

ARTICLE XI

SIGN REGULATIONS

176.00 PURPOSE AND INTENT

(A) It is the purpose and intent of this Section to establish a set of fair and comprehensive standards for the erection, use, installation, maintenance, alteration, and placement of all signs, symbols, markings, or advertising devices within the City of Tarpon Springs. These standards are designed to protect and promote the health, safety, welfare, and general well-being of the community's citizens in a manner consistent with the following objectives:

- (1) the City has an economic base which relies heavily on tourism, and enhancing the visual attractiveness of the environment is important to making the City a desirable place to visit;
- (2) to foster a good visual environment and enhance the economic well-being of the community as a place in which to live, visit, and conduct business;
- (3) to preserve the aesthetic, natural, and historical qualities of the community;
- (4) to contribute to the safe movement of traffic by controlling the excessive height, area, and bulk of signs, as well as certain types and lighting of signs which can distract the attention of pedestrians and motorists so as to constitute hazards to traffic safety;
- (5) to encourage creativity and allow the sufficient conveyance of a message in a manner which promotes traffic safety and avoids visual blight;
- (6) to control the use of signs determined to be detrimental to the aesthetic sense and welfare of the community;
- (7) to regulate signs in a manner so as not to interfere with, obstruct the vision of or distract motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians; and
- (8) to encourage signs appropriate to the zoning district in which they are located and consistent with the category of use to which they pertain.

177.00 APPLICABILITY

(A) All signs erected, altered, or displayed on or after the effective date of this Code shall be subject to its provisions, and unless specifically exempted, shall require the prior issuance of a Sign Permit from the City.

(B) Signs or other advertising structures shall be constructed and maintained in strict conformity with the City's building codes and all other applicable regulations.

(C) All signs shall comply with other applicable Federal, State and County laws, ordinances, and regulations, including the applicable provisions of the Comprehensive Plan.

178.00 DEFINITIONS

(A) ABANDONED SIGN - Any sign or sign structure that was or is installed for the purpose of affixing a sign, which bears no sign or sign copy, or advertises a discontinued business use for one hundred 180 consecutive days.

(B) A-FRAME SIGN - A sign with steeply angled sides which reach to the ground or base, deriving its name from being shaped like a capital "A". These signs are designed to be collapsible or foldable, to be used during regular business hours, to be removed at the close of business and are generally constructed of wood. These signs are sometimes referred to as "sandwich" signs.

(C) ANIMATED SIGN - Any sign which includes action or motion or the optical illusion of action or motion, or color changes of all or any part of the sign facing, requiring electrical energy, or set in motion by movement of the atmosphere. "Animated Sign" shall include electronic reader boards.

(D) AWNING (CANOPY) SIGN - A shelter structure attached to or cantilevered from a building, wholly or partially supported by a building and/or columns, braces, or poles extending to the ground, and composed of non-rigid materials except for the supporting framework.

(E) BANNER - A single sign or outside advertising display having the character, letters, illustrations, ornamentations, symbol, color, or visual representation applied to cloth, paper, vinyl, fabric, plastic, or like kind of malleable material with or without frame. The term banner shall not include a pennant.

(F) BEACON LIGHT - Any light with one or more beams having a wattage which exceeds 75 watts capable of being directed at any direction or directions, or capable of being revolved automatically or capable of having

any part thereof revolve automatically. Excluded from this definition are the lights used to illuminate either directly or indirectly, any lawful sign.

(G) BENCH SIGN - A bench upon which a sign is indelibly drawn, painted, printed, or otherwise affixed thereto.

(H) BILLBOARD SIGN - Any sign composed of a flat, continuous, and uninterrupted surface face (including cut-outs) which measures 72 square feet in sign area or more and upon which advertising or other matter may be displayed promoting goods, services or other things not sold or available upon the site where the sign is located. "Billboard Signs" may include changeable copy signs.

(I) BUILDING FRONTAGE - The linear length of a building facing the street right-of-way.

(J) BUILDING OFFICIAL - The City official or his designee, responsible for the administration, interpretation and enforcement of the building codes of the City.

(K) CHANGEABLE COPY - A sign or portion of a sign which message copy is changed manually in the field, through the utilization of re-usable attachable letters, numbers, symbols, and other similar characters. Changeable copy shall not include replaceable sign panels.

(L) CONSTRUCTION SIGN - Any sign giving the name of principal contractors, architects, and lending institutions responsible for construction on the site where the sign is placed, together with other information included thereon.

(M) COPY - The letters, text or other graphics which compose the message displayed upon the sign surface area.

(N) DIRECTIONAL SIGNS - Any sign which is used solely for the purpose of indicating the direction or location of any object, place or area including, but not limited to, those signs which indicate the avenues of ingress and egress from a particular premise and which do not contain any commercial advertising message.

(O) ERECT - Erect shall mean to build, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend or affix and shall also include the painting of wall signs. This term shall not apply to copy changes on existing permitted signs.

(P) EXEMPT SIGNS - All signs for which permits are not required but which must, nonetheless, conform to the other terms and conditions of this Article.

- (Q) FLASHING SIGN - A flashing sign is an activated sign on which any electric lighting by any device is either alternated on and off or raised and lowered in brightness or intensity.
- (R) FREE STANDING SIGN - Any sign located on or in the ground for support, and which is not affixed to a building, fence, vehicle or other object.
- (S) FRONTAGE - The length of the property line for a single parcel which runs parallel to, and along, a public right-of-way line or street exclusive of alley-ways.
- (T) GOVERNMENT SIGNS - Any sign erected by or on the order of a governmental body or a public official in the performance of his office or duty such as, but not limited to traffic control signs, street name signs, warning and directional signs, public identification signs, public notices or signs of similar nature.
- (U) GROUND MOUNTED SIGN - Any sign, other than a pole sign, which is entirely supported by a structure in or upon the ground.
- (V) HEIGHT - The vertical distance measured from street grade nearest the base of the sign to the highest point of any sign.
- (W) IDENTIFICATION SIGN - Any sign which indicates no more than the name, address, company logo and occupation or function of an establishment or premise.
- (X) ILLUMINATED SIGN - Any sign which is illuminated by artificial light, either from an interior or exterior source, including reflective or phosphorescent light.
- (Y) INSTITUTIONAL SIGN - Any sign erected on site for a nonprofit or quasi-public use such as a church, library, school, hospital, or municipally owned building.
- (Z) MAINTAIN - Maintain shall include general servicing and upkeep in a safe, operable, and attractive condition.
- (AA) MARQUEE SIGN - Any sign which is attached to or hung from a permanent, roof-like structure (marquee) which is supported by a building wall and which projects out from the building line usually but not necessarily over a public right-of-way such as a sidewalk.
- (BB) MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY PARCEL - Any parcel which is occupied by more than 1 establishment, business, or use.

(CC) MULTIPRISM SIGN - Signs made with a series of triangular vertical sections that turn and stop to show three pictures or messages in the copy area.

(DD) NON-COMMERCIAL COPY - An expression or message where more than 50% of the sign is dedicated to noncommercial copy and which is not solely related to advertising the economic interest of the advertiser. A sign advertising the event of a non-profit entity shall not be considered to be related to the economic interest of the advertiser.

(EE) NON-CONFORMING SIGN - Any sign lawfully in existence and lawfully permitted on the effective date of this Code which does not conform to the requirements of this Article.

(FF) NON-RESIDENTIAL ZONE - Any Zoning District where the purpose and intent is to permit commercial, professional, and industrial establishments as a primary use.

(GG) OFF-SITE SIGN - Any sign containing advertising message concerning any business, goods, products, services, or facilities which are not manufactured, produced, sold, provided, or located on the premises upon which the sign is erected or maintained.

(HH) ON-SITE SIGN - Any sign which identifies a business or advertises a product for sale, or service to be rendered on the immediate parcel where the sign is located.

(II) PARCEL - An area of land with its appurtenances and buildings which, because of its unity of use or commonality of ownership, may be regarded as the smallest conveyable unit of real estate.

(JJ) PENNANT - Any series of small flag-like or streamer-like pieces of cloth, plastic, or paper attached in a row to any staff, cord, building, or other at only one or two edges, the remainder hanging loosely.

(KK) POLITICAL SIGN - A sign identifying and urging support for or opposition to a particular political issue, political party, or candidate for public office.

(LL) PORTABLE SIGNS - Any sign designed or intended to be readily relocated whether or not it is permanently attached to a building, structure or on the ground. The term includes signs on wheels or on portable structures, tent signs, mobile signs, and similar devices.

(MM) POLE MOUNTED SIGN - Any sign, independent of support from any building, that is mounted on free standing poles or other supports so that the bottom edge of the sign face is 8 feet or more above grade.

(NN) PRIMARY STREET - The street with the highest functional classification according to the Traffic Circulation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and/or the street to which the establishment of use is primarily oriented.

(OO) PROJECTING SIGN - Any sign which is attached to and which projects more than 12 inches from the outside wall of any building or structure, excluding wall signs as defined herein.

(PP) REAL ESTATE SIGN - A sign which advertises the sale, rental or lease of the parcel upon which it is located.

(QQ) RESIDENTIAL ZONE - Any Zoning District where the purpose and intent is to provide for residential establishments as a primary use.

(RR) REVOLVING OR ROTATION SIGN - Any sign so erected or constructed as to periodically or continuously change the direction toward which any plane containing the display surface area is oriented.

(SS) ROOF LINE - The top edge of the roof or parapet, whichever forms the top line of the building silhouette when viewed from the ground level.

(TT) ROOF SIGN - Any sign erected, constructed or maintained on the roof of any building.

(UU) SIGN - Any combination of structure and message in the form of a display, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, advertising structure, advertisement, logo, symbol, graphic or other form, designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform. Drawings of articles for sale on the premises that is related to the business and or is intended to advertise or inform, rather than being merely aesthetic, shall be classified as a sign under this Article. The term does not include an official traffic control sign, official marker, national or state flags permitted by this Article, athletic scoreboards, or the official announcements or signs of government. "Sign" includes sign structure.

(VV) SIGN AREA - The surface area of a sign is the entire area within the periphery of a regular geometric form, or combination of regular geometric forms, comprising all of the display area of the sign and including all of the elements of the matter displayed, but not including the sign structure bearing no advertising matter unless it forms a sign frame, or an integral part of the sign or display, or is capable of displaying an advertising message. The surface area of the sign shall be measured from the outside edges of the sign. The sign area shall include the aggregate sign area upon which copy of advertising could be placed.

(WW) SIGN FACE - The part of the sign that is or can be used to identify, display, advertise, communicate information or for visual representation which attracts the attention of the public for any purpose.

(XX) SIGN STRUCTURE - Any structure which is designed specifically for the purpose of supporting a sign, has supported, or is capable of supporting a sign. This definition shall include any decorative covers, braces, wires, supports or components attached to or placed around the sign structure.

(YY) SINGLE OCCUPANCY PARCEL - Any parcel which is occupied by a single establishment.

(ZZ) SNIPE SIGN - Any sign which is attached in any way to a utility pole, tree, fence post, or any other similar object whether located on public or private property.

(AAA) SUBDIVISION SIGN - Any sign which is designed to identify a subdivision or neighborhood.

(BBB) TEMPORARY SIGN - A sign or advertising display intended to be displayed for a specified and limited period of time.

(CCC) USE - The purpose for which a building, lot, sign, or other structure is arranged, intended, designed, occupied or maintained as established by the authorized legislative body.

(DDD) VEHICLE OR TRAILER SIGNS - Any sign erected upon a vehicle where the principal purpose of the vehicle is not general transportation, but the support of the sign itself. Signs mounted upon taxis, buses or other modes of general public transportation when in the course of their normal service are excluded from this definition. Vehicle or trailer signs shall not be deemed to include signs incorporated on a vehicle at the manufacturer's or distributor's level which identify or advertise only the product or service dispensed or carried by the vehicle.

(EEE) WALL SIGNS - A sign which is painted on, fastened to, or erected against the wall of a building with its face in a parallel plane to the plane of the building facade or wall.

(FFF) WARNING SIGN - Any sign which is designed to provide public notice of a danger to public health, safety and welfare.

(GGG) WINDOW SIGN - A window sign is one which is painted on, attached to or visible through a window excluding displays of merchandise.

179.00 PERMIT PROCEDURES

179.01 Permit Required

(A) No person shall paint, erect, demolish, alter, rebuild, enlarge, extend, relocate, demolish, repair, do any work upon, attach to, or suspend from a building or structure, any sign unless a permit for such sign has been issued by the Building Official or unless such sign is specifically exempted from permit requirements.

(B) Reserved

(C) It shall be unlawful to change, modify, alter, or otherwise deviate from the terms or conditions of a sign permit without the prior written approval of the Building Official. A written record of such approval shall be entered upon the original permit application and maintained in the files of the Building Official.

(D) Applications for permits required by this Article shall be in writing upon forms to be furnished by the Building Official.

(E) Any repair work on a sign of a structural nature shall require a separate building permit. Simple, non-structural maintenance of a sign shall not require a permit.

179.02 Form of Permit Application

In order to obtain a permit under the provisions of this Article, an applicant shall submit to the Building Official a sign permit application which shall set forth in writing a complete description of the proposed sign including the following minimum information:

(A) The name, address and telephone number of the owner and the lessee of the sign, and the sign contractor or erector of the sign.

(B) The legal description and the street address of the property upon which the sign is to be erected.

(C) Other information as required in the permit application forms provided by the Building Official, including a site plan, elevation drawings of the proposed sign, and identification of the type, height, area and location of all existing signs on the subject parcel.

(D) Two blueprints or ink drawings, certified by a Florida Registered Engineer where required by the Florida Building Code or other applicable building codes of the City, of the plans and specifications and method of construction and attachment to the building or the ground. Plans on file with

the Building Official may be used to satisfy the engineering requirements of this section.

(E) A copy of stress diagrams and calculations certified by a Florida Registered Engineer, showing that the structure is designed for deadload and wind pressure in any direction in the amount required by this Article or the City's building codes.

(F) All the required information for an electrical permit for illuminated signs.

(G) An affidavit by the applicant that the owner or lessee of the building, structure or land on which the sign is to be erected has consented to its erection.

(H) Approval of the Federal Aviation Authority, or any other governmental entity where required by law.

179.03 Permit Limitations

The Building Official shall act upon an application for a permit with plans as filed, or as amended, without unreasonable or unnecessary delay. A permit issued shall be construed to be a license to proceed with the work and shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel, alter, or set aside any of the provisions of this Article or any other City building codes, nor shall such issuance of a permit prevent the Building Official from thereafter requiring a correction of errors in plans or in construction, or of violations of this Article or any other City building codes.

179.04 Reserved

179.05 Inspections Required

(A) All signs for which a permit is required by this Article are subject to inspection by the Building Official. If an electrical inspection is required, it shall be the duty of the sign permit holder to first obtain an electrical permit and pay the appropriate electrical permit fee.

(B) Upon notice from the Building Official, any work that is being performed in a manner contrary to the provisions of this Code, the City's building codes, or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, shall be immediately stopped. Such notice shall be in writing and given to the owner or lessee of the property, to the owner's or lessee's agent, or to the person doing the work, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed. Where an emergency exists, the Building Official may verbally order the work to be stopped or corrected. However, within 5 working days of such verbal warning, written notice shall be issued by the Building Official.

(C) Reserved

179.06 Permit Fees

(A) Before any permit is issued under the provisions of this Article, the applicant shall pay a fee as provided by a schedule of fees adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

(B) Fees based upon sign area shall be calculated per each sign face.

(C) Should any person, firm, or corporation begin work without taking out a valid permit in violation of this Article, the Building Official shall ensure that the proper permitting procedure is henceforth followed, charging double (2 times) the regular fee required for the first violation for any particular party responsible for the procurement of the applicable permit. In the event of subsequent violations within two years, all fees shall be ten (10) times the normal permit fee for any party required to procure each permit.

180.00 SIGN PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

The following signs shall be exempt from the permit requirements of this Article, provided that all other applicable Sections of this Article are met:

(A) bench signs;

(B) government signs;

(C) national flags flown in accordance with the standards of the Adjutant General;

(D) grand opening or special events banners as provided for in this article;

(E) warning signs;

(F) murals, statues, paintings, designs or other decorative features provided no names of occupants, drawings of the business' products, identification, trademark, logo, or other commercial messages are present;

(G) holiday, seasonal, commemorative or special event decorations or signs provided that such signs display no commercial advertising and provided that such signs are not displayed for a period of more than 60 days;

(H) memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other non-combustible materials;

- (I) garage sale signs, provided:
 - (a) The sign is on site.
 - (b) The number does not exceed one per site.
 - (c) The size does not exceed 3 square feet.
 - (d) The sign does not exceed 4 feet in height.
 - (e) The sign is removed promptly after the completion of the activity.

- (J) real estate open house and auction directional signs, provided:
 - (1) Two (2) directional signs may be permitted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. only on those days when there is a scheduled and advertised open house or auction;
 - (2) Each sign may not exceed four (4) square feet in area;
 - (3) The signs may be located within public right-of-way except along U.S. Highway 19, U.S. Alternate Highway 19 or S.R. 582 (Tarpon Avenue or Keystone Road);
 - (4) The signs must be freestanding and of a professional lettered quality, and may, under no circumstance, be affixed to a tree, utility pole, traffic control sign, any existing sign or within the visibility triangle;
 - (5) The signs must be removed immediately following the event;
 - (6) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) a real estate open house shall be described as when a residential or commercial property, actively being marketed for sale, is made available for viewing by prospective purchasers or other real estate agents without prior appointment;
 - (b) a real estate auction shall be defined as the offering of residential, commercial or vacant real estate for sale to the highest bidder. Said auction may or may not include the contents of the property and must be conducted on the premises by a licensed real estate broker. A real estate auction does not include garage sales or tag sales.

- (K) one non-illuminated construction sign per street frontage not to exceed 32 square feet in aggregate area where a building is actually in progress under a current Building Permit. Such sign must be removed before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued;

- (L) one non-illuminated real estate sign per parcel subject to the following restrictions:
 - (a) The property is for sale, rent or lease.
 - (b) The sign is on site.
 - (c) The maximum sign area in residential zoning districts shall be limited to 6 square feet in aggregate area.

- (d) The maximum sign area in non-residential zoning districts shall be limited to 16 square feet per sign face.
 - (e) Frontage bonus - the maximum sign area may be doubled (2 times) for sites with a total street frontage in excess of 300 feet.
 - (f) Multiple listing strips, in addition to the maximum sign area, broker identification strips and sold signs are allowed when attached to a real estate sign. Signs shall be removed within 10 days of the date when ownership has changed or the property is no longer for sale, rent or lease.
- (M) political campaign signs not to exceed 32 square feet in aggregate area, and provided they are not displayed for more than 7 days after any election in which the political candidate or issue represented on the sign was defeated and more than 7 days after any final election;
- (N) window signs on the ground floor which identify or advertise activities, services, goods, or products available on the parcel;
- (O) signs incorporated on machinery, equipment, or vehicles at the manufacturer's or distributor's level, which identify or advertise only the product or service dispensed by the machine, equipment, or vehicles, and signs customarily affixed to vending machines, newspaper racks, telephone booths, gasoline pumps, taxi cabs, buses, or other modes of general public transportation;
- (P) interior signs which are displayed on the inside of a building and not visible from a public street;
- (Q) "no trespassing", "no dumping", "no loitering", and like signs not exceeding 3 square feet in area, and not exceeding 4 signs per parcel or site;
- (R) addressing numbers displayed in accordance with Pinellas County requirements;
- (S) in nonresidential districts, 2 directional signs per driveway which signs shall be located on and pertain to a parcel of private property. Each sign shall not exceed 4 square feet in sign area per face. The maximum height shall be 3 feet. If such sign area is to be illuminated then a sign permit shall be obtained in accordance with the requirements of this Article. Directional signs may be placed with a 2 foot setback from the right-of-way provided that such signs meet all other applicable regulations and do not block visibility;
- (T) one identification sign, professional name plate or occupational sign for each establishment not to exceed 4 square feet in aggregate sign area, denoting only the name of the occupant, or the occupant's profession or specialty; the street and/or number of the premises;
- (U) temporary signs as provided in this Article;

(V) portable A-frame signs as provided in this Article;

(W) reasonable repair and maintenance, including changing the advertising message, is permitted and is not a change which requires a sign permit or would terminate nonconforming rights. The following are examples of modifications which require a permit and would terminate any existing nonconforming rights:

- (1) Modification that changes the type of structure of the sign, such as conversion of a wooden sign structure to a metal structure;
- (2) Modification that enlarges the area of the sign facing;
- (3) Modification that raises the height of the sign;
- (4) Modification that adds automatic changeable faces;
- (5) Modification that relocates the sign on the same property.

(X) simple, non-structural maintenance of a sign. Any repair work on a sign of a structural nature shall require a separate building permit;

(Y) replacement of removable sign panels where no other modifications are made.

181.00 SIGNS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED

The following types of signs are expressly prohibited except as otherwise provided by this Article:

- (A) abandoned signs;
- (B) animated signs;
- (C) festoons, searchlights, twirling signs, pennants, and balloons;
- (D) snipe signs;
- (E) flashing signs;
- (F) revolving or rotating signs;
- (G) multi-prism signs;
- (H) off-site portable signs;
- (I) on-site portable signs;
- (J) off-site signs, including billboard signs;
- (K) beacon lights;
- (L) vehicle signs or trailers when such are used exclusively for the purpose of displaying a sign;
- (M) signs which imitate or resemble official traffic or government signs and signals;
- (N) roof signs;
- (O) any sign which obstructs any firefighting equipment or presents a fire hazard;
- (P) any sign which obstructs any window, door, or opening used as a means of ingress and egress required for fire escape purposes;
- (Q) any sign which obstructs an opening required for proper light and ventilation purposes;

- (R) any sign which emits audible sound, vapor, smoke, odor, particles, or gaseous matter;
- (S) any sign which violates community standards for obscenity;
- (T) signs attached or painted to piers or seawalls, except warning signs;
- (U) pavement markings, except those of a customary traffic nature;
- (V) any sign which obstructs, conceals, hides, or otherwise obscures from view any official traffic or government sign, signal or device;
- (W) any sign which has unshielded illuminated devices that produce glare or are a hazard or nuisance to motorists or occupants of adjacent properties;
- (X) unless otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful to erect, relocate, maintain, display, or use any sign in or upon any river, bay or other body of water within the limits of the City of Tarpon Springs;
- (Y) any sign which presents a potential traffic or pedestrian hazard, including signs which obstruct visibility, and signs which use the words "stop", "look", "warning", "danger", or similar words or phrases implying the existence of danger or the need for stopping or maneuvering, except permitted warning signs; and
- (Z) signs which are erected upon or project over public rights-of-way, including sidewalks, except government signs or as otherwise provided by this Article.

182.00 ABANDONED SIGNS

- (A) When a business use of a parcel of land or a service is discontinued, or an off-site advertising sign ceases to display advertising matter, all signs or sign structures relating to the business use, service, or off-site advertising sign shall be removed by the sign owner, sign contractor, or landowner within 180 days of the date of discontinuance.
- (B) An abandoned sign is one which advertises an activity or purpose which is no longer conducted or that which has not been in use, or that which bears obsolete or no advertising copy for a period of at least 180 days.
- (C) When any sign is relocated, made inoperative, becomes obsolete, or removed for any reason, except for maintenance, all structural components, including the sign face and sign structure, shall be removed or relocated with the sign. All structural components of freestanding signs shall be removed to ground level. The structural components of all other signs, including painted wall signs, shall be removed back to the original building configuration.
- (D) An abandoned sign is prohibited by this Article and shall be removed by the advertiser, sign owner, sign contractor, or landowner within 30 days after written notice has been provided by the City. If the advertiser, sign owner, lessee, sign contractor, or landowner fails to comply with said procedure, the City Manager shall cause to be removed such signs at the expense of the property owner, and may place a lien against the property for the cost of removing the sign.

183.00 MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS

(A) All signs, supports, braces, guys, and anchors thereof shall be kept in good repair, refurbished and repaired from time to time, as necessary, and perpetually maintained in safe condition, free from deterioration, defective or missing parts, or peeling or faded paint, and able to withstand the wind pressure for which it was originally designed. Any sign not in compliance with this provision is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

(B) Weeds and grass shall be kept cut in front of, behind, underneath and around the base of signs for a distance of 10 feet, and no rubbish or debris shall be permitted under or near such signs.

(C) The Building Official may order the repair of signs declared a nuisance.

(D) The Building Official through the City Manager, without notice, may cause any unsafe or insecure sign to be immediately removed if, in his opinion, the sign presents an immediate peril to the public health or safety.

184.00 CERTAIN SIGNS TO BE REMOVED

(A) The following signs shall be removed or made to conform to this Article within 60 days from the effective date of this Code:

- (1) pennants, festoons, searchlights, and balloons or other gas-filled figures;
- (2) snipe signs;
- (3) flashing signs;
- (4) off-site portable signs;
- (5) on-site portable signs;
- (6) vehicle signs;
- (7) beacon lights;
- (8) non permitted temporary signs;
- (9) any sign, except government signs, located upon a public right-of-way; and
- (10) illegal signs.

(B) In view of the inexpensive nature of these signs and the administrative burden which would be imposed by elaborate procedural prerequisites prior to removal, the Building Official is hereby given the authority to remove, or cause to be removed said signs in accordance with the following procedure:

- (1) forty-eight hours verbal notice to the property owner or sign owner, or representative of the property or sign owner;
- (2) written notice of the removal to the property owner or sign owner within 14 days of removal of the sign and notice shall advise where the sign can be retrieved, and that if the sign is not retrieved within 30 days, that it will be disposed of by the City; and

(3) if the sign is on public property, and no party is identified as the owner of said sign, then no notice is required.

(C) The procedures set forth in this Section shall not apply to a sign made of temporary material including but not limited to paper, cardboard, plastic, or wood. Any such sign may be removed and disposed of without notice.

185.00 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

It is the intent of this Article to achieve the eventual elimination of nonconforming signs.

185.01 Provisions - Nonconforming Signs

(A) Nonconforming signs, except as otherwise provided by this Article, may be continued in operation, provided that no nonconforming sign shall be:

- (1) changed to or replaced with another nonconforming sign;
- (2) structurally altered so as to extend their useful life, except that normal maintenance may be permitted;
- (3) expanded in any manner;
- (4) increased in height;
- (5) relocated; or
- (6) modified in any way that would increase the degree of nonconformity.

(B) Reserved

(C) No additional signage shall be erected for the same business, or on the same property where off-site advertising occurs which has an existing nonconforming sign until the nonconforming sign is removed or made conforming.

(D) Any nonconforming sign which is destroyed or damaged to the extent 51% percent or more of its replacement value shall not be repaired or rebuilt except in conformity with the provisions of this Article.

(E) Existing signs which have been installed, constructed, placed or maintained in violation of any City, State, or federal law, statute or ordinance shall not qualify as a nonconforming sign.

(F) Existing signs to be removed as provided by Section 184.00 shall not be deemed nonconforming.

186.00 GENERAL SIGN REGULATIONS

(A) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Article, any permitted sign may contain noncommercial copy in lieu of any other copy.

(B) The changeable copy part of an on site sign shall not occupy greater than 1/3 of the total sign face.

(C) Pole or ground mounted on site, identification or advertising signs shall be located in a landscaped area of at least 5 feet wide and containing no fewer than 100 square feet. Landscaped areas should contain at least 3 shrubs with the remaining area surfaced with grass, ground covers, or with at least 2 inches of wood chips or bark. The landscaped area shall be curbed if located internal to the parking lot.

186.01 Illumination and Construction

(A) No flood lights shall be utilized as a part of a sign illumination system which shine or cause to shine light directly upon adjacent property.

(B) No sign shall reflect or emit a glaring light so as to impair the vision of others using a public right-of-way.

(C) Illuminated signs, including neon signs, shall not produce more than one foot-candle of illumination 4 feet from the sign, when measured from the base of such sign.

(D) All signs shall be constructed of durable materials and designed to meet all applicable requirements of the City's building codes.

186.02 Visibility Obstructions

(A) There shall be no sign or obstruction to vision between the height of 3 feet and 8 feet above grade in the required visibility triangle, except that poles not in excess of 8 inches in diameter may be permitted.

(B) Required visibility triangle shall be defined as follows:

(1) Driveways - at the intersection of a drive aisle and a public or private street, the triangle formed by the street and drive aisle lines measured 15 feet from the intersection shall meet vertical clearance requirements for visibility.

(2) Streets - at the intersection of two public and/or private streets the triangle formed by the street lines measured 30 feet from the intersection shall meet the vertical clearance requirements for visibility.

186.03 Protection of Trees, Utility Facilities

(A) No signs, except permitted seasonal, commemorative, or special event decorates, or government and grand opening signs shall be erected or displayed on any shrub, rock formation, utility pole, fire hydrant, light standard, bridge, or other signs or sign supports.

(B) All signs, to the extent feasible, shall be located so as to avoid the removal, destruction, or mutilation of trees.

(C) No signs shall be erected, displayed or attached on any tree by any means whatsoever. It shall be presumed that each person, owner or occupant of each property which is identified or advertised on any such sign has caused, suffered, or permitted such sign to be so erected, displayed, or attached.

186.04 Signs Within the Historic Preservation District.

The Historic Preservation Board has the authority within the Historic Preservation District to permit up to a maximum of twice the amount of:

(A) Sign area as allowed in Section 187.00 - Institutional Signs in Residential Areas.

(B) Sign area or height as allowed in Section 188.02 - Nonconforming Uses in Residential Zones.

(C) Section 189.00 - On-Site Signs in Non-Residential Areas.

Such review will utilize the Certificate of Approval process as detailed in Article VII. In addition, the Historic Preservation Board must review all signs which are illuminated from the interior through such process.

187.00 INSTITUTIONAL SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

Institutional uses shall be permitted 1 onsite advertising sign subject to the following restrictions:

(A) Maximum sign area within residential zones in the Historic Preservation District: twelve square feet per sign face. Maximum Sign Area in other residential zones: twenty-four square feet per sign face.

(B) Maximum Height: 7 feet.

(C) Minimum Setback: 10 feet from the right-of-way line.

188.00 ON-SITE SIGNS PERMITTED IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

188.01 Residential Development Signs

A sign may be located at each entrance to a platted subdivision, mobile home park, multi-family project, or residential planned development. The sign may consist of a single sign with 2 single faced structures equal in size located on each side of the entranceway or one double faced sign located in an entrance median, subject to the following restrictions:

- (A) Such sign shall contain only the name of the subdivision and the insignia or motto.
- (B) An individual firm, partnership, association, corporation or other legal entity shall be responsible for perpetual maintenance of the subdivision sign and associated landscaped area.
- (C) The maximum sign area shall be 32 square feet per sign face excluding the area of fences or walls on which such sign is displayed.
- (D) The maximum height shall be 10 feet when measured from the grade of the street nearest the base of the sign to the top of the sign.
- (E) The minimum setback shall be:
 - (1) located outside the required visibility triangle;
 - (2) 15 feet from the perpendicular right-of-way line, when located in the median entrance of a street; and
 - (3) 10 feet from the side property line.

188.02 Nonconforming Uses in Residential Zones

One wall or ground mounted, non-illuminated sign, not exceeding twelve square feet in total sign area in the Historic Preservation District and 12 square feet for all other nonconforming uses in residential zones.

189.00 ON-SITE SIGNS IN NON-RESIDENTIAL ZONES

189.01 General Regulations for Free Standing Signs

- (A) All pole mounted signs shall have a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet measured from grade.
- (B) Projection over a right-of-way shall be prohibited for all pole mounted signs.
- (C) One free standing pole mounted or ground mounted on-site advertising sign shall be permitted per parcel.
- (D) The maximum sign height shall be 10 feet within the Historic Preservation District and 20 feet in all other non-residential zones.

(E) The minimum required setback for a pole mounted sign shall be 5 feet from the adjoining street right-of-way line and 10 feet from the side property line.

(F) The minimum required setback for a ground mounted sign shall be as follows:

- (1) outside the required visibility triangle;
- (2) 5 feet from the adjoining street right-of-way line; and
- (3) 15 feet from the side property line.

(G) The minimum clearance from primary power lines as required by the National Electric Safety Code shall be maintained.

189.02 Free Standing Sign Area

(A) Allowable Square Feet

	Parcel Occupancy	Minimum² (ft²)	Maximum³ (ft²)
Historic Preservation District¹	Single	16	.25 per l.f. of street frontage or
	Multiple	25	1 per l.f. of building frontage
Other Non-Residential Zones	Single	32	.5 per l.f. of street frontage or
	Multiple	50	2 per l.f. of building frontage

¹ Non-residential zones within the Historic Preservation District

² Sign area (in square feet) per sign face

³ Sign area (in square feet) per sign face for each lineal foot of street frontage or building frontage

(B) The maximum allowable sign area for a free standing sign shall be as follows:

- (1) 100 square feet per sign face for a single occupancy parcel; and
- (2) 150 square feet per sign face for a multiple occupancy parcel.

(C) For parcels with in excess of 50,000 square feet of gross floor area a ground mounted sign not exceeding 24 square feet of area per sign face which only includes the identification of the use or complex shall be permitted on the side street for parcels located on a corner.

189.03 Wall Mounted Signs In Addition to Free Standing Signs

(A) One wall sign shall be permitted for each single occupancy parcel having frontage on a public street.

(B) Establishments located on more than one street frontage shall be allowed one wall sign for each side of the establishment facing a street, but shall not combine such signs for the purpose of placing the combined area on any one wall.

(C) Establishments located on only one street frontage shall be allowed 1 wall sign facing a non residential zone, but shall not combine such signs for the purpose of placing the combined area on any one wall.

(D) One wall sign shall be permitted for each establishment in a multiple occupancy parcel.

(E) Allowable Square Feet ²

	Allowable Square Feet ²
Historic Preservation District¹	.50 per l.f. of building frontage
Other Non-Residential Zones	1.25 per l.f. of building frontage

¹ Non-residential zones within the Historic Preservation District

² Sign area (in square feet) per lineal foot of building frontage facing a street up to a maximum of 150 square feet of aggregate sign surface area

(F) For establishments with more than 1 street frontage, the maximum sign surface area for building frontage on streets other than the street the establishment is oriented toward shall not exceed the area allowed in Section 189.03(E) above nor 50 square feet of aggregate area, whichever is more restrictive.

(G) For establishments with no side street frontage the maximum sign surface area for the side of the building shall not exceed either .5 square feet per lineal frontage of building or 10 square feet in the Historic Preservation District, whichever is more restrictive. In all other non-residential districts the maximum sign surface area for the side of the building shall not exceed either .5 square feet per lineal frontage of building or 50 square feet, whichever is more restrictive.

(H) Wall signs may not project beyond the roofline or sidewalls of the establishment to which the sign is attached.

(I) Wall signs may not project more than 12 inches from the wall to which it is attached.

(J) Wall signs may project over a street right-of-way in those zoning districts where a minimum setback of zero (0) is permitted, provided the extension is over a pedestrian sidewalk and the projection is at least 8 feet above grade.

189.04 Projecting Signs As A Substitute for Wall Signs

- (A) Projecting signs may be substituted for, but not used in conjunction with, the permitted wall mounted signs provided that the aggregate display area is no greater than that permitted for a wall sign.
- (B) Projecting signs shall not project more than 4 feet from the building wall to which it is attached.
- (C) Projecting signs shall not be located above the roofline of the building nor more than 15 feet above the grade of the street.
- (D) Projecting signs which project over any pedestrian way shall be elevated to a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet above the grade of the pedestrian way.
- (E) Projecting signs may project over a street right-of-way in those zoning districts where a minimum setback of zero (0) is permitted, provided the extension is over a pedestrian sidewalk and the vertical clearance is at least 8 feet above grade.

190.00 MARQUEE AND AWNING SIGNS

- (A) Marquee and awning signs shall be allowed for each establishment in non-residential zoning districts subject to the following provisions:
 - (1) One sign located on a marquee or awning shall be affixed flat to the surface and shall not rise in vertical dimension, above the marquee or awning.
 - (2) One sign may extend vertically below a marquee or awning facing a street and must be oriented perpendicular to the street or building frontage, but may not exceed 2 feet by 6 feet, nor may not exceed the depth of the marquee or awning, whichever is less, and must maintain a clearance of at least 8 feet.
 - (3) Awning signs consisting of one line of letters not exceeding twelve inches in height may be placed upon the hanging border of any awning. An identification emblem, insignia, or other feature not exceeding 6 square feet may be placed anywhere on the awning.
 - (4) Marquee and awning signs shall be allowed in addition to any other sign permitted by this Article.
 - (5) Marquees and awnings may project over a street right-of-way in those zoning districts where a minimum setback of zero (0) is permitted, provided the extension is over a pedestrian sidewalk.

(6) The vertical clearance for marquee and awning signs shall be at least 8 feet above grade.

191.00 SPECIAL PURPOSE SIGNS

191.01 Signs Accessory to the Sale of Gasoline

(A) A separate sign advertising the price of gasoline shall be permitted at gasoline service stations. One sign shall be permitted per street frontage located not closer than 5 feet to the abutting street right-of-way. The size shall not exceed 9 square feet per sign face. In the event the sign is attached to the pole mounted sign, then the sign shall be subject to the area provisions for freestanding signs.

(B) Signs which are placed on the top of gasoline pumps in order to provide required information to the public regarding price per gallon, type of fuel and octane rating are permitted, provided that such signs may not exceed 1 and 1/2 square feet per sign face.

191.02 City or Civic Directory Signs

The City may erect or approve and permit to be erected signs, at or near the City limits, or entranceways, for the benefit of visitors, on which may be listed institutional names, churches, points of interest, City name or insignia, and civic organization insignias. These signs may be located in the right-of-way if approved by the City Engineer, Pinellas County, or Florida Department of Transportation, as applicable.

191.03 Home Occupations

A maximum of 1 non-illuminated onsite wall sign not exceeding 1 square foot in area on the principal residential building not more than 2 feet from an entrance shall be permitted.

191.04 Notice Bulletin Boards

One notice bulletin board not over 9 square feet in area is permitted for each principle entrance for arcades, offices, government buildings, and medical, public, charitable or religious institutions. Such sign shall be on premise and is in addition to the allowable sign area.

191.05 Menu Signs

(A) One menu sign for drive-through eating establishments shall be permitted per drive-through service provided the sign is placed in proximity to the drive-through lane and does not exceed an aggregate sign area of 24 square feet per menu sign.

(B) One menu sign for walk up service limited to an aggregate sign area of 9 square feet.

191.06 Cinema Signs

An additional 40 square feet of changeable copy sign area per sign face may be permitted upon the pole or ground mounted sign for multiple occupancy parcels where a cinema or other theatre is located.

191.07 Multiple Complex Directory Signs

Directory signs for the purpose of guiding pedestrians or motorists throughout the site shall be permitted on properties developed with 3 or more buildings containing an overall gross leasable floor area in excess of 50,000 square feet or 200 residential units. The surface area shall not exceed 20 square feet and shall incorporate a map or directions to increase the signs effectiveness. Such signs shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from all property lines.

191.08 Electronic Reader Boards

Electronic Reader Boards may be permitted in addition to the allowable sign area for civic centers and convention centers provided the allowable sign area shall not exceed 16 square feet per sign face. Such sign shall be limited to white or yellow letters so as not to confuse the public with traffic control devices and shall not act as a flashing sign. The message of such sign shall also be limited to advertising public or semipublic events, and activities to take place on site.

191.09 A-Frame Signs

(A) A-frame signs shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) Permitted in commercially zoned districts along the frontage of any street with a posted speed limit of 40 miles per hour or less.
- (2) All such signs shall conform with required visibility triangles, as provided in Section 186.02, Land Development Code.
- (3) One such sign shall be permitted for each business address.
- (4) The maximum width shall be 2 feet.
- (5) The maximum height shall be 4 feet.
- (6) The maximum leg spread shall be 3 feet.
- (7) The sign shall be located directly in front of the business(es) for which it advertises and will provide for at least 44 inches of unobstructed travel area on the sidewalk but not less than the requirement under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other Federal and State statutes mandating certain dimensions for passage on public sidewalks; and shall not otherwise block ramps or access.

- (8) The sign shall be removed at the end of each business day.
- (9) All portable A-frame signs which lawfully existed as of July 15, 1997, which do not conform to subsections (4), (5), (6) herein, shall be removed within 18 months from that date (January 15, 1999).
- (10) For the aesthetic benefit of the City and the maintenance of property values, all portable A-frame signs shall be maintained and kept in good repair.

191.10 City Recreational Baseball Field Signs

Signs affixed to the interior of municipal, enclosed recreational baseball facilities, so long as such signs are located within and face inward toward the enclosed recreation area.

192.00 TEMPORARY SIGNS

192.01 Construction Signs

A temporary sign displaying the name of a construction company, contractor, builder, architect, engineer, or similar message shall be allowed without a permit in accordance with the following restrictions:

- (A) The sign is located on a construction site which has a valid building permit.
- (B) The sign area shall not exceed 32 square feet aggregate per street frontage per site.
- (C) All signs shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from all property lines.
- (D) All signs shall be removed prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

192.02 Special Events

Signs announcing public, charitable, educational, religious, or special events and functions shall be allowed without a permit in accordance with the following restrictions:

- (A) One non-illuminated, temporary, ground or wall sign shall be permitted on the site where the event is to take place.
- (B) The sign shall not exceed 24 square feet in aggregate and 6 feet in height.
- (C) A minimum setback of 10 feet from all property lines is required;
- (D) The sign shall not be erected more than 14 days prior to the event and shall be removed promptly at the event's conclusion;

192.03 Grand Openings or New Business

Temporary signs announcing a grand opening or new business shall be allowed without a permit subject to the following restrictions:

- (A) The sign is on site.
- (B) The sign does not exceed 32 square feet in aggregate area.
- (C) A minimum setback of 10 feet from all property lines is required.
- (D) The sign shall not be erected more than a total of 45 days, whether prior to, or during the grand opening.
- (5) Balloons shall not be permitted.

192.04 On-site Subdivision Construction Signs

One such on-site sign may be permitted without a permit where an active building and development program is underway in accordance with the following restrictions:

- (A) The sign shall be non-illuminated and shall not exceed 32 square feet in aggregate sign area.
- (B) The sign shall be located a minimum of 15 feet from all property lines.
- (C) A valid Building Permit is required.
- (D) The maximum display period shall be 2 years or 75% completion, whichever comes first.

192.05 Temporary Subdivision Directional Signs

Residential subdivisions not having frontage along a thoroughfare street shall be permitted one (1) off-site directional sign, provided:

- (A) The sign shall be freestanding, located on private property, outside of the required visibility triangle and at least 5 feet from property lines;
- (B) The sign shall be non-illuminated and shall not exceed 32 square feet in aggregate sign area;
- (C) The property owner shall provide written authorization for the sign's placement and a Building Permit is required prior to installation;
- (D) The sign shall not be erected until after the first permit for the construction of a model home within the subdivision has been issued;
- (E) The sign shall be removed at the issuance of two-thirds (2/3) of the certificates of occupancy, therein.

192.06 Temporary Noncommercial Signs

One such sign per parcel may be permitted without a permit in accordance with the following restrictions:

- (A) The sign does not exceed 4 square feet in aggregate area.
- (B) The sign shall not be located upon the public right-of-way.

(C) The sign shall not be attached to or displayed upon any shrub, rock formation, tree, utility pole, fire hydrant, light standard, bridge, or another sign or support for another sign.

(D) A list of proposed locations shall be submitted to and approved by the City, and the number of such locations shall not exceed 10 for each person or entity on behalf of whom such signs are placed.

(E) The length of time for such signs shall not exceed 7 consecutive days, and shall not exceed 3 times per year for any one organization.

193.00 BILLBOARD SIGNS TO BE REMOVED AT THE TIME OF SITE IMPROVEMENT

(A) Billboard signs are deemed to constitute a primary use of the site on which they are located and are not authorized under the terms of this Article, and shall be deemed to be non-conforming signs subject to the terms of Section 185.00 of this Article.

(B) Billboard signs, located on sites proposed for development, or redevelopment not located on a federal aid primary highway to an extent which requires site plan approval under this Code, shall be removed at the time of development or redevelopment.

(C) Billboard signs shall comply with the provisions for abandonment established by Section 182.00 of this Article.

194.00 APPEALS

The Board of Adjustment is authorized to grant variances from the strict application of the requirements of this Article, in accordance with the standards and provisions of this Code.

194.01 Authorized Variances

Variances may only be granted from the following restrictions:

(A) The amount of a sign which can be devoted to changeable copy, provided the total allowable sign area is not increased.

(B) The required sign setbacks or location, provided no change to the required visibility triangle is involved.

(C) The required sign height, provided a finding is made that the variance is necessary to clear an obstruction or interference by excessive grades, buildings, bridges, trees, or other related obstacles. However, an existing sign shall not be considered an obstruction.

194.02 Unauthorized Variances

In no event shall variances be granted for the following:

- (A) Variances in any way related to non-conforming, obsolete, or abandoned signs.
- (B) Variances which would permit the use of signs prohibited by this Article.
- (C) Variances which purport to modify any definition of this Article.
- (D) Variances which would increase the number of allowable signs or change the permitted types of signs.
- (E) Variances for sign location which would require the removal of trees.
- (F) Variances which increase the allowable sign area.

(Parts 195.00 through 204.00 reserved)