

1165.05 DEFINITIONS.

- (a) "Awning signs" means an awning sign is a sign which is attached to or made a part of a structure covered with vinyl or cloth that is attached to a building and shelters a window or door or other opening to a building. Such signs may or may not be illuminated.
- (b) "Banner, for profit" means a nonrigid cloth, plastic or canvas sign typically related to a special event or promotion under the sponsorship of a for profit establishment or business and hung on the outside of the building or establishment.
- (c) "Banner, nonprofit" means a nonrigid cloth, plastic or canvas sign typically related to a special event or promotion under the sponsorship of a public, private nonprofit, or religious organization that is educational, cultural or recreational in its functions and typically erected across public rights-of-way.
- (d) "Bench signs" means a sign typically placed on backrests of benches that are typically placed at bus stops and street corners.
- (e) "Billboard" means a sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment, conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the lot or premises on which the sign is located.
- (f) "Building directory sign" means an exterior building mounted sign intended to provide the identity or name, whether through logo, type, graphics or other symbols, for two or more uses within one building.
- (g) "Community activity sign" means a sign announcing community activities that are open to the general public which are sponsored by public, private nonprofit, and religious organizations that are educational, cultural or recreational in their functions.
- (h) "Comprehensive on-site graphics" means a comprehensive set of graphic design regulations that control all exterior signage on the premises of a shopping center or enclosed shopping mall.
- (i) "Contractor's sign" means a temporary sign erected on the premises on which construction is taking place, during the period of such construction, indicating such things as the names of the architects, engineers, landscape architects, contractors or similar artisans, and the owners, financial supporters, sponsors, and similar individuals or firms having a role or interest with respect to the structure or project.

(j) "Directional sign" means a sign which exhibits the main direction of travel at the general location of the sign and helps locate an individual toward a specific area such as an entrance or exit.

(k) "Display surface" or "display area" means the surface or area made available on the sign structure for the purpose of displaying the advertising message, including any framing, trim or molding, but not including the supporting structure.

(l) "Festoons" means a string of ribbons, tinsel, small flags, or pinwheels.

(m) "Flashing sign" means any directly or indirectly illuminated sign which exhibits changing natural or artificial light or color effects by any means whatsoever.

(n) "Ground sign" means any type of sign which is supported from the ground by one or more steel poles, wood supports, masonry decorative pillars, walls, or other devices which are imbedded or placed in or upon the ground or a base thereon.

(o) "Holiday sign" means all decorations and displays clearly in association with national, local or religious holidays.

(p) "Interior sign" means all signs inside buildings, except window signs. "Interior signs" shall not be controlled by this chapter.

(q) "Low profile ground mounted sign" means an on-premises free-standing sign placed upon or supported by the ground, including a constructed base, independent of any structure and that is not supported by or suspended from posts, pillars, columns, or other structures.

(r) "Miscellaneous signs" includes pennants, cloth, paper, and all types of signs not covered by this chapter and shall also include display boards or posters which may be designated as ground or wall signs having attached thereto or pasted thereon, paper or other material with letters or other illustrations painted or printed thereon.

(s) "Moving sign" means any sign or part of a sign which changes physical position by any movement or rotation or which gives the visual impression of such movement or rotation.

(t) "Nonconforming sign" means a sign that does not conform to the regulations and standards of Chapter 1165 on the effective date of this chapter, as amended.

(u) "Off-premise sign" means a sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the lot or premises on which the sign is located.

(v) "On-premises wall signs" means in place signs pertaining to and advertising exclusively the use established, or goods sold, or services rendered on the premises that are located in commercial and industrial districts and are 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 twelve inches from such building or structure.

(w) "Personal property sign" means a sign identifying personal property for sale, rent, lease, or other such term.

(x) "Political sign" means a sign that displays a political message relative to a candidacy, question or issue that is to be submitted to the voters.

(y) "Portable sign" means any sign that is designed to be transported, including but not limited to the following: with wheels removed; with chassis or support constructed without wheels; designed to be transported by trailer, vehicle, or wheels; converted to an a- or t-frame sign; attached temporarily or permanently to the ground, structure, or other signs; menu and sandwich board signs; with or without changeable letters, illuminated or nonilluminated.

(z) "Projecting sign" means a sign that is wholly or partly dependent upon a building for support and which projects more than twelve inches from such building.

(aa) "Proprietor identification sign" means a sign that identifies the name of the proprietor of a business or a commercial operation, and is located on or over a window or door.

(bb) "Reader board" means a sign or portion of a sign that permits a nonelectronic, nonmoving variable message that utilizes the typical temporary lettering associated with reader boards. Gas pricing signs shall not be considered as reader boards.

(cc) "Real estate sign" means a sign directly related to a real estate transaction that displays one of the following messages: "for rent", "for lease", "for sale", "open house" and "sold".

(dd) "Replacement faces" means the replacement of a sign insert which does not change the size or shape of the structural elements of a sign. Typically, it is the replacement of only the face of the sign, whatever material the sign is made of.

(ee) "Roof sign" means a sign that is mounted on the roof of a building or which is wholly dependent upon a building for support and which projects above the point of a building for support and eave line of a building with a gambrel, gable or hip roof or the deck line of a building with a mansard roof.

(ff) "Roof line" means the bottom-most portion of a roof that abuts or is adjacent to the supporting exterior walls of a building.

(gg) "Sign" means any display, figure, painting, drawing, placard, poster or other device visible by a person of normal acuity from or on a public right-of-way, which is designed, intended or used to convey a message, inform or direct attention to a person, institution, organization, activity, place, object or product.

(hh) **"STAB SIGN" MEANS A TEMPORARY SIGN
CONSTRUCTED OF LIGHT MATERIAL AND DESIGNED TO
ATTRACT ATTENTION.**

(hhII) "Streamer" means a ribbon-shaped or cord-like rope which may have pennants and/or banners attached which is stretched or hung between two or more supporters.

(iiJJ) "Street frontage" means the total width of the side of a building, or store front which faces the principal improved public right-of-way, excluding any extension of a building wall beyond the building itself.

(jjKK) "Subdivision and multi-family sign, permanent" means an on-premises ground-mounted sign that graphically identifies a subdivision and/or multi-family development.

(kkLL) "Subdivision or tract of land sign, temporary" means a sign identifying a residential subdivision or other development that is under construction.

(HMM) "Tenant panel sign" means a single sign that identifies the tenants of a parcel on which such sign is located.

(mmNN) "Window display" means any object, goods, wares, products, merchandise, etc., placed in a window which can be viewed from a public right of way but not to include a window sign.

(nnOO) "Window sign" means a sign directly attached to the window of a building, or erected on the inside of the building and is within twelve inches of the glass.

(Ord. 3-96. Passed 6-4-96.)

1165.07 MODIFIED STANDARDS.

Signs permitted under this section will be monitored by the Building Inspector or Zoning Administrator and enforcement action shall be taken where the requirements of this section are not met.

The provisions of this chapter, except as to safety requirements, lighting and moving parts, shall not apply to the signs listed in this section except where specific requirements are noted. Any sign placed in the public right of way shall be removed by the Service Department, **ZONING DIVISION OR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** and stored at the Service Department complex for a minimum of seventy-two hours and shall thereafter be destroyed.

- (a) Abandoned Signs. Abandoned signs are signs which remain after the owner or user of the sign is no longer located at the location of the sign. When an owner, leasor, or user of a sign permanently leaves the premises on which the sign is located, that sign is then an abandoned sign. Abandoned signs shall be removed by the owner, leasor, or user, or replaced with a blank face in order to protect any structural or electrical components of the sign.

- (b) Banner.

- (1) For profit. Permits are required in order to display banners in the City of Gahanna. These permits are issued by the Zoning Officer. Banner permits are issued in increments of ten-day periods. Each permit for a ten day period has a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). Only one, one sided banner can be displayed by a business at any given time. **BANNERS MAY BE DISPLAYED ONLY ON THE PERMIT HOLDER'S BUILDING FAÇADE AT THE ADDRESS OF THE PERMIT.** Banners cannot be illuminated, nor can they exceed forty square feet.

In a given calendar year, a business is permitted to have twelve banner permits for a total of no more than 120 days. The following is a table showing allowable display periods in a given calendar year:

<u>Display Time</u>	<u>Time Period of No Display after Permit</u>
1 Period, (10 Days)	0 Days
2 Periods, (20 Days)	20 Days
3 Periods, (30 Days)	30 Days

Four or more consecutive periods are not permitted. Banners can not be displayed more than 30 consecutive days.

Submission requirements for a permit include: the reason for the request, the size of the banner, location of the banner on the property, a sketch of the text on the banner, requested time period for display, materials used, and type of anchoring. Banners must be removed by the date specified on the permit application or face penalty as set forth in Section 1165.99.

When a banner is displayed, it must have the permit sticker placed in the bottom right hand corner of the banner. If a sticker is not on the banner, the banner is considered nonpermitted and penalties as stated in Section 1165.99 may be imposed.

(2) ~~Non-profit. Banners across public rights-of-way may be displayed by public, private nonprofit, and religious organizations that are educational, charitable, cultural or recreational in their functions, for a period of time not to exceed ten days prior to the event and removed no later than two days after such event. Said banners shall be a maximum size of three feet by twenty feet and are attached at each corner, point and/or end so as to prevent movement. Requirements for erection of banners can be obtained from the Director of Public Service. No permit fees are required but permits must be obtained from the Director of Public Service. Banners attached to public street light poles may be displayed by the City of Gahanna.~~

(c) Commercial "Coming Soon" Signs. "Coming soon" signs announce the development of new commercial properties. One "coming soon" sign may be displayed on the property of the proposed business or at such other location as may be approved by Planning Commission and removed when permanent signs are installed. Each temporary sign shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in total area, shall not exceed eight feet in height, and no part of any such sign shall be closer to any public right-of-way than fifteen feet, nor closer to any other property line than the applicable building setback line, if the adjoining property is in a residential district.

A permit is required for all commercial "coming soon" signs. Permits are issued by the Zoning Administrator, and a permit fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) is required. Submission requirements for permits include the reason for request, size of temporary sign, location on the property, a drawing of the text on the sign, requested time for display, materials used and type of anchoring. All signs must be removed by the date specified on the permit application, or one year, whichever is sooner, or face penalty as set forth in Section 1165.99.

(d) Commercial Real Estate Signs. Real estate signs may be displayed subject to the following: one sign per street frontage; display area not to exceed thirty-two square feet; height not to exceed eight feet or line of sight from travelled roadway; such signs shall not be lighted; "For Rent", "For Lease", "For Sale" or other such similar worded signs shall be removed five days following the execution of the rental, leasing, or sales contract; signs indicating the property has been sold shall not be displayed for more than five days after the closing of the contract; "Open House" signs or directional open house off-premise signs may not be displayed for more than a single forty-eight hour period; real estate directional signs, other than open house directional signs, are prohibited unless located on the subject parcel. Real estate signs shall not be placed on public rights-of-way. In no instance shall a commercial real estate sign remain on a property for more than one year, whether the property has sold or not.

(e) Community Activity Signs. Public, private nonprofit and religious organizations, that are educational, charitable, cultural or recreational in their functions, may display signs announcing community activities that are open to the general public. Signs shall not exceed eighteen square feet. Signs shall not be placed in the public right of way. Such signs shall not be posted more than fourteen days prior to such activities and must be removed within forty-eight hours after activities are completed as

advertised. No permit fees are required, but permits must be obtained from the Zoning Administrator and erection standards met as per this chapter.

- (f) Contractors' Signs. One sign announcing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of contractors, subcontractors and material-men participating in the construction or remodeling of residential structures shall be permitted during the actual construction period and shall be removed following completion of construction period providing that said signs: are only located on the parcel of land being improved, shall not exceed sixteen square feet in total display surface, shall not exceed six feet in height above grade, and shall set back fifteen feet from the public right-of-way, nor closer to any other property line than the applicable building setback line, if the adjoining property is in a residential district. One sign shall be permitted per road frontage.
- (g) Garage or Yard Sale Signs. One noncommercial garage or yard sale sign, not to exceed four square feet, shall be allowed on premises for a period of time not to exceed seventy-two hours. Four off-premises directional signs shall be permitted for a single seventy-two hour period, and shall not be placed in the public right-of-way, on street signs or utility poles.
- (h) Holiday Signs. All decorations and displays clearly in association with national, local or religious holidays shall be permitted, provided that such displays are in conformity with other sections of the chapter and are not on display exceeding forty-five consecutive days in any one calendar year.
- (i) Incidental Signs. Signs such as: "Open", "Closed" signs displaying the operation hours, credit card signs, or any other appropriate wording shall not require a permit.
- (j) Painted Signs. A sign painted directly on an exterior wall of a building is considered to be a permanent sign. Permanent painted signs shall be required to have a certificate of appropriateness approved by the Planning Commission, and follow all requirements as stipulated in this section. A sign painted directly on the windows of a building is considered to be a temporary sign and must comply with Section 1165.07(q).
- (k) Political Signs.
 - (1) Political signs placed on private property. Political signs may be displayed with permission of the property owner subject to the following: display area shall not exceed sixteen square feet per side and height shall not exceed six feet; such signs shall not be illuminated; such signs may be displayed only during a period of time beginning the first day of the month preceding the month of the election at which such candidacy, question or issue is to be submitted to the voters, and ending on the fifth day following such election; and name and address of person responsible for placement and removal shall be clearly shown on such signs. Properly licensed billboards shall be an exception to the square foot and illumination requirements for political advertising.

Political signs placed on private property that do not meet these restrictions shall cause the Building Inspector or Zoning Administrator to notify, in writing or by phone, the property owner, candidate or authorized agent thereof, to alter or remove such signs within forty-eight hours following initial contact. Any such political signs not in compliance with these requirements shall be removed by the Service Department and stored at the Service Department Complex for a minimum of seventy-two hours and shall thereafter be destroyed.

- (2) Political signs in the public right of way. No political sign shall be placed in the public right of way. Any political sign placed in the public right of way shall be removed by the Service Department and stored at the Service Department for a minimum of seventy-two hours and shall thereafter be destroyed.
- (l) Proprietor Identification Signs. One sign not to exceed three square feet of display surface on or over a window or door of a store or business establishment, announcing the name of the proprietor and/or any information needed for/by emergency services.
- (m) Reader Boards. Reader boards shall be permitted on ground or projecting signs only. Reader boards shall comprise no more than one-third of the total area of the sign per side, shall not exceed eighteen feet in height above grade, and shall be an integral part of the ground sign. Reader boards shall not exceed five lines of text, with changeable lettering not to exceed eight inches in height. Only one reader board shall be allowed per establishment.
- (n) Replacement Faces. The refacing/replacing of the sign insert does not require a permit if, and only if, the physical size, structure, and placement of the sign is not moved or changed. The changes of content, wording, and/or graphics does require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Planning Commission for the new replacement face.
- (o) Residential Real Estate Signs. Real estate signs may be displayed subject to the following: one sign per street frontage; aggregate display area not to exceed eight square feet and not to exceed four feet in height, except franchise specific signs of cross arm design shall not exceed six feet; such signs shall not be lighted;
“For Rent” or “For Lease” signs shall be removed ten days following execution of a rental or lease contract; “For Sale” signs shall be removed ten days following execution of a sales contract or expiration of the listing contract; signs indicating a property has been “Sold” shall not be displayed for more than ten days after the closing of a contract; “Open House” signs or directional open house off-premises signs may not be displayed for more than a single forty-eight hour period; real estate directional signs, other than open house directional signs, are prohibited unless located on the subject parcel.
- (p) Subdivisions, Tracts of Land, or Non-business Temporary Signs. Tracts of land or subdivisions with six or more dwelling units may display one temporary sign at each entrance to the subdivision or tract, or at such other location as may be approved by the Planning Commission. Each temporary sign shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in total area, shall not exceed eight feet in height, and no part of any such sign shall be closer to any public right-of-way than fifteen feet, nor closer to any other property line than the applicable building setback line, if the adjoining property is in a residential district. These signs shall not remain erected in any subdivision or tract after ninety (90%) percent of all construction in the subdivision or tract is completed or more than fifty (50%) percent of the space is rented, sold or leased.

A permit is required for all subdivision, tracts of land, or nonbusiness temporary signs. Permits are issued by the Zoning Administrator, and a permit fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) is required. Submission requirements for temporary sign permits include the reason for request, size of temporary sign, location on the property, a drawing of the text on the sign, requested time for display, materials used and type of anchoring. Temporary signs must be removed by the date specified on the permit application, or face penalty as set forth in Section 1165.99.

(q)

Window Signs.

(1) Standards for placement.

- A. Paper or other signs of similar material may be affixed or otherwise attached to or displayed within glass display windows or doors of commercial establishments and stores, without the requirements of a permit being obtained therefor; provided, however, that such signs shall be permitted within or upon any display window, and provided further that the aggregate area of all such signs shall not cover more than fifty percent (50%) of the aggregate window area or exceed seventy-five square feet per store or business.
- B. Credit card (monetary, institutional, etc.) signs, decals, or emblems shall be additionally allowed but limited to twenty-four square inches or an aggregate of ninety-six square inches per business premise.
- C. Merchandise may be displayed within individual store display windows. (Ord. 990148. Passed 4-5-99.)

1165.08 PROHIBITIONS.

- (a) The following are prohibited within the City of Gahanna:
- (1) Flashing, moving, rotating, intermittently lighted signs or other mechanical devices not to include barber poles within sixty feet of the right of way.
 - (2) Portable signs as defined in Section 1165.05.
 - (3) Roof signs.
 - (4) Billboards and all other off-premises signs not provided for under Section 1165.07.
 - (5) All signs located in residential districts, except those clearly indicated as exempted in residential areas only.
 - (6) Electronic variable message signs and portions of signs except time and temperature indicators which do not use incandescent displays.
 - (7) Bench signs.
 - (8) All signs located within the public right-of-way, on utility poles and street signs, and required side yard setbacks.
 - (9) No sign or banner shall contain or consist of pennants, ribbons, streamers, whirligigs or balloons. (Ord. 3-96. Passed 6-4-96.
 - (10) **STAB SIGNS, EXCLUDING POLITICAL SIGNS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1165.05.**

(b) No sign shall be mounted within any public right-of-way except by the government agencies having jurisdiction within such right-of-way. (Ord. 98-91. Passed 8-20-91.)