections. The Zoning Administrator shall cause an inspection of the zone lot for which each permit for a new sign or for modification of an existing sign during the sixth month after the issuance of such permit or at such earlier date as the owner may request. If the construction is not substantially complete at the time of the inspection, the permit shall lapse and become void. If the construction is complete and in full compliance with this section and with the building and electrical codes of the village, the Zoning Administrator shall affix to the premises a permanent symbol identifying the sign(s) and applicable permit by number or other reference. If the construction is substantially complete but not in full compliance with this section and applicable codes of the village, the Zoning Administrator shall give the owner or applicant notice of the deficiencies and shall allow an additional 30 days from the date of inspection for the deficiencies to be corrected. If the deficiencies are not corrected by such date, the permit shall be voided. If the construction is then complete, the Zoning Administrator shall affix to the premises the permanent symbol described above.

(D) Temporary sign permits. Temporary signs shall be allowed only upon the issuance of a temporary sign permit, which shall be issued subject to the following requirements:

(1) Term. A temporary sign permit shall allow the use of a temporary sign for a specified 30 day period.

(2) Number of permits. A maximum of three temporary sign permits shall be issued to the same business license holder in any one calendar year.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.131 VIOLATIONS.

Any of the following shall be a violation of these sections and shall be subject to the enforcement remedies and penalties provided by this subchapter, and by state law:

(A) To install, create, erect, or maintain any sign in a way that is inconsistent with any plan or permit governing such sign or the zone lot on which the sign is located;

(B) To install, create, erect, or maintain any sign requiring a permit without such a permit;

(C) To install, create, erect, or maintain any permanent or temporary sign within a public right-of-way or on public property except when a license agreement has been executed by the authority having jurisdiction over said public right-of-way or public property;

(D) To fail to remove any sign that is installed, created, erected, or maintained in violation of this section, or for which the sign permit has lapsed; or

(E) To continue any such violation. Each such day of a continued violation shall be considered a separate violation when applying the penalty portions of this section and of this Code.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.132 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

Any violation or attempted violation of this section of any condition or requirement adopted pursuant hereto may be restrained, corrected, or abated, as the case may be, by injunction or other appropriate proceedings pursuant to village codes and state law. A violation of this section shall be considered a violation of this Code. The remedies of the city shall include the following:

(A) Issuing a stop work order for any and all work on any sign on the same zone lot.

(B) Seeking an injunction or other order of restraint or abatement that requires the removal of the sign(s) or the correction of the nonconformity.

(C) Imposing any penalties that can be imposed directly by the village according to this Code, § 159.999, Penalties.

(D) Seeking in court the imposition of any penalties that can be imposed by such court according to this Zoning Code.

(E) In the case of a sign that poses an immediate danger to the public health or safety, taking such measures as are available to the village under the applicable provisions of this Zoning Code and Building Codes for such circumstances.

(F) In the case of a sign is placed in the public right-of-way, village staff may remove the sign entirely. Each sign removed shall be considered a separate violation when applying the penalty portions of this section.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)

§ 159.133 PERMIT FEES.

The Village Board of Trustees shall establish a schedule of fees, charges and expenses for permits for any inspection, construction, alteration, repair, demolition, or removal of any sign regulated by this chapter. Fees shall be paid to the village at the time application for a permit is made. The schedule of fees shall be posted in the office of the Village Clerk and may be altered or amended from time to time by the Mayor and Village Board.

(Ord. 15-1190, passed 9-16-15)