

CHAPTER 156

SIGNS

156.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. “Celebratory rental sign” means a type of temporary sign indicating celebratory occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, births, etc., which do not exceed thirty-two square feet in area, using indirect lighting, and placed upon private property for not longer than two days.
2. “City employee” means a City employee, as designated by the Council.
3. “Erect” means to build, construct, attach, hang, suspend, or affix, and also includes the painting of wall signs.
4. “Facing” or “surface” means the surface of the sign upon, against or through which the message is displayed or illustrated on the sign.
5. “Ground sign” means any sign supported by uprights or braces placed upon the ground and not attached to any building.
6. “Illuminated sign” means any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outline illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes as a part of the sign proper.
7. “Incombustible material” means any material which will not ignite or below a temperature of 1200° Fahrenheit and will not continue to burn or glow at that temperature.
8. “Mural” means an image, picture or representation painted, affixed, or adhered to the exterior surface of a building that is intended to serve as an artistic and/or historic function, and is not related by language, logo or graphic to the advertisement of any product, service or identification of any business. It is designed and intended to serve as public art, to enhance public spaces, but is not necessarily publicly owned.
9. “Noncommercial” means any activity or communication that does not have the intent of promoting or encouraging the viewer to engage in commerce, involve monetary compensation, or the purchase of a specific product or service.
10. “Political sign” means a temporary sign announcing candidates seeking public office, a political issue, or containing other election information.
11. “Projecting sign” as regulated by this chapter means any sign which is attached to a building or other structure and extends beyond the line of said building or structure or beyond the surface of that portion of the building or structure to which it is attached.
12. “Real estate sign” means a temporary sign which advertises the sale, rental, or lease of property.
13. “Roof sign” as regulated by this chapter means any sign erected, constructed and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building with the principal support on the roof structure.
14. “Sign” means and includes every sign, billboard, ground sign, wall sign, roof sign, illuminated sign, projecting sign and temporary sign, and includes any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display, illustration or insignia used to advertise or promote the interests of any person when the same is placed out of doors in view of the general public.

15. "Street line" means the place where the public sidewalk begins and the private property line ends.
16. "Structural trim" means the molding, battens, cappings, mailing strips, latticing and platforms which are attached to the sign structure.
17. "Temporary and/or portable signs" means any sign, banner, pennant or valance to be displayed for a limited time only, not to exceed thirty (30) days, or any sign set upon the ground unsecured. A portable sign shall be defined as any sign set upon or inflated or affixed to any device or ground with wheels, skids or framing so as to afford portability by persons or auxiliary devices and includes "sandwich" signs. Other sub-types of temporary signs are defined in Section 156.18 of this Chapter.
18. "Wall sign" means all flat signs of solid construction which are placed against a building or other structure and attached to the exterior front, rear or side wall of any building or other structure.

156.02 UNSAFE AND UNLAWFUL SIGNS. If a City employee finds that any sign or other advertising structure regulated hereunder is unsafe or insecure or is a menace to the public or has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this chapter, such employee shall give written notice thereof to the permit holder. Such notice shall include a statement explaining the alleged violations and deficiencies, an order to repair or remove said sign, and an explanation of the consequences of failure to comply with said order. If the permit holder fails to remove or alter said sign so as to comply with the order within ten (10) days after such notice, said sign or other advertising structure may be removed or altered to comply by a City employee at the expense of the permit holder or owner of the property on which it is located. The permit holder may appeal the order of a City employee to the Council, and if such an appeal is on file, the 10-day compliance period shall be extended until 10 days following the Council's decision on the matter. If, however, a City employee finds that any sign or other structure, installation or improvement regulated by this chapter poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or safety of any person, such employee may order the removal of such sign summarily and without notice to the permit holder. Such an order may be appealed to the Council, and if the Council reverses, it shall order restitution at the City's expense.

156.03 PAINTING REQUIRED EVERY TWO YEARS. At least once every two years the owner of any sign as defined and regulated by this chapter shall be required to have properly painted all parts and supports of the said sign, unless the same are galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent rust.

156.04 WIND PRESSURE AND DEAD LOAD REQUIREMENTS. All signs and other advertising structures shall be designed and constructed to withstand a wind pressure of not less than forty (40) pounds per square foot area; and shall be constructed to receive dead loads as required in this Code of Ordinances.

156.05 REMOVAL OF CERTAIN SIGNS. Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted, or a product sold, shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure upon which such sign may be found, within ten (10) days after written notification from a City employee, and upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, a City employee is hereby authorized to cause removal of such signs, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building or structure to which such sign is attached.

156.06 EXEMPTIONS. The provisions and regulations of this chapter do not apply to the following signs; provided, however, said signs shall be subject to the provisions of Section 156.02.

1. Professional. Professional name plates not exceeding one (1) square foot in area.
2. Bulletin Boards. Bulletin boards not over eight (8) square feet in area for public, charitable or religious institutions when the same are located on the premises of said institutions.

3. Construction Signs. Signs denoting the architect, engineer or contractor when placed upon work under construction, and not exceeding sixteen (16) feet in area.
4. Occupational Signs. Occupational signs denoting only the name and profession of an occupant in a commercial building, public institutional building or house, and not exceeding two (2) square feet in area.
5. Memorial Signs. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials.
6. Traffic Signs. Traffic or other municipal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger, and such temporary, emergency or non-advertising signs as may be approved by the Council.

156.07 OBSTRUCTIONS TO DOORS, WINDOWS OR FIRE ESCAPES. No sign shall be erected, located or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.

156.08 SIGNS NOT TO CONSTITUTE TRAFFIC HAZARD. No sign or other advertising structure as regulated by this chapter shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or which makes use of the words *STOP*, *LOOK*, *DRIVE-IN*, *DANGER* or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic. No sign or other advertising structure as regulated by this chapter shall have posts, guides or supports located within any street or alley.

156.09 FACE OF SIGN. All signs or other advertising structures which are constructed on street lines, or within five (5) feet thereof, shall have a smooth surface and no nails, tacks or wires shall be permitted to protrude therefrom, except electrical reflectors and devices which may extend over the top and in front of the advertising structures.

156.10 GOOSE NECK REFLECTORS. Goose neck reflectors and lights shall be permitted on ground signs, and wall signs; provided, however, the reflectors shall be provided with proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign as to prevent glare upon the street or adjacent property.

156.11 SPOTLIGHTS AND FLOODLIGHTS PROHIBITED. It is unlawful for any person to maintain any sign which extends over public property which is wholly or partially illuminated by floodlights or spotlights.

156.12 REMOVAL UPON ABANDONMENT OF USE. It is the responsibility of the owner of the sign to remove such sign when its advertising or other commercial use is abandoned.

156.13 GROUND SIGN REQUIREMENTS. The requirements for ground signs are as follows:

1. Materials Required. All ground signs for which a permit is required under this chapter shall have a surface or facing of incombustible material; provided, however, combustible structural trim may be used thereon.
2. Letters To Be Secured. All letters, figures, characters or representations in cut-out or irregular form, maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or superimposed upon any sign shall be safely and securely built or attached to the sign structure.
3. Height Limitation. It is unlawful to erect any ground sign whose total height is greater than twenty-five (25) feet above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining ground level, if such ground level is above street level.

4. Space Between Sign and Ground and Other Signs and Structures. Ground signs shall have an open space not less than two (2) feet between the base line of said sign and the ground level. This open space may be filled in with a platform or decorative lattice work which does not close off more than one-half of the square footage of such open space. No ground sign shall be nearer than two (2) feet to any other sign, building or structure.
5. Setback Line. No ground sign shall be nearer the street than the building line established by law.
6. Bracing, Anchorage and Supports. All ground signs shall be securely built, constructed and erected upon posts and standards sunk at least three and one-half (3½) feet below the natural surface of the ground, and shall be supported and braced by timbers or metal rods in the rear thereof, extending from the top thereof to a point on the ground at least a distance equal to one-half the height of such sign, measured along the ground, from the posts or standards upon which the same is erected.
7. Supports To Be Creosoted. All posts, anchors and bracing of wood shall be treated to protect them from moisture by creosoting or other approved methods when they rest upon or enter into the ground.
8. Premises To Be Kept Free of Weeds. All ground signs and the premises surrounding the same shall be maintained by the owner thereof in a clean, sanitary and unoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.

156.14 WALL SIGN REQUIREMENTS. The requirements for wall signs are as follows:

1. Materials Required. All wall signs for which a permit is required under this chapter shall have a surface or facing of incombustible material; provided, however, combustible structural trim may be used thereon.
2. Limitation on Placement and Area. No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, or project beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached and any one wall sign shall not exceed an area of five hundred (500) square feet. Murals and signs painted on the exterior of a building shall be exempted from the 500 square foot maximum requirement of this section.
3. Projection Above Sidewalk and Setback Line. No wall sign shall be permitted to extend more than six (6) inches beyond the building line, and shall not be attached to a wall at a height less than ten (10) feet above the sidewalk or ground.
4. Supports and Attachment. All wall signs shall be safely and securely attached to the building wall by means of metal anchors, bolts or expansion screws of not less than 3/8 inch in diameter embedded in said wall at least five inches; provided, however, such signs may rest in, or be bolted to strong, heavy, metal brackets or saddles set not over six (6) feet apart, each of which shall be securely fixed to the wall as herein provided. In no case shall any wall sign be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails.
5. Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements. All wall signs shall conform to the requirements of Section 156.04 of this chapter.

156.15 MURALS OR SIGNS PAINTED ON EXTERIOR OF BUILDING. Any mural or painted signs, must comply with all permitting requirements provided for in this Chapter. Murals or signs painted on the exterior of a building may be placed only on side or rear facing portions of the building. No mural or painted sign may be painted or installed on the front face of the building, defined as that portion of the building facing the street on which the building is addressed and/or on which the building's main entrance is located.

156.16 PROJECTING SIGN REQUIREMENTS. The requirements for projecting signs are as follows:

1. Approval Required. Every projecting sign, including the frames, braces and supports thereof, shall be designed by a structural engineer or manufacturer, and shall be approved by a City employee as in compliance with this Code of Ordinances and shall be constructed of incombustible materials, shall be illuminated, and shall be two-faced.
2. Illumination. The reflectors shall be provided with the proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign and preventing glare upon the street or adjacent property; and no floodlight or spotlight or reflectors of the goose-neck type shall be permitted on projecting signs.
3. Limitation of Glass. The lettering or advertising designs to be illuminated may be composed of glass or other transparent or semi-transparent incombustible material. Any glass forming a part of any sign shall be safety glass or plate glass at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and in case of single piece or pane of glass has an area exceeding three (3) square feet, it shall be wired glass. One section, not exceeding three (3) square feet in area, constructed of wire glass or safety glass shall be permitted on each side of a sign.
4. Movable Parts To Be Secured. Any moveable part of a projecting sign such as the cover of a service opening shall be securely fastened by chains or hinges.
5. Area Limitations. Projecting signs shall be limited in area as follows:
 - A. Horizontal projecting signs (any sign which is greater in width than in height) shall be limited to fifty square feet on each side.
 - B. Vertical projecting signs (any sign which is greater in height than in width) shall be limited to one hundred square feet on each side.
6. Thickness Limitation. The distance measured between the principal faces of any projecting sign shall not exceed eighteen inches.
7. Projection Over Public Property. Every projecting sign shall be placed at least twelve feet above the public sidewalk over which it is erected, and of a distance not greater than two feet from the face of the wall to which it is attached, measuring from the point of the sign nearest thereto, or less than one (1) foot. Every projecting sign erected over public driveways, alleys and thoroughfares shall be placed not less than fifteen feet above the level of same.
8. Obstructions and Traffic Hazards. Every projecting sign shall be erected in full compliance with Sections 156.07 and 156.08 of this chapter.
9. Bracing, Anchorage and Supports. Projecting signs exceeding ten square feet in area or fifty pounds in weight shall not be attached to or supported by frame buildings or the wooden framework of a building. Said signs shall be attached to masonry walls with galvanized expansion bolts at least $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter, shall be fixed in the walls by means of bolts extending through the wall, and shall contain proper size metal washer or plate on the inside of the wall.
10. Anchorage With Wire Prohibited. No projecting sign shall be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails, nor shall any projecting sign be hung or secured to any sign.
11. V-Shaped Signs Prohibited. V-shaped signs, consisting of two (2) single faced signs erected without a roof or ceiling, are not permitted.

156.17 TEMPORARY & PORTABLE SIGN REQUIREMENTS. The requirements for temporary signs, portable signs and/or other subtypes of temporary sign as defined in this Chapter, are as follows:

1. Political Signs.

- A. Political signs shall be permitted in all zones but not within any public street right-of-way or on any public land.
- B. Such signs shall not exceed 8 square feet in area and shall not exceed 42 inches in height.
- C. Political signs established in violation of this section may be immediately removed by the City.
- D. Temporary political signs shall be displayed for no more than seventy-five (75) total days (which need not be consecutive) in any one (1) calendar year, and shall be removed or caused to be removed by the persons or organizations responsible for installation or distribution of the signs or by the owner or occupant of the property where they are located.

2. Real Estate Signs.

- A. Real estate signs shall be permitted in all zones, provided that all such signs shall be located on the property to which they apply, except as provided in Paragraphs D and E of this section.
- B. Real estate signs shall conform to the following maximum size requirements: Six (6) square feet in area for the first 10,000 square feet in lot area plus four square feet for each additional 10,000 square feet of lot area, not to exceed a total sign size of 32 square feet.
- C. Real estate signs shall be removed upon closing of the sale.
- D. In addition to lot-specific real estate signs, signs advertising the sale of lots within a subdivision shall be permitted. No more than one sign per entrance into the subdivision shall be allowed, and each sign shall be no greater than 32 square feet in area, no greater than 8 feet in height, and in place no longer than a period of three years.
- E. Open house real estate signs may be located within the street right-of-way between the curb and sidewalk but not for more than 48 hours before or more than four hours after the open house is held. Open house real estate signs shall be placed so that no part of the sign is closer to the roadway than three feet from the back of the curb and shall not be placed within a gravel shoulder. No signage of any kind is permitted within the landscaped areas at street intersections, and no signage shall be placed so that it obscures said landscaped areas. Any signs including real estate signs placed in the street right-of-way are posted entirely and solely at the risk of the sign owner, and may be removed by City staff. If such removal occurs, the City shall provide written notice of the reason for removal to the sign owner via phone, email, or regular mail and informing the sign owner that the sign may be claimed from the City within five (5) business days of the notice.

3. Special Sale Signs. Special sale signs, including banner signs and vertical signs as specified by the City, may be displayed for no more than seven (7) continuous days up to five times per calendar year. Horizontal banners, yard signs, trailer signs, and all other similar signage are not allowed to substitute under any condition for the sign designs permitted by the City. With respect to temporary signs that qualify as special sale signs, the following requirements shall apply:

A. Banner Signs.

- (1) Sale and grand opening signs as defined herein are permitted in all zones except residential. Such signs shall be removed immediately upon termination of the special event or at the end of 7 days, whichever comes first.
- (2) All such signs must be attached to the façade, wall, or window of the building occupying or conducting the sale or event which they advertise or erected on temporary posts/supports within one foot of the façade, wall, or window.
- (3) No business shall have more than two such signs for each façade or wall of the building to which they are attached.
- (4) The total sign size shall not exceed 50 percent of the size of the permitted wall

sign or 25 square feet in area, whichever is greater.

B. Vertical Signs.

(1) Special event vertical as defined herein are permitted in all zones except residential. Such signs shall be removed immediately upon termination of the special event or at the end of 7 days, whichever comes first. Only sail-shaped vertical flag signs consistent with City specifications are allowed under these rules.

(2) The signs may be inserted into the ground, freestanding on a weighted base, or attached to a building, but in all cases shall be kept vertical.

(3) The signs shall be located only on the private property hosting the event, and not within any part of the City right-of-way.

(4) The number of vertical signs allowed per property shall be as follows:

(a) For lots with a single business: Two signs per street frontage are permitted; however, one additional sign is permitted for each additional 50 feet of frontage over 100’.

(b) For multi-tenant lots: Two signs per street frontage are permitted; however, one additional sign is permitted for each additional 50 feet of frontage over 100’. Tenants of multi-tenant lots shall ensure that collectively the display of vertical signs does not exceed the maximum number requirement, and any fines or penalties assessed for violation of these requirements may be assessed to the owners of all such signs placed on the multi-tenant lot.

4. Garage Sale Signs.

A. Garage sale signs are permitted in all zones but only on the property to which they apply.

B. Garage sale signs shall be displayed not for more than 48 hours before or more than four hours after the end of the sale.

C. Such signs shall not be larger than four square feet and no more than 2 signs may be posted for any garage sale.

D. Such signs shall not be located within the street right-of-way between the curb and sidewalk. They shall not be located on gravel shoulders, within landscaped areas or obstructing landscaped areas at street intersections, nor shall they be attached to any traffic control posts or other public structures.

5. Community Event Signs. Promotional signs advertising a special community event such as a fair, farmer’s market, or parade may be permitted to be located over the public right-of-way or on public property. The size, location, and method of erection of such signs shall be subject to approval by the City Administrator or designee.

6. Builder/Contractor Signs. Builders, contractors, and subcontractors may each display a business sign no larger than four square feet in size on a lot where they are actively working but not within the public right-of-way.

A. For new home construction, the posting of such signs is limited to that time between the start of construction and the sale of the home, but not more than 6 months.

B. For other construction projects requiring a building permit, the posting of such signs is limited to that time between the start of construction and the closing of the permit, but not more than 6 months.

C. For other construction projects not requiring a building permit, the posting of such signs is limited to that time between the start of construction and the end of construction, but not more than 6 months.

7. General Requirements and Regulations. For any temporary sign, portable sign, or any subtype of temporary sign, the following general requirements shall apply, unless such requirement is contradictory to any requirement set forth in this chapter pertaining specifically to the type of sign in question, in which case the provision in this subsection shall give way to the specific requirement stated elsewhere in this Chapter:

A. A temporary banner shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in area. All other temporary signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area

B. Except for political signs, temporary signs shall not be installed, erected, or otherwise placed in any location approved by the City until, at most, two (2) weeks before the event they are meant to promote.

C. Temporary signs cannot be converted to a permanent sign.

D. To the extent any signage requirement or restriction is not specifically superseded by any provision of this Section, temporary signs shall be subject to all construction, inspection, maintenance, removal and penalty provisions set forth in this Chapter.

E. Temporary signs are prohibited in residential and floating zones, except for special promotions or activities of public, educational, nonprofit, charitable, fraternal, religious or service clubs and organizations, fees for which may be waived.

156.18 PERMITS.

1. Permit Required. It is unlawful for any person to erect, repair, alter, relocate or maintain within the City any sign or other advertising structure as defined in this chapter, without first obtaining an erection permit from the City Administrator/Clerk and making payment of a fee if required.

2. Exemptions. All temporary signs defined in § 156.17 of this Chapter are exempt from the permit requirements of this Section.

3. Application for Erection Permit. Application for erection permits shall be made upon blanks provided by the City Administrator/Clerk and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

A. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.

B. Location of building, structure or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected.

C. Position of the sign or other advertising structure in relation to nearby buildings or structures.

D. One blueprint or drawing of the plans and specifications and method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground.

E. Name of person, firm, corporation or association erecting the structure.

F. Written consent of the owner of the building, structure or land on which the structure is to be erected.

G. Proposed design of any mural or sign painted on the exterior of a building pursuant to section 156.15 of this Chapter.

H. Such other information as the City Administrator/Clerk shall require to show full compliance with this chapter and all other ordinances of the City.

4. Illuminated Signs. The application for a permit for erection of a sign or other advertising structure in which electrical wiring and connections are to be used shall be submitted to the City Administrator/Clerk. The City Administrator/Clerk shall examine the plans and specifications respecting all wiring and connections to determine if the same complies with this Code of Ordinances, and shall approve said permit if the said plans and specifications comply with said Code or disapprove the application if noncompliance with said Code is found. This said action of the City Administrator/Clerk shall be taken prior to submission of the application to the City Administrator/Clerk for final approval or disapproval of the erection permit.

5. Permit Issued. It is the duty of the City Administrator/Clerk upon the filing of an application for an erection permit to examine such plans and specifications and other data and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign or other advertising structure, and if it appears the proposed structure is in compliance with all the requirements of this chapter and all other ordinances of the City, the City Administrator/Clerk shall then issue the erection permit. If the work authorized under an erection permit has not been completed within six months after date of issuance, the said permit shall become null and void.

156.19 ENFORCEMENT.

1. Abandoned Signs: Any sign or part of a sign remaining in place for a period of ninety (90) days or more after it is no longer an on-premises sign shall be considered abandoned. Signage attached to any building or structure deemed abandoned as defined in this Code of Ordinances shall also be deemed abandoned. An abandoned sign shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or land upon which such sign may be found within thirty (30) days after written notification from the City Administrator/Clerk. Upon failure to comply within the time specified in such order, the City Administrator/Clerk, or their authorized designee, is hereby authorized to cause removal of such sign, and any expense thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building or structure upon which the sign is located or attached or assessed against the property in the same manner as property tax to the extent permitted by the Iowa Code.

2. Unsafe Signs: If the City Administrator/Clerk finds that any sign regulated herein is unsafe, unsecured, and/or deemed a potential hazard to the public, the City Administrator/Clerk shall promptly give written notice by mail or personal service to the entity to which the sign applies or to the owner of premises or building upon which the sign is located. If measures are not taken to remove or alter the sign so as to comply with the standards herein set forth within twenty four (24) hours after such notice, the City Administrator/Clerk or their authorized designee, at the expense of the permittee or owner of the property upon which it is located may initiate removal or alteration of the sign. However, if the owner of the sign has promptly ordered the necessary parts to repair the sign and has not received them or has promptly ordered the repair work done by an authorized erector and the erector has failed to respond within the twenty four (24) hour period, then a further extension of time may be granted by the City Administrator/Clerk upon a verified statement that such delay is not the result of any act of the permittee or owner of the premises.

3. Unlawful Signs: If the City Administrator/Clerk finds that any sign regulated herein has been maintained, constructed, or erected in violation of the provisions of this chapter, they shall promptly give written notice by mail or personal service to the owner of the premises upon which the sign is located to

remedy the violation. If the permittee or owner fails to remove or alter the structure so as to comply with the standards herein set forth within one (1) business day after such notice, the City Administrator/Clerk or their authorized designee, at the expense of the permittee or owner of the property upon which it is located may initiate removal or alteration of the sign. The City Administrator/Clerk may refuse to issue a permit to any permittee or owner who refuses to pay costs so assessed provided such authority is confined to the premises where the violation occurred. The procedure outlined in this subsection shall apply only where no specific remedy, enforcement actions, and/or other penalties are specifically stated within the section at issue.

4. General Maintenance: The City Administrator/Clerk, after ten (10) days' notice to the sign owner, may order the removal of any sign that is not maintained in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. All costs associated with the removal of a sign may be assessed against the property or building upon which the sign is located. However, if the owner of the sign has promptly ordered the necessary parts to repair the sign and has not received them or has promptly ordered the repair work done by an authorized erector and the erector has failed to respond within the twenty-four (24) hour period, then a further extension of time may be granted by the City Administrator/Clerk upon a verified statement that such delay is not the result of any act of the permittee or owner of the premises.

156.20 APPEAL PROCEDURE.

1. Appeal Procedure: The individual or entity affected by any decision, interpretation, or order made by the City Administrator/Clerk regarding the enforcement of this chapter may appeal to the City Council within ten (10) days from the date of the decision by filing with the City Administrator/Clerk a notice of appeal specifying the grounds for the appeal and tendering the filing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The City Clerk shall forthwith transmit to the City Council all papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from is taken. An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from except for unsafe signs which present an immediate and serious danger to the public and the provisions elsewhere provided for in this chapter shall be applicable.

2. Public Hearing: The City Council shall, upon the filing of an appeal, fix a reasonable time for a hearing on same, giving public notice thereof as well as due notice to the parties in interest. All interested persons may offer oral or written testimony at the public hearing on the appeal and every variation and exception granted or denied by the City Council shall be written testimony or evidence submitted in connection therewith. A simple majority vote of the City Council may affirm, modify or reverse the order, requirement, decision or determination of the City Administrator/Clerk.

3. Appeal To District Court: Any person or any officer, department, board or bureau of the City jointly or severally aggrieved by any decision of the City Council on matters subject to this chapter may within thirty (30) days from date of the filing of the decision by the City Council, appeal therefrom to the District Court of Clayton County in accordance with the rules of civil procedure.

156.21 PENALTIES. The City Administrator/Clerk is hereby authorized and empowered to revoke any permits issued upon failure of the holder thereof to comply with any provisions of this chapter or conditions of approval included with the issuance of said permit. Any person or entity that violates any provision of this Chapter shall be guilty of a municipal infraction punishable in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3 of this Code of Ordinances. After a conviction of violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, each day that a violation is permitted to exist constitutes a separate and distinct violation.

156.22 PERMITTED SIGNS BY ZONING DISTRICT. The following sign regulations apply in specific zoning districts, as noted:

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (A-1)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nameplates attached flat against the wall of the main building not to exceed three (3) square feet in area. 2. Church or public bulletin boards not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. 3. Billboards or advertising signs provided: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) They are not within 300 feet of an intersection, highway, structure, residence or another billboard. (b) They are not within 100 feet of a park, school, cemetery, public or semi-public building. (c) They are not within 75 feet of the centerline of a city or county road, or 100 feet of a state or federal highway.
SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-1)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nameplates attached flat against the wall of the main building not to exceed three (3) square feet in area. 2. Identification signs and home occupation signs not to exceed six (6) square feet in area. 3. Church or public bulletin boards not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. 4. Illumination of all signs shall be indirect, non-intermittent lighting. 5. Signs and bulletin boards shall be at least twenty (20) feet from the front lot line or not more than five (5) feet in front of the main building.
MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nameplates attached flat against the wall of the main building not to exceed three (3) square feet in area. 2. Identification signs and home occupation signs not to exceed six (6) square feet in area. 3. Church or public bulletin boards not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. 4. Illumination of signs shall be indirect, non-intermittent lighting. 5. Signs and bulletin boards shall be at least twenty (20) feet from the front lot line or not more than five (5) feet in front of the main building.
RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT (R-3)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nameplates attached flat against the wall of the main building not to exceed three (3) square feet in area. 2. Identification signs and home occupation signs not to exceed six (6) square feet in area. 3. Church or public bulletin boards not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. 4. Illumination of all signs shall be indirect, non-intermittent lighting. 5. Signs and bulletin boards shall be at least twenty (20) feet from the front lot line or not more than five (5) feet in front of the main building.
MANUFACTURED/MODULAR/MOBILE HOME PARK DISTRICT (R-4)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nameplates attached flat against the wall of the main building not to exceed three (3) square feet in area. 2. Identification signs and home occupation signs not to exceed six (6) square feet in area. 3. Church or public bulletin boards not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. 4. Illumination of all signs shall be indirect, non-intermittent lighting. 5. Signs and bulletin boards shall be at least twenty (20) feet from the front lot line or not more than five (5) feet in front of the main building.

HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (C-1)

1. Trade, business or industry identification signs provided that they:
 - (a) Do not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height.
 - (b) Are not within twenty-five (25) feet of an "A" or "R" District.
 - (c) Do not overhang the public right-of-way except those signs which project not more than one foot beyond the front face or integral part of the building other than identification signs of less than two square feet in area.
 - (d) Are not within twenty-five (25) feet of a highway intersection or highway structure.
2. Advertising signs and billboards provided that they:
 - (a) Do not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height.
 - (b) Are not within twenty-five (25) feet of an "A" or "R" District.
 - (c) Are not within seventy-five (75) feet of another billboard.
 - (d) Do not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in area.
3. No sign or billboard shall be located in, overhang, or project into a required yard.

GENERAL OFFICE AND RETAIL DISTRICT (C-2)

Signs in the C-2 District must be visually appealing, constructed of durable material, maintained in good condition and shall not be allowed to become dilapidated, faded, peeled and blistered. No sign shall be placed in such a position that it will endanger public safety by obstructing a view, door, window or fire escape or by shining excessive light onto the street. Due to the historic nature of the C-2 District, signs shall be designed to be compatible with their surroundings and appropriate to the architectural characteristics of the buildings on which they are placed. Microwave or dish antennas are not allowed on the facades of buildings in the Central Business District. Their placement elsewhere will be allowed only on approval by the City Administrator/Clerk.

1. Advertising signs, trade, business or industry identification signs provided that:
 - (a) Free standing signs shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height and sixty (60) square feet in area per face.
 - (b) Signs attached to a building shall not project above the height of the building or more than eight (8) feet from the wall of the building and shall not be less than twelve (12) feet above ground level. Projecting signs shall not hang at a distance greater than two feet from the face of the wall of the building.
 - (c) No wall-mounted sign shall exceed seventy-five (75) square feet in area or more than one and one-half (1½) square feet per foot of building frontage, whichever is smaller. The same shall apply to the sides and rear of all commercial buildings.
2. No sign shall be located in, overhang or project into a required yard.
3. All signs shall be maintained in a neat and presentable condition and in the event their use shall cease, they shall be promptly removed and the surrounding area restored to a condition free from refuse and rubbish. An existing sign shall be considered a new sign if 50% of the building materials need to be replaced, in which case, provisions of this chapter must be followed.

INDUSTRIAL PARK (M-1)

1. Trade, business or industry identification signs for the firm located on the site provided that:
 - (a) Free standing signs shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet in area or twenty-five (25) feet in height.
 - (b) Signs mounted flush on the wall of a building.
 - (c) Overhanging signs, attached to a building may project above the height of the building.
 - (d) Not more than one (1) sign of each category above may be provided for any single use, although each sign may be a double-faced or back-to-back sign.

INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (M-2)

1. Billboards and advertising sign, provided:
 - (a) They are not within 150 feet of a highway intersection, highway structure, residence, park, school, cemetery, public or semi-public building.
 - (b) They are not within 150 feet of another billboard of advertising sign.
2. Trade, business or industry identification signs for the firm located on the site provided that:
 - (a) Free standing signs shall not exceed 150 square feet in area or 25 feet in height.
 - (b) Signs mounted flush on the wall of a building.
 - (c) Overhanging signs, attached to a building may project above the height of the building.
 - (d) Not more than one sign of each category above may be provided for any single use, although each sign may be a double-faced or back-to-back sign.