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# MASTER SIGN PLAN APPLICATION SUMMARY



File Number Property Address

Parcel ID
Zoning District
Project/Business Name
Applicant

**Description of the Request** 

MSP-25-1

0000 Tech Center/Hamilton Gahanna, ohio 43230 025-014183-00

GC - General Commercial The Crescent Retail

Carter Bean carter@beanarchitects.com

Master sign plan for proposed mixed-use, one-story retail /

restaurant buildings

# The Crescent Retail Development

SSW SLAT Crescent Place LLC MASTER SIGN PLAN March 27, 2025 Revised April 11, 2025

The following criteria have been generated to govern as a Master Sign Plan (MSP) for The Crescent Retail development in Gahanna, Ohio. These guidelines will allow the aggregate sign area to exceed the limits of Section 1111.05 of the City of Gahanna Zoning Ordinance, while also providing limitations resulting in a consistent and tasteful overall presentation.

For clarity, the entirety of Section 1111.05 of the City of Gahanna Zoning Ordinance has been included herein. *Those areas shown to be italicized are consistent with said Ordinance.* Those areas shown in bold have been modified specific to this Master Sign Plan text, as related to The Crescent Retail Development.

#### 1111.05 GENERAL SIGN STANDARDS

- (a) <u>Signs that are Exempt from Regulations</u>
  - (1) These sign regulations shall not regulate: the copy and message of signs; official traffic signs, or signs mounted in the public right-of-way; a public art mural designated by the City; flags; scoreboards on athletic fields; gravestones; the display of street numbers; or any display or construction not defined herein as a sign.
  - (2) A menu board sign at a drive-thru establishment shall not be considered a sign, provided that it meets the requirements of Section 1109.01(n).
  - (3) A sign that is not clearly visible from outside of the property and is used to communicate information of any kind to a person only within the boundaries of the lot shall not be considered a sign for the purposes of this Chapter and shall be exempt from these sign regulations.
- (b) <u>Determining Sign Area.</u> The maximum permitted sign area shall apply to the entire area enclosing the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem or figure. Sign area shall consider the entire face of a sign including the advertising surface and any framing, trim or molding, but not including the supporting structure.
  - (1) Any frame, material, or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate a sign from the background against which it is placed shall count toward the maximum permitted sign area. For example, if a wall sign is painted with background colors and/or graphics integral to the overall graphic scheme of a sign, the entire wall shall be considered a sign and its measurement computed as such. If a sign is painted on a wall, and the sign can be logically separated and measured separately from the background graphics, the background graphic scheme shall not be computed in the sign area.
  - (2) Necessary supports or uprights on which a sign is placed are excluded from the computation of sign area.

- (3) The permitted actual size of a sign shall apply to each facing of a sign structure; however, where signs are double-faced, placed back-to-back, or in a "V-type" construction when the "V" is at a 45-degree angle or less, only one (1) side of the sign shall be counted. Back-to-back signs must be enclosed within the same cabinet or affixed to the same pole and not separated by more than 18 inches to qualify under this section.
- (4) The overall height of a freestanding sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at average grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Average grade shall be construed to be the lower of:
  - A. Existing grade prior to construction; or,
  - B. The newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filing, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of increasing the height of the sign.
- (c) <u>Aggregate Sign Area.</u> The maximum aggregate sign area, the combined total area of all permitted signs for this development shall be determined by the following.
  - (1) Tenant spaces B, C, D, G and H, regardless of lease area, shall be allowed two (2) building-mounted wall signs measuring 3'-8" tall X 11'-0" long (41 s.f.) each. One sign shall be located on the east side of the respective building, the other on the west. Therefore, the total aggregate area of building-mounted signage for tenant spaces B, C, D, G and H shall be 82 s.f. each.
  - (2) Tenant spaces A and H, regardless of lease area, shall be allowed the aforementioned two (2) building-mounted wall signs, plus a third. These additional signs shall also measure 3'-8" tall X 11'-0" long (41 s.f.). The additional sign for Tenant A shall be located on the south side of the respective building, while the additional sign for Tenant H shall be located on the north side of the respective building. Therefore, the total aggregate area of building-mounted signage for tenant spaces A and H shall be 123 s.f. each.
  - (3) Tenant spaces E and F, regardless of lease area, shall be allowed two (2) building-mounted wall signs. Their east-facing sign shall measure 3'-8" tall X 11'-0" long (41 s.f.) each, which is consistent with all other wall signs described herein. However, their west-facing sign shall measure 3'-8" tall X 13'-4" long (49 s.f.) each. The increase in size for these particular west-facing signs is relative to their proportional relationship to a more prominent architectural element on the buildings. Therefore, the total aggregate area of building-mounted signage for tenant spaces E and F shall be 90 s.f. each.
  - (4) While the aforementioned sign measurements / areas described herein assume the implementation of a development-standard wall sign, creative deviations at tenant spaces A, E, F and H (endcap tenants) may be considered on a case-by-case basis in the form of 'place-making' blade signs. Any such alternate proposal is limited to the substitution of one (1) allowable sign and shall be equal in area. For example, tenant space E may substitute their allowable 49 s.f. wall sign with a 49 s.f. blade sign. Furthermore, any such alternate sign type proposal must first be approved by the Landlord, then administratively approved by City Staff.
  - (5) A tenant may not combine building-mounted sign areas and redistribute their allowable aggregate area in an attempt to increase any one sign.

- (6) If a tenant occupies multiple lease areas, their allowable signage shall be limited to that of one lease area. For example, if a tenant occupies spaces C and D, their total sign area is limited to that of space C OR D, not a combination of both.
- (7) Directional signs, freestanding signs and window signs shall be permitted in addition to the area limitations for building-mounted signs described above, as follows:
  - (i) Tenant spaces A and H, which include drive-thru facilities, are allowed free-standing, ground-mounted directional signs. Landlord must approve quantity and locations on a tenant-by-tenant basis. The maximum allowable area for each directional sign is 4 s.f.
  - (ii) Two freestanding, multi-tenant monument signs area allowed as part of this development. The maximum allowable area for each freestanding sign is 50 s.f.
  - (iii) Each tenant shall be allowed two (2) window signs. The maximum allowable area for each window sign is 20% of the associated window area.

### (d) Awning or Canopy Sign

(1) Awning and canopy signs shall be prohibited at this development.

#### (e) Directional Sign

- (1) Directional signs shall be allowed adjacent to internal drive aisles and parking fields. Landlord must approve quantity and locations on a tenant-by-tenant basis.
- (2) Directional signs shall not be located in a manor that will obscure the visibility of oncoming traffic or pedestrians.
- (3) Directional signs shall not exceed 48" in height.

#### (f) Freestanding Sign

- (1) One freestanding monument sign may be installed along the South Hamilton Road frontage, while the other may be installed along the internal access road frontage.
- (2) No freestanding sign may be within ten (10) feet of any other freestanding sign.
- (3) Freestanding signs shall be set at grade and placed on a 24" tall masonry base using brick veneer to match buildings.
- (4) The total height of freestanding monument signs, inclusive of masonry base, shall not exceed 8'-0".
- (5) The width of freestanding monument sign cabinets shall not exceed 8'-0". Masonry base shall extend 4" past each face of the cabinet above.

- **(6)** A landscaped area, required as follows, shall be provided and centered around the base of all freestanding signs.
  - A. The landscaped area shall be comprised of a variety of natural materials, such as shrubs, hedges, herbs, trees, earth mounds, flowers, ground cover, and other plants. Plant material should be chosen to maintain twelve months of foliage.
  - B. The landscaped area must be at least 50 square feet in total area.
  - C. Ground cover should be limited to 50 percent of the total landscaped area.

### (g) Projecting and Blade Sign

- (1) The minimum clearance shall be eight (8) feet to the bottom of a projecting sign.
- (2) Projecting signs shall not project more than four (4) feet from the surface of the building.
- (3) Projecting signs shall not extend above the adjacent building parapet.
- (4) Projecting signs must be designed proportionately with the building element on which it is to be mounted.
- (5) Creativity in the design of projecting blade signs is encouraged to serve as a 'place making' statement.
- (6) Projecting blade signs may be internally, externally, halo, neon-illuminated or any combination thereof.
- (7) Projecting signs will only be approved if deemed beneficial to the overall aesthetic of the development.

### (h) Wall Sign

- (1) All tenants shall utilize the same development-standard sign panel / cabinet design.
  - A. Sign panel thickness shall be 2-1/2". Sign panel to be fabricated in prefinished metal with 2" border and square edge. Panel shall be utilized as a wireway for additionally applied letters and graphics.
  - B. All sign panels shall be prefinished to match Sherwin Williams SW7019 'Gauntlet Gray'.
- (2) Primary messaging in the form of letters, logos and graphics shall be individually-cut channels with 1" standoffs applied to the development standard cabinet. Furthermore, all messaging must be held away from the edge of the cabinet by 4".
- (3) Primary messaging shall be internally and/or halo-illuminated.
- (4) Secondary messaging, such as tag lines, may be in the form of routed ½" thick metal or PVC.

(5) The City may designate a wall sign as a public art mural, which is exempt from these sign regulations. A public art mural is any mosaic, painting, or graphic art, or combination thereof, which is professionally applied to a building generally for the purposes of decoration or artistic expression and which does not contain any brand name, product name, letters of the alphabet spelling or abbreviating the name of any product, company, profession, or business, or any logo, trademark, trade name, or other commercial message.

### (i) Window Sign

(1) The area of a window shall include the area of all contiguous transparent panes or panels, including those separated by mullions, grilles, seams and other non-structural elements, and bound by the window casing or other non-transparent elements on the building's façade.

### (j) Electronic Message Center

- (1) An electronic message center shall be prohibited at this development.
- (k)

)	<u>prohibited Signs.</u> In addition to those listed above, the following signs are prohibited in the levelopment.	his
	1) Abandoned signs;	
	2) Bench signs;	
	3) Flashing signs;	
	4) Hazardous signs;	
	5) Inflatable, lighter-than-air, or kite-type materials containing commercial messages;	
	6) Merchandise, equipment, products, trailers, or other items not themselves for sale and placed padvertising purposes; this prohibition is not intended to prohibit any form of vehicular signa used in the normal day-to-day operations of a business, such as a sign attached to a bus or letter on a motor vehicle, unless the primary purpose of such vehicle is for advertising;	ge
	7) Portable signs;	

- (8) Roof signs;
- (9) Street banners;
- (10)Pole signs;
- (11)Signs constructed of non-weatherproof materials such as cardboard, posterboard, or other similar material as determined by the City's Designee;
- (12) Signs within the sight triangle of an intersection;

(13)Signs within the public right-of-way located on utility or street light poles, utility boxes, or street signs, unless granted permission by the right-of-way authority;

(14) Signs resembling traffic signs or traffic control devices on a public street or road;

(15) Signs which obstruct ingress or egress of a property; and,

(16)Signs with reflective materials, except for those required by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

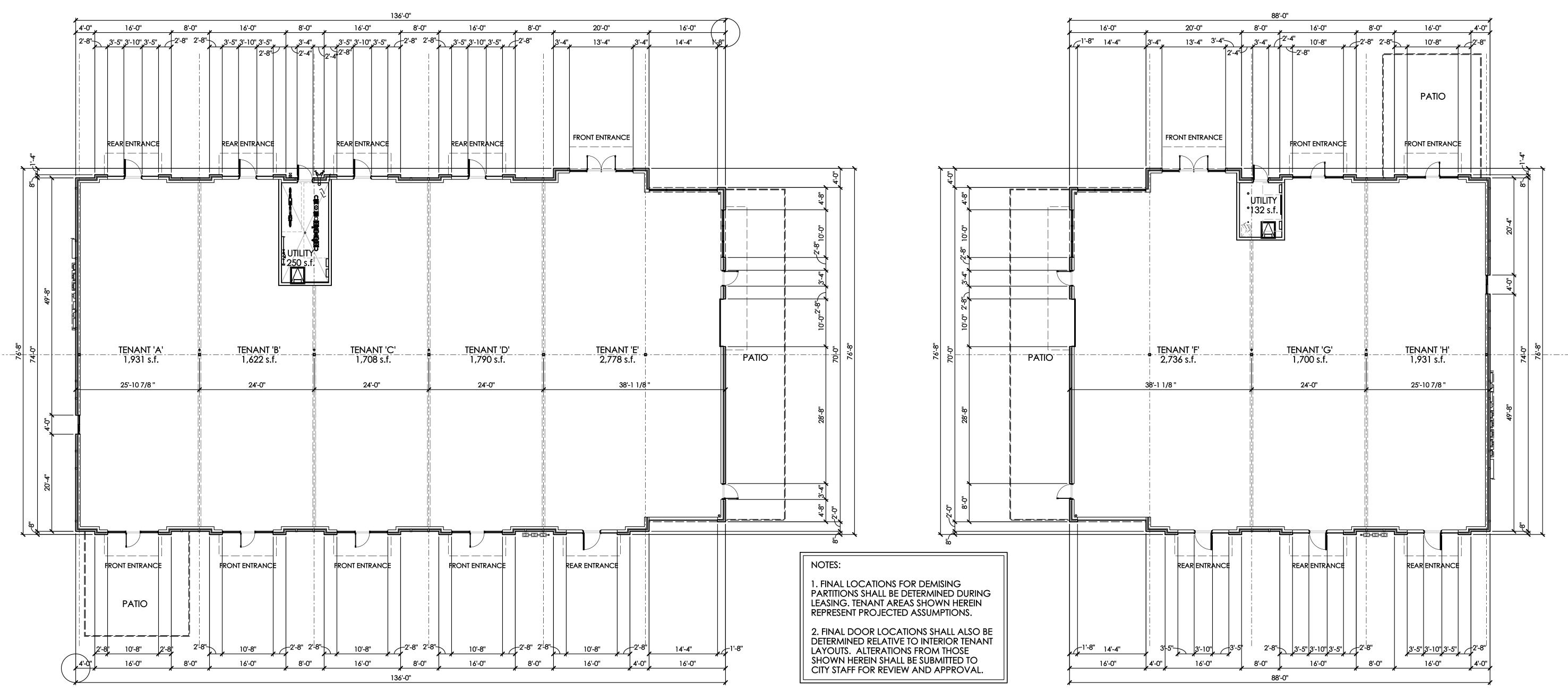
### **General Landlord Notes:**

- 1. The cost of fabrication, permitting and installation of any sign shall be borne by the Tenant.
- Tenant shall not erect or install any signs, advertising media or make changes to the Premises
  which can be seen from the outside of the Premises without Landlord's prior written consent.
  Tenant must obtain permits and pay fees to the Governmental Agencies having jurisdiction over
  the sign design and installation.
- 3. The location, character, design, color, layout, of the Tenant Sign shall be subject to the approval of the Landlord. Proper consideration will be given to logo or trademark signs used by occupants who have similar operations elsewhere.
- 4. Any variation from approved standards must be submitted to Landlord and City for approval.
- 5. Tenant will not be permitted to indicate specific merchandise; specific services rendered or indicate any advertising slogans, unless specifically approved in writing by the Landlord.
- 6. Signs shall be fabricated and installed by a licensed sign contractor, according to the requirements of local, state and national codes.
- 7. Signs are to be continuously illuminated during opening hours, or as otherwise defined by the City, Landlord and as required by the Lease.
- 8. All attachment devices, wiring, clips, transformers, lamps, tubes, bulbs, lighting sources, manufacturer's labels or plates, and other mechanisms required for signage shall be concealed from public view.
- 9. If any sign standards described herein are found invalid under local sign and/or zoning ordinances, regulations, or laws, the Landlord reserves the right to modify these standards to comply with such local ordinances, regulations, laws or restrictions of record with reasonable approval. In no event shall the invalidity of any (1) sign standard be deemed to invalidate all sign standards described herein.
- 10. The Landlord is responsible for providing address signage on each storefront to identify the spaces. The following criteria will be met:

- a. Each Tenant address signage shall be similar to one another.
- b. Address signage is required to be installed near or on the Tenant's front and rear doors. Only one door on each building face is required to display the tenant's address.
- c. The font style is to be **ARIAL BOLD**. Numbers are to be 6" tall.
- d. Numbers are to be white in color.
- 11. Any sign applications, permits, fees and work related thereto shall be the responsibility of, and at the expense of Tenant and/or Tenant's signage contractor. All fabrication costs associated with Tenant signage are the sole responsibility of the Tenant.
- 12. Sign manufacturer's shop drawings showing sign construction and installation, including mounting devices, shall be submitted to the Landlord for approval by both the Landlord prior to sign fabrication. Drawings must also include the name of the center and the address of the space.
  - a. All signage design must be submitted to and approved by the Landlord prior to submission to The City of Gahanna for permits.
  - b. Tenants are required to submit complete fabrication drawings to Landlord, in electronic PDF format, for approval prior to fabrication and installation. Complete submittals shall include the following:
    - i.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1' (min) elevation
    - ii.  $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' (min) storefront elevation with signage, identifying colors of each sign element
    - iii. 1'' = 1' (min) sections showing installation, power and transformer location
    - iv. 1'' = 1' (min) section through sign letters
    - v. Color rendering or elevation
    - vi. Photos of similar signage
    - vii. Drawings showing attachment to building shall be signed and sealed by State of Ohio licensed structural engineer if the Authority Having Jurisdiction requires as part of the sign permit application process.
  - c. The attachment of all projecting signs shall be analyzed and or designed by a State of Ohio licensed Structural Engineer. Attachment details for such signs must be signed & sealed by engineer for submission to Landlord, regardless of local jurisdictional requirements.
  - d. Any resubmission of signage shall be completed to include all original submission. Partial revised submissions will not be accepted.

- 13. Tenant's signage, whether installed by Landlord, Tenant or Tenant's sign contractor, must be paid for by Tenant before the Tenant may open for business in its Premises.
- 14. All signs must be attached using non-corrosive hardware.
- 15. All penetrations, whether structural or electrical, must be sufficiently sealed to prevent the infiltration of water. If the Property is damaged as a result of insufficient sealing, all repair and restoration costs shall be paid by Tenant and/or their Vendor.
- 16. If a sign is removed for any reason, it shall be the Tenant's responsibility to repair / restore the building façade to its pre-sign-installation condition.
- 17. Tenant shall be responsible for maintenance of sign and lighting, in a first class and safe manor, at Tenant's expense.
- 18. These sign standards are subject to change without prior notification by Landlord, to Tenant. Any modifications to these standards which require approval by the City of Gahanna shall be formally sought by Landlord.

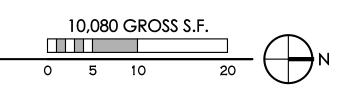
HAMILTON ROAD SIDE (WEST)



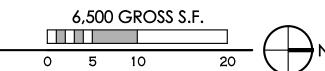
LOOP ROAD SIDE (EAST)

BUILDING A - FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"









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I HE CRESCENT RETAIL

XXXX TECH CENTER DRIVE
GAHANNA, OHIO 43230
CANINI & ASSOCIATES LTD
P.O. BOX 887, NEW ALBANY, OHIO 43054

DRAWING STATUS

STATUS

DATE

PRELIMINARY STAFF REV.

JAN. 8, 2025

FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

MAR. 13, 2025

DRAWING TITLE

DRAWING NUMBER

BEAN #00000.00

**FLOOR PLANS** 

A-1.1

# BUILDING 'A' ELEVATIONS - SIGNAGE



BUILDING 'A' SOUTH ELEVATION -

3 SIGNAGE 1/8" = 1'-0"



BUILDING 'A' WEST ELEVATION -

2 SIGNAGE 1/8" = 1'-0"



BUILDING 'A' EAST ELEVATION

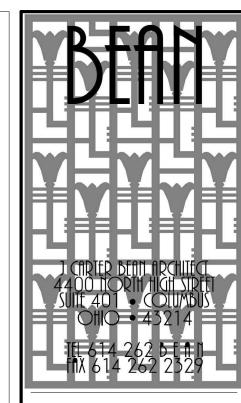
1 SIGNAGE 1/8" = 1'-0"

# SIGNAGE NOTES

1. PLEASE REFER TO MASTER SIGN PLAN TEXT FOR ALL SIGNAGE

2. IF AN INDIVIDUAL TENANT CHOOSES TO DEVIATE FROM THESE STANDARDS, THEY SHALL OBTAIN ADDITIONAL APPROVAL FROM THE CITY OF GAHANNA PLANNING COMMISSION.

3. ONCE REVIEWED BY THE DEVELOPER,. ALL SIGNAGE SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA ON A TENANT-BY-TENANT BASIS FOR SIGN PERMIT.



THE CRESCENT RETAIL

XXXX TECH CENTER DRIVE

GAHANNA OHIO 43230

o. Date Descriptio

04.01.25 FINAL DEVELOPMENT

DRAWING TITLE
EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS SIGNAGE

DRAWING NUMBER

A-1.5

# BUILDING 'B' ELEVATIONS - SIGNAGE



# BUILDING 'B' NORTH ELEVATION SIGNAGE 1/8" = 1'-0"



# BUILDING 'B' WEST ELEVATION SIGNAGE 1/8" = 1'-0"

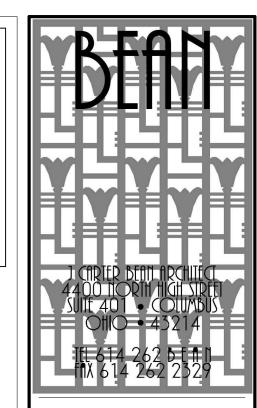


SIGNAGE NOTES

1. PLEASE REFER TO MASTER SIGN PLAN TEXT FOR ALL SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS.

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THE CRESCENT RETAIL
XXXX TECH CENTER DRIVE
GAHANNA, OHIO 43230

No. Date Description

04.01.25 FINAL DEVELOPMENT

DRAWING TITLE
EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS SIGNAGE

DRAWING NUMBER

A-1.6



# PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

# Project Summary – Crescent Retail Master Sign Plan

Meeting Date: June 11, 2025

**Location:** Northeast corner of Tech Center Drive and Hamilton Road

**Zoning:** General Commercial (GC)

**Application Type(s):** Master Sign Plan (MSP)

Staff Representative: Maddie Capka, Planner II

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the application.

### **Location Map:**



# Staff Review

#### Overview

The applicant is requesting approval of a Master Sign Plan (MSP) for the proposed Crescent Retail project, located north of Tech Center Drive, east of Hamilton Road, and west of Crescent Place. The site has frontage on both Hamilton Road and Crescent Circle. The proposed project includes Development Plan and Variance applications for two multi-tenant retail buildings with a total of eight tenant spaces.

The proposed MSP will allow for greater signage size than what is permitted in the Zoning Code for wall signage. The MSP allows for 18 total wall signs, 11 on building A (south building) and 7 on building B (north building). Since the site has frontage on two right-of ways, there is signage proposed on both the east and west elevations, which is why there is a larger number of signs.

Each tenant is permitted two wall signs, one on the east elevation and one on the west. The only exceptions are the southernmost tenant on building A and the southernmost tenant on building B, both of which are permitted three wall signs each. This is because these two tenants each have three exterior walls and a drive thru. Each proposed wall sign will be limited to 41 SF, except for tenant spaces E and H, which will each have one 41 SF sign and one 49 SF sign.

There are two monument signs included with the MSP. One along Hamilton Road, and one along Crescent Circle. They will both be on a 2 ft tall masonry base to match the buildings and will be limited to 8 ft tall. The width of the monument sign cabinets is limited to 8 ft.

Endcap tenants (A, E, F, and H) also have the option to install a projecting sign in the place of one of their wall signs. Projecting signs will only be approved by the landlord if they are deemed beneficial to the overall aesthetic of the development. Projecting signs may not project more than 4 ft from the surface of the building.

All signage for the site must receive landlord approval prior to applying for a Permanent Sign Permit, where the signs will then be reviewed by City Staff.

In the zoning code, multi-tenant buildings without an approved MSP are subject to separate requirements than single-tenant buildings. The chart below outlines the differences between the zoning code requirements for multi-tenant wall signage and the requirements proposed with this MSP application, as well as requirements for monument signs.

	Code Requirements	MSP Requirements		
Wall Signs				
Length	50% of storefront width	11 ft – 13 ft 4 in (West-facing signs for E and F are 13 ft 4 in long)		

Height	30 in	3 ft 8 in (44 in)		
Single Wall Sign Area	Must meet requirements above	41 SF (West-facing signs for E and F are 49 SF)		
Total Wall Sign Area	Depends on number of tenants/building size, total for all signage is 400 SF for this site (based on lot size)	836 SF		
Number of Wall Signs	Depends on number of tenants	20		
Note	More than one wall sign permitted per tenant as long as the total size of all signs meets the requirements above	Two signs permitted per tenant  (Three signs permitted for A and  H)		
Monument Signs				
Length	N/A	8 ft		
Height	8 ft from grade	8 ft from grade		
Area	80 SF	50 SF		
Number of Monument Signs	1 per street frontage, 2 total for this site	2		

Here are some highlights from the proposed MSP:

- If a tenant occupies multiple spaces, they are only permitted the amount of signage equal to one tenant space
- Awning/canopy signs are prohibited
- Electronic signs are prohibited
- Freestanding signs may not be within 10 ft of each other
- All tenants must utilize the same sign panel/cabinet design
  - o All will match the Sherwin Williams color "Gauntlet Gray"
- All signs will be internally and/or halo-illuminated

# **Review Criteria**

# Master Sign Plan (MSP)

Planning Commission shall approve an application for a Master Sign Plan if the following four conditions are met:

- 1) The proposed signs meet the applicable development standards of this Zoning Ordinance, unless variances are being requested;
- 2) The proposed signs are sited and scaled appropriately to create a cohesive character for the multi-tenant building or multi-building development;
- 3) The proposed signs are not in conflict with public streets, open spaces, public or private utilities, or rights-of-way; and
- 4) The proposed signs would not have undesirable effects on the surrounding area.

### Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the Master Sign Plan as submitted. It is Staff's opinion that the MSP meets all applicable requirements as outlined in the zoning code. The MSP will encourage consistent signage on the site and create an ease of permitting for Staff and tenants. The MSP also allows for some creativity and placemaking with the option of installing a projecting sign. The proposed wall sign size requirements are in scale with the building size and the monument sign requirements are less than those in the zoning code.