

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on October 3, 2007

## **ARTICLE XXXIII**

### **SIGNS**

(Amended May 7, 2008 and July 2, 2008)

#### **Section 1: General Provisions.**

This Article shall hereafter be known and cited as the “Fulton County Sign Ordinance”

#### **Section 2: Purpose and Findings.**

##### **A. Purpose**

This Article is enacted for the following purposes:

1. To protect the rights of individuals and businesses to convey their messages through signs;
2. To encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication;
3. To promote economic development;
4. To improve traffic and pedestrian safety as it may be affected by distracting signs;
5. To prevent the destruction of the natural beauty and environment of the County;
6. To protect the public health, safety, and general welfare;
7. To restrict the continued existence of abandoned or nonconforming signs unless in compliance with the terms of this Article and to eliminate, over time, all non-conforming signs;
8. To ensure the fair and consistent enforcement of sign standards; and
9. To make it easy, quick and economically efficient to apply for a sign permit.

##### **B. Findings**

1. The County finds that signs are a proper use of private property, are a means of personal free expression and a necessary component of a commercial environment. As such, signs are entitled to the protection of the law. In the absence of regulation, however, the number of such signs tends to proliferate, with property owners’

desiring ever increasing numbers and sizes of signs, leading to cluttered and aesthetically blighted thoroughfares. In addition, the competition among competing sign owners for visibility of their signs contributes to safety hazards for both vehicles and pedestrians and undermines the sign owners' original purpose of presenting a clear message of its idea or identification of its premises.

2. The County further finds that the regulation of the size, height, number and spacing of signs is necessary to protect the public safety, to assure compatibility of signs with surrounding land uses, to enhance the business and economy of the County, to protect the public investment in the streets and highways, to maintain the tranquil environment of residential areas, to promote industry and commerce, to eliminate visual clutter and blight, to provide an aesthetically appealing environment, and to provide for the orderly and reasonable display of signs for the benefit of all the County's citizens.
3. The County further finds that there is a substantial difference between signs erected by public authority and signs erected by private citizens or businesses. Signs erected by public authority are virtually all erected for the purpose of maintaining the public safety either through direct control of traffic or through provision of such type signage as street signs which enable the traveling public to know where they are located and to find where they are going. As such, with the exception of signs identifying government buildings, virtually all government signs are erected purely for public safety purposes. Moreover, their use in the public right-of-way is necessary to ensure their visibility to the motoring public. The County finds that public utility signs are frequently of the same nature as those signs erected by governmental entities in that they provide necessary information to safeguard the public from downed power lines and from street excavations. Even where signs serve a propriety purpose, such as identifying markings on utility polls, those signs are marked primarily for the purpose of benefiting the public generally through identification of locations where there may be temporary losses of power.
4. The County further finds that some signage has a single targeted function and that identification of such signage by description is impossible without referring to its function. For instance, address numerals are used for the sole purpose of locating addresses, which is of benefit to persons looking for those addresses and is essential to public safety personnel responding to emergencies. Subdivision signs at the entrances to subdivisions favor a similar purpose in enabling both the traveling public and emergency personnel to quickly locate subdivision entrances for the purpose of either visitation or responding to emergency calls. While such signage is often referenced based upon the function it serves within the context of this ordinance, whenever possible, it is the intent of this ordinance to refer to signs unrelated to the content of the speech provided and to allow maximum expressive potential to sign owners.

### **Section 3: Definitions.**

Words and phrases used in this Article shall have the meanings set forth in this section. Words and phrases not defined in this section, but defined in the Zoning Resolution of Fulton County, shall be given the meanings set forth in such Resolution. All other words and phrases shall be given their common, ordinary meaning, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. Section headings or captions are for reference purposes only and shall not be used in the interpretation of this Article.

***Abandoned sign.*** Any sign that contains or exhibits broken panels, visible rust, visible rot, damaged support structures, or missing letters or which is otherwise dilapidated, unsightly, or unkempt, and for which no person accepts maintenance responsibility.

***Animated sign.*** Any sign, or part of a sign, that uses any movement or change of lighting or color to depict action or create a special effect or scene.

***Audible sign.*** Any sign which emits a sound which is audible or emits a signal which can be converted into audible sounds, whether by radio or other means.

***Awning/canopy sign.*** Any sign that is a part of, or attached to, an awning, canopy or other fabric, plastic or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window, or outdoor service area. A marquee is not a canopy.

***Banner.*** A sign other than a flag with or without characters, letters, illustrations or ornamentation applied to cloth, paper, vinyl, plastic or fabric that is intended to be hung either with a frame or without a frame. Neither flags nor canopy signs are considered banners.

***Beacon.*** Any light with one or more beams directed into the atmosphere or directed at one or more points not on the same lot as the light source; also, any light with one or more beams that rotate or move.

***Billboard.*** A freestanding sign with an area of more than seventy-two (72) square feet but not more than six hundred seventy-two (672) square feet.

***Changeable copy sign.*** Any sign that incorporates changing lettering or images to form a message or messages, whether such changes are accomplished electronically or manually. Changeable copy signs shall not incorporate changing lights or electronic images.

***Commission or Commissioners.*** The Fulton County Board of Commissioners. County. Fulton County.

***Department.*** The Department of Environment and Community Development.

***Director.*** The Director of the Department of Environment and Community Development or his or her designee for a particular purpose.

***Directory sign.*** A single sign for multiple businesses, offices, professionals, industries, or other entities located within a planned center.

***Drive-through/drive-in facility.*** A location where products and/or services are distributed to, or business is transacted with, a person seated in a motor vehicle.

***Fall zone.*** An area equal to one hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the height of the structure in every direction.

***Flag.*** Any fabric or bunting containing colors, patterns, or symbols used as a symbol of a government or other entity or organization.

***Flashing sign.*** A sign, the illumination of which is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use and which exhibits marked changes in lighting effects.

***Freestanding sign.*** Any sign supported by structures or supports that are placed on, or anchored in, the ground and that are independent from any building or other structure. A permanently affixed sign which is wholly independent of a building for support with a base of a width not less than the width of the sign face.

***Illuminated sign, External.*** A sign illuminated by an external light source. Such source cannot be a device that changes color, flashes or alternates.

***Illuminated sign, Internal.*** A sign illuminated by an internal light source. Such source cannot be a device that changes color, flashes, or alternates.

***Internal Development Sign.*** Signs not visible from a public right of way, including but not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional, safety signs and signs delineating internal sub-components of the overall development. (Added July 2, 2008)

***Lot.*** A parcel of land that is of sufficient size to meet minimum zoning requirements for lot area, coverage, and use and that can provide such yards as required by the zoning standards.

***Marquee, marquee sign.*** Any permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

***Moving sign.*** A sign which revolves, rotates, swings, undulates, or otherwise attracts attention through the structural movement of parts.

***Multi-tenant.*** One or more buildings, located on a single premise, containing two (2) or more separate and distinct individual establishments, which occupy separate portions of the building and which are physically separated from each other by walls.

***Obscene.*** Material is obscene if to the average person, applying contemporary community standards, taken as a whole, it predominantly appeals to the prurient interest, that is, a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex or excretion; the material taken as a whole lacks

serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value; and the material depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined as: (A) acts of sexual intercourse, heterosexual or homosexual, normal or perverted, actual or simulated; (B) acts of masturbation; (C) acts involving excretory functions or lewd exhibition of the genitals; (D) acts of bestiality or the fondling of sex organs of animals; or (E) sexual acts of flagellation, torture, or other violence indicating a sadomasochistic sexual relationship.

***Out of store marketing device.*** An out-of-store marketing device is any facility or equipment which is located outside of a primary building on a site zoned for nonresidential uses, which is used for the primary purpose of providing a product or service without the owner's immediate presence, and which is manufactured to include a color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, and/or writing thereon to communicate information regarding the product or service provided thereby to the public. Examples of out-of-store marketing devices include: fuel pumps, bank ATM units, vending machines, newspaper racks, drink machines, ice boxes, and phone booths.

***Pennant, streamer.*** Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in a series, designed to move in the wind.

***Permanent sign.*** Any sign which, when installed, is intended for permanent use. A permanent freestanding sign shall be of a type and construction as not to be easily or readily removed from the lot on which it has been erected.

***Permit.*** A sign permit reviewed, approved, and issued by the County.

***Permittee.*** The person and/or entity owning or leasing the land on which the sign is erected or for which an application has been submitted.

***Person.*** A natural or legal person, including a firm, organization, partnership, trust, and corporation.

***Portable sign.*** A sign which is not permanently affixed to the ground or to a structure, including but not limited to signs on trailers or signs mounted or painted on vehicles which are parked in such a manner as to serve the purpose of a sign.

***Principal building.*** The building in which the principal use of the lot is conducted. Non-residential lots with multiple principal uses may have multiple principal buildings, but storage buildings, garages, and other structures with clearly accessory uses shall not be considered principal buildings.

***Projecting sign.*** Any sign which is suspended or projected from the wall, eave, or soffit of the building.

***Public sign.*** Any sign erected by a governmental entity.

**Roof sign.** Any sign erected and constructed wholly on and over the roof of a building, or supported by the roof structure.

**Sign face.** That part of a sign that is or can be used for advertising purposes.

**Sign.** Any device, fixture, placard, or structure affixed to, supported by, or suspended by a stationary object, building or the ground that uses any color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, or writing to communicate information of any kind to the public.

**Standard Informational sign.** A sign with an area of not greater than four (4) square feet, with a sign face made for short term use (90 days or less), containing no reflecting elements, flags, or projections and which, when erect, stands at a height not greater than three (3) feet and is mounted on a stake or metal frame with a thickness or diameter not greater than one and one-half (1 ½ ) inches. (Amended May 7, 2008)

**Temporary sign.** Any sign that is not permanently mounted.

**Wall sign.** Any sign attached parallel to a wall, painted on the wall surface or erected and confined within the limits of an outside wall of any building or structure, which is supported by such wall or building and which displays only one sign surface. Wall signs may be allowed to extend up to fifteen (15) inches from any wall, building or structure when a raceway is utilized. Raceways shall be painted to match the color of the exterior walls to which they are attached. Wall signs shall not cover architectural features or details, and not extend beyond the horizontal roof line or vertical edges of the building. Except for principle anchors, wall signs shall be uniform in alignment and height in developments in which multiple businesses share a building. (Amended July 2, 2008)

**Window sign.** Any sign that is placed inside a window or upon the window panes or glass, either inside or outside the building, and is visible from the exterior of the structure.

#### **Section 4: Powers and Duties of Personnel.**

The Director is hereby authorized and directed to administer and enforce this article, unless otherwise specifically provided by resolution of the Commissioners.

#### **Section 5: Applicability.**

The standards of this Article shall apply to all signs erected within unincorporated Fulton County.

#### **Section 6: Permit Required.**

Except where specifically not required by the standards of this Article, it shall be unlawful for any person to post, display, materially change, or erect a sign in the County without first having obtained a sign permit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, signs which are not visible from a public right-of-way

or from neighboring properties shall not be subject to the standards of this Article.

**Section 7: Fees Required.**

No permit shall be issued until the appropriate application has been filed with the Director and fees, as set from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Commissioners, have been paid.

**Section 8: Application Content.**

Applications for sign permits required by this Article shall be filed along with two (2) additional copies by the person owning the subject Lot, or the owner's agent with express permission of the owner, in the office of the Director upon forms furnished by that office. The application shall describe and set forth the following:

1. The type and purpose of the sign as defined in this Article.
2. The value of the sign.
3. A survey to scale showing the street address of the property upon which the subject sign is to be located, the proposed location of subject sign on subject property, the distance of the proposed sign from the subject property's boundaries, and all existing structures or buildings on the subject property.
4. The square foot area per sign and the aggregate square foot area if there is more than one (1) sign face.
5. The name(s) and address(es) of the owner(s) of the real property upon which the subject sign is to be located.
6. Written consent of the owner of the property, or his/her agent, granting permission for the placement, maintenance, size, and height of the subject sign to be placed on the property.
7. For wall signs: Two sets of building elevations.
8. The name, address, telephone number, and business license number of the sign contractor. All applications for signs which incorporate electricity must obtain an electrical permit.
9. Sign details, including a proposed color scheme of sign, and scaled elevation of the size and height of the proposed sign from ground level and adjacent street level.
10. The zoning district in which the subject property is located and a statement of compliance with all requirements of the zoning district.
11. Any additional information as required by the Director or his designee on an

application form which shall remain on file at the Department.

**Section 9: Application Rejection.**

**A. Incomplete Application; False Information**

The Director shall reject any application that is incomplete or inaccurate, that contains false material statements or omissions, or that is for a sign which would violate any standard within this Article within forty-five (45) business days of receipt of said application. The Director may reject at anytime prior to the expiration of the forty-five (45) day period, if the application is incomplete, inaccurate or contains false material statements or omissions, by returning the application to the applicant.

**B. Processing Time; Denial**

The County shall process all complete and accurate sign permit applications within sixty (60) business days of the Department's actual receipt of a complete and accurate application and upon remittance of the appropriate sign permit fee. The Director shall give notice to the applicant of his/her decision by hand delivery, electronic communication (email), or by mailing such notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address on the permit application on or before the sixtieth (60) business day. If the decision of the Director is to deny the application, the decision shall state the grounds upon which the denial is based. Failure of the County to act within the sixty (60) day period shall be deemed an approval of the permit. If notice is mailed in conformity with this Section, notice shall be deemed to have been given upon the date of mailing. Any application meeting the standards of this Article shall be granted. Any application not meeting the standards of this Article shall be denied.

**C. Appealable**

A rejection or denial pursuant to this Section shall be appealable pursuant to the procedures for Zoning Appeals as outlined in the Fulton County Zoning Resolution. However, notwithstanding the foregoing, a final decision will be rendered within ninety (90) days from date an appeal is filed. If a final decision is not rendered within the ninety (90) day period, the decision sought to be appealed shall be affirmed.

**D. Resubmission**

A rejected application later resubmitted in conformity with this Article shall be deemed to have been submitted on the date of resubmission, instead of the original submission date. An application which is resubmitted shall meet all the standards for an original application.

**Section 10: Permit Revocation.**

Should it be determined that a sign permit was issued pursuant to an application containing a false material statement or omission, the Director shall revoke said permit and the subject sign shall be immediately removed. A revocation pursuant to this Section shall be appealable pursuant to the procedures for Zoning Appeals as outlined in the Fulton County Zoning Resolution. However,

notwithstanding the foregoing, a final decision will be rendered within ninety (90) days from the date an appeal is filed. If a final decision is not rendered within the ninety (90) days period, the decision sought to be appealed shall be affirmed. The permit for any sign not meeting the standards of this Article will be revoked.

**Section 11: Zoning Ordinance Requirements.**

So long as an application conforms to the standards and procedures of this Article, the applicant is exempted from any additional standards, excepting any standards relating to color, building materials, and procedures relating to signs in the Fulton County Zoning Resolution.

**Section 12: Variance.**

**A. Limitations**

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall be allowed to grant variances where a hardship has been demonstrated pursuant to the Fulton County Zoning Resolution. Said variance or variances may only be granted as to number, set back, building material, height, and size or sign style.

**B. Timing**

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall hear and decide upon a variance within ninety (90) days of the submission of a complete and accurate application.

**Section 13: Expiration Date.**

A sign permit shall become null and void if the sign for which the permit was issued has not been installed and completed within six (6) months after the date of issuance; provided, however, that where an applicant can demonstrate that an entity was timely engaged to construct the permitted sign, but the fabrication has not yet been completed, one (1) ninety (90) day extension may be granted by the Director. No refunds shall be made for a permit after the permit is issued. If later an individual desires to erect a sign at the same location, a new application for the sign must be processed and another fee paid in accordance with the fee schedule applicable at such time.

**Section 14: Occupational Tax Certificate, Public Liability Insurance Required.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of erecting or maintaining signs within the County, unless and until such entity shall have obtained an occupation tax certificate and a certificate of insurance from an insurance company authorized to do business in the state evidencing that the entity has in effect public liability and property damage insurance in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for property damage for any one (1) claim, and public liability insurance in an amount not less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for injuries, including accidental death to one (1) person. The certificate of insurance shall state that the insurance carrier shall notify the County thirty (30) days in advance of any termination and/or restriction of the coverage, including nonrenewal, cancellation, and nonpayment of any premium.

**Section 15: Identification Labels; Inspection; Notice.**

**A. Identification Labels**

With each sign permit, the Director shall issue a sticker bearing a number sufficient to reference a valid permit for which the permit is issued. It shall be the duty of the permittee or his agent to affix such sticker to the sign in the lower right hand area so it is easily seen. The absence of a proper sticker shall be prima facie evidence that the sign has been, or is being, erected or operated in violation of the standards of this Article.

**B. Inspection**

The Director or his/her designee shall inspect all existing signs in the County to determine if such signs conform to the standards of this Article. Identification stickers shall be provided for all signs in order to identify existing conforming and nonconforming signs.

**Section 16: Signs Which Require No Permit.**

The following shall not count toward the total amount of signage allowed and no permit is required so long as all standards in this Article are met, including those set forth below:

1. Numerals displayed for the purpose of identifying property location not to exceed eight (8) inches in height;
2. Flags;
3. Window signs;
4. Door signs not to exceed one (1) square foot in size and not more than one (1) sign per door; and
5. Standard informational signs in all districts.

**Section 17: Prohibited Signs and Devices.**

The following types of signs are prohibited in the County:

**A. Signs**

Any sign not specifically identified in this Article as a permitted sign.

**B. Balloons; Streamers**

Balloons, streamers or air or gas filled figures.

**C. String Lights**

Signs consisting in whole or in part of a series, line, or row of lights, whether supported by cables or other physical means, within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a street right-of-way and visible there from. Notwithstanding the foregoing, holiday lights and decorations displayed not more than thirty (30) days before or after a calendar holiday shall be exempted from this Section.

**D. Beacons; Search Lights; Laser**

Promotional beacons, search lights or laser lights or images.

**E. Audible Signs**

Audible signs.

**F. Signs in Right of Way**

Signs in a public right of way, other than official County Signs or those belonging to a government, public service agency, or railroad.

**G. Signs on Tree or Utility Pole**

Signs mounted or located on a tree, utility pole, or other similar structure.

**H. Roof Signs**

Roof signs and signs which extend vertically above any portion of a roof or parapet of the applicable wall.

**I. Portable Signs**

Portable signs, including signs attached to any parked vehicle or trailer, so as to be visible from a public right-of way.

**J. Obscene Signs**

Signs which depict obscene material.

**K. Illegal Activity Signs**

Signs which advertise an activity which is illegal under federal, state or local laws.

**L. Signs Not Maintained**

Signs not in good repair, in violation of codes, or containing or exhibiting broken panels, visible rust, visible rot, damaged support structures, or missing letters.

**M. Abandoned Signs**

Abandoned signs.

**N. Animated; Flashing**

Animated signs, flashing signs, and changeable copy signs which change more than once per twenty-four (24) hours within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a road right of way.

**O. Imitation Traffic Signs**

Signs which contain or are an imitation of an official traffic sign or signal or contain the words “stop,” “go,” “slow,” “caution,” “warning,” or similar words in such a manner as to resemble official traffic control signs.

**Section 18: Violations; Penalties.**

**A. Noncompliance**

No person shall erect on any premises owned or controlled by that person any sign which does not comply with the standards of this Article.

**B. Dangerous or Defective**

No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained on any premises owned or controlled by that person any sign which is in a dangerous or defective condition. Any such sign shall be removed or repaired by the permittee of the sign, the owner of the premises, or as otherwise provided for in this Article.

**C. Separate Violation**

Each sign installed, created, erected or maintained in violation of this Article shall be considered a separate violation when applying the penalty portions herein.

**D. Public Nuisance**

Any sign erected or maintained in violation of this Article is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

**E. Notice**

The Director shall give the permittee or sign owner twenty-four (24) hours to thirty (30) days

written notice, based on the practical considerations of completing measures to comport with the standards of this Article, to correct the deficiencies or to remove the sign(s) which is in violation of this Article. If the permittee or sign owner refuses to correct the deficiencies or remove the sign, the Director will have the sign removed at the expense of the permittee or sign owner. (Amended May 7, 2008)

**F. Citations**

If any sign or other device covered by this Article is, or is proposed to be, erected, constructed, altered, converted or used in violation of any provision of this Article, the Director or his designee shall issue a citation. Additionally, the County may seek an injunction for a continuing violation or take other appropriate action to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, alteration, conversion or use to correct or abate such violation. Any violation of this Article shall be an offense, and the violator shall be subject to a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per day, per citation, imprisonment for up to sixty (60) days, or both. (Amended May 7, 2008)

**Section 19: Nonconforming Signs.**

**A. Maintained**

A nonconforming sign shall not be replaced by another nonconforming sign, except that the substitution or interchange of poster panels, painted boards, or dismountable material on nonconforming signs shall be permitted. All nonconforming signs shall be maintained in good repair.

**B. Repairs; Material Change**

Minor repairs and maintenance of nonconforming signs shall be permitted, provided, however, that no structural repairs or changes in the size or shape of a nonconforming sign shall be permitted except to make the sign comply with the standards of this Article. To the extent that any sign allowable hereunder is damaged or destroyed by act of God or by other circumstances beyond control of owner of sign then such sign may be repaired without regard to the restrictions of this paragraph.

**C. Grandfathering**

Nonconforming signs may stay in place until one of the following conditions occurs:

1. The advertised business ceases at that location for a period of more than thirty (30) days;
2. The deterioration of the sign or damage to the sign makes it a hazard or renders it dilapidated, unsightly, or unkempt; or
3. The sign has been damaged to such extent that more than minor repairs or a material

change is required to restore the sign. No structural repairs or change in shape or size shall be permitted except to make the sign comply with all standards of this Article. To the extent that any sign allowable hereunder is damaged or destroyed by act of God or by other circumstances beyond control of owner of sign then such sign may be repaired without regard to the restrictions of this paragraph.

## **Section 20: Removal of Unlawful or Dangerous Signs.**

### **A. Removal.**

The County may order the removal of any sign in violation of this Article by written notice to the permit holder and/or property owner if there is no permit holder of record; or if there is no permit holder, then to the owner of the sign; or if the sign owner cannot be found or cannot be determined, then to the sign erector and any party that procured the erection of the sign. If a permit has been issued, such notice shall operate to revoke the permit. (Amended May 7, 2008)

### **B. Procedure Following Removal Order.**

If the sign is not removed within the time allowable pursuant to Section 18(E), the County shall remove or cause to be removed the sign and collect the costs thereof as provided below.

### **C. Removal without Notice.**

The County shall have removed any sign in violation of this Article, without giving notice to any party, if:

1. Said sign is upon the public right-of-way or upon other public property or upon the pavement of a private street or drive; or
2. Said sign poses an immediate safety threat to the life or health of any members of the public.

### **D. Removal after Court Determination.**

Other than signs located in a public right-of-way, a sign shall be removed by the County after a final determination by a court that the sign is unlawful and should be removed. If the permittee or property owner fails to remove the sign, the sign may be immediately removed and disposed of by the County with all costs to be paid by the permittee or property owner. If permittee or property owner fails to pay within thirty (30) days a lien shall be filed on said property for the incurred expenses. (Amended May 7, 2008)

## **Section 21: Sign Location.**

### **A. Obstructions to Doors, Windows, or Fire Escapes.**

No sign shall be erected, relocated, or maintained so as to prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape.

**B. Signs Not to Constitute Traffic Hazard.**

No sign or any part thereof, except authorized traffic signs, shall be located in any government right-of-way. No sign may be located any closer than twenty (20) feet to an intersection as measured from the intersection of the two (2) rights-of-way.

**C. Setback.**

Unless a more restrictive setback is specified in conditions of zoning or otherwise in this Article, all signs shall set back at least ten (10) feet from the right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the edge of pavement if a private street and no sign shall project over the right-of-way except that standard information signs shall be allowed to be placed on private property up to the edge of the publicly dedicated right-of-way or 10 feet off the edge of pavement on a private road with no dedicated right-of-way for a period beginning 90 days before the date of the election and ending with the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate. Freestanding signs shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from an intersection as measured from the intersection of the two rights-of-way and shall be a minimum of 35 feet from any other freestanding signs.

**Section 22: Measurement of Sign Area.**

**A. Area**

The area of a sign shall be computed as the area within the smallest continuous polygon comprised of not more than eight (8) straight lines enclosing the limits of a sign face, together with any sign face cabinet or frame or material, texture, or color forming an integral part of the sign face used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed. If polygons established around wall signs located on the same street oriented wall are within twenty-four (24) inches or less of one another, then the area of the sign shall be measured within one continuous polygon.

**B. Structure**

The computation of the area of a sign face shall not include the structure, supports, or uprights on which the sign face is placed or any portions of a sign structure that are not intended to contain any message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature, other than those parts contained within the polygon that delineates the sign face.

**C. Changeable Copy Signs**

For any signs on which the words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements routinely change or are intended to be changed from time to time, the sign

face area shall include the entire area within which any words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements may be placed, together with any frame or material, texture or coloring forming an integral part of the sign face or used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed. Such changeable copy signs cannot flash, and if located within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a road right of way, may not change more than once per twenty-four (24) hours.

**D. Multi-Faced Signs**

For multi-faced signs, when the sign face surfaces are parallel and are back to back, or where the interior angle formed by the faces is forty-five (45) degrees or less, the area of the sign shall be taken as the areas on the largest side. For all other multi-faced signs, the area of the sign shall be the total area on all sides that can be viewed at one time from any angle.

**Section 23: Measurement of Sign Height.**

The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign structure at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Normal grade shall be construed to be the lower of: (1) existing grade prior to construction or (2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.

In cases in which the normal grade cannot reasonably be determined, sign height shall be computed on the assumption that the elevation of the normal grade at the base of the sign is equal to the elevation of the nearest point of the crown of a public street or the grade of the land at the principal entrance to the principal structure on the zoned lot, whichever is greater (surveyor's certificate required).

Where the normal grade is below the normal grade of a public street, the sign base can be raised to the elevation of the normal grade of the street before the height limitations are applied (surveyor's certificate required). At no time shall any sign's overall height exceed the zoning district's height limitations.

**Section 24: Construction Standards.**

**A. Building and Safety Codes**

All signs permitted under this code shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable County building and safety codes. The County may remove, after due notice, any sign which shows neglect or becomes dilapidated.

**B. Faces**

The face of sign shall be flat, with protrusions of no more than two (2) inches to allow for the texture of the sign and words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements. No sign or other advertising structure shall be constructed so as to have nails, tacks, or wires protruding there from. Lettering for address signage shall not exceed

eight (8) inches in height or as required by the applicable building code.

**C. Illumination**

Signs, when illumination is permitted and except as otherwise set forth, may be illuminated internally or externally. Free standing signs with external illumination shall have light directed downward. Externally illuminated signs shall not exceed fifty-five (55) foot-candles.

**D. Landscaping**

Landscaping, weeds, and grass shall be kept cut in front of, behind, underneath, and around the base of freestanding signs.

**E. Construction**

Freestanding sign structure/base materials shall match the principal building material. Any architectural color standards of an applicable overlay district apply only to the sign structure not to the sign face.

**Section 25: Restrictions Based on Location.**

If not otherwise stated, any sign not specifically allowed in a zoning district as provided under this Section shall be prohibited in that district, except as otherwise provided for under this Article. The following standards govern signs within specific zoning districts. For any zoning district not identified in the following sub-parts, signs shall comply with the sign regulations contained in section A; Agricultural District (AG-1).

**A. Agricultural District (AG-1) (Article V - Fulton County Zoning Resolution).**

1. *Freestanding Signs.*

- a. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign per business or institutional use shall be permitted for each street on which the lot has frontage.
- b. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign or two (2) single-faced freestanding signs not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet for each side of a platted single family subdivision entrance shall be permitted for each street on which the subdivision has an entrance.
- c. Freestanding signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet, may be externally illuminated, and shall not have changeable copy.

2. *Window Signs.* Not more than three (3) window signs per lot of record shall be allowed and shall not be larger than four (4) square feet or cover more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the area of each window in which a sign is placed, whichever is less. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
3. *Signs during Construction.* One (1) additional sign shall be allowed during construction. The sign shall not be internally illuminated, shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area and five (5) feet in height, and shall be allowed beginning with the commencement of construction and ending with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or installation of a permanent sign, whichever occurs first.
4. *Flag.* Each lot may display no more than one (1) flag and/or flagpole. The flagpole shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size shall not be more than twenty (20) square feet.
5. *Banner.* Banners shall be allowed for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days with no more than three (3) such fourteen (14) day periods being permitted per calendar year per lot. Time periods shall not be consecutive. Banners shall not be more than twenty-four (24) square feet. No banner shall be mounted so as to extend above the horizontal plane of the roof where the building wall and roof meet or shall not extend more than five (5) feet above grade when on the ground.
6. *Standard Informational Sign.* Each lot may display two (2) standard informational signs without a permit, except that during a political election, each lot may display no more than six (6) standard informational signs during the period 90 days before the date of the election and the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate.
7. *Internal Development Signs.* Internal development signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. Includes but is not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional, safety signs, and signs delineating internal sub-components of the overall development. Internal directional signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height. (Added May 7, 2008)

**B. Residential Districts (R-1, R-2, R-2A, R-3, R-3A, R-4, R-4A, R-5, R-5A, CUP, NUP, SUB A, SUB B and SUB C) (Article VI, Article XI, sections 11.1 and 11.2 and Appendix A - Fulton County Zoning Resolution).**

1. *Freestanding Signs.*
  - a. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign per lot occupied with an institutional use shall be permitted for each street on which the lot has frontage.
  - b. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign or two (2)

single-faced freestanding signs not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet for each side of a platted single family subdivision entrance shall be permitted for each street on which the subdivision has an entrance.

- c. Freestanding signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet, may be externally illuminated, and shall not have changeable copy.
2. *Window Signs.* Not more than three (3) window signs per lot of record shall be allowed and shall not be larger than four (4) square feet or cover more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the area of each window in which a sign is placed, whichever is less. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
3. *Signs during Construction.* One (1) additional sign shall be allowed during construction. The sign shall not be internally illuminated, shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area and five (5) feet in height, and shall be allowed beginning with the commencement of construction and ending with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or installation of a permanent sign, whichever occurs first.
4. *Flag.* Each lot may display no more than one (1) flag and/or flagpole. The flagpole shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size shall not be more than twenty (20) square feet.
5. *Banner.* Banners shall be allowed for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days with no more than three (3) such fourteen (14) day periods being permitted per calendar year per lot. Banners shall not be more than twenty-four (24) square feet. No banner shall be mounted so as to extend above the horizontal plane of the roof where the building wall and roof meet or shall not extend more than five (5) feet above grade when on the ground.
6. *Standard Informational Signs.* Each lot may display two (2) standard informational signs without a permit, except that during a political election, each lot may display no more than six (6) standard informational signs during the period 90 days before the date of the election and the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate.
7. *Internal Development Signs.* Internal development signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. Includes but is not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional, safety signs, and signs delineating internal sub-components of the overall development. Internal directional signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height. (Added May 7, 2008)

**C. Apartment and Townhouse Residential Districts (R-6, TR, A, A-L, MHP and A-1) (Article VII, Article XI, section 11.3 and Appendix A - Fulton County Zoning Resolution).**

1. *Free Standing Signs.* One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot freestanding sign shall be permitted for each street on which the residential development has frontage. The sign shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet, may be externally illuminated, and shall not have changeable copy. (Amended May 7, 2008)
2. *Window Signs.* Not more than three (3) window signs per unit shall be allowed and shall not be larger than four (4) square feet or cover more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the area of each window in which a sign is placed, whichever is less. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
3. *Signs during Construction.* One (1) additional sign shall be allowed during construction. The sign shall not be internally illuminated, shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area and five (5) feet in height, and shall be allowed beginning with the commencement of construction and ending with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or installation of a permanent sign, whichever occurs first.
4. *Flag.* Each lot may display no more than one (1) flag and/or flagpole. The flagpole shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size shall not be more than twenty (20) square feet.
5. *Banner.* Banners shall be allowed for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days with no more than three (3) such fourteen (14) day periods being permitted per calendar year per lot. Banners shall not be more than twenty-four (24) square feet. No banner shall be mounted so as to extend above the horizontal plane of the roof where the building wall and roof meet or shall not extend more than five (5) feet above grade when on the ground.
6. *Awning/canopy signs.* Awning/canopy signs may be displayed. A permit is required. The signs shall be deducted from allocated wall sign area. The area of the sign shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of the awning or canopy.
7. *Standard Informational Signs.* Each lot may display two (2) standard informational signs without a permit, except that during a political election, each lot may display no more than six (6) standard informational signs during the period 90 days before the date of the election and the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate.
8. *Internal Development Signs.* Internal development signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal roads(s) serving the development. Includes but is not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional, safety signs, and signs delineating internal sub-components of the overall development. Internal directional signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height. (Added May 7, 2008)

**D. Office-Institutional and Apartment-Office Districts (O-I and A-O) (Article VIII, section 8.1 and Appendix A - Fulton County Zoning Resolution).**

1. *Freestanding Signs.*
  - a. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign shall be permitted for each street on which the lot has less than five hundred (500) feet of frontage. The sign shall have a maximum height of ten (10) feet, may be externally illuminated, and shall not have changeable copy.
  - b. One (1) maximum sixty-four (64) square foot, freestanding for each street on which the lot has five hundred (500) or more linear feet of frontage. If the lot has two (2) or more entrances on a street on which it has frontage, the one maximum sixty four (64) square foot sign may be substituted by two (2) single-faced freestanding signs not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. The sign shall have a maximum height of ten (10) feet, may be externally illuminated, and shall not have changeable copy. No more than two (2) signs shall be allowed per frontage over five hundred (500) feet.
2. *Wall Sign.* Wall signs are permitted on street-facing walls (including windows and doors). Businesses without a street on which there is frontage, but which have exterior entrances to the building, are entitled to one wall sign on the exterior wall of the business where the primary entrance is located. Wall sign(s) shall not exceed the smaller of five percent (5%) of the applicable wall area or one hundred (100) square feet, confined to the upper thirty (30) feet of the facade. Wall signs shall not have changeable copy unless approved as a marquee sign. Each place of business is allowed a maximum of two wall signs. Only one sign is allowed per wall. Wall signs shall face public streets and/or pedestrian-parking areas.
3. *Internal Freestanding Signs.* Internal freestanding signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. The freestanding sign shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area and six (6) feet in height and shall not be legible by the traveling public from a public right-of-way. (Amended May 7, 2008)
4. *Window Signs.* Not more than three (3) window signs per unit shall be allowed and shall not be larger than four (4) square feet or cover more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the area of each window in which a sign is placed, whichever is less. Such signs shall not be illuminated, except that one window sign may be illuminated. Window signs shall not be counted toward the wall sign total square footage.
5. *Awning/canopy Signs.* Awning/canopy signs may be displayed. A permit is required. The signs shall be deducted from allocated wall sign area. The area of the sign shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of the awning or canopy.
6. *Flags.* Each lot may display no more than three (3) flags and/or flagpoles. Flagpoles shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size shall not be more than twenty (20) square feet.

7. *Standard Informational Signs.* Each lot may display two (2) standard informational signs without a permit, except that during a political election, each lot may display no more than six (6) standard informational signs during the period 90 days before the date of the election and the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate.
8. *Banners.* Banners shall be allowed for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days with no more than three (3) such fourteen (14) day periods being permitted per calendar year per lot. In the case of lots which contain multiple businesses, each business shall be allowed a banner. Banners shall not be more than thirty-two (32) square feet. No banner shall be mounted so as to extend above the horizontal plane of the roof where the building wall and roof meet and shall not extend more than five (5) feet above grade when on the ground.
9. *Projecting Signs.* In a multi-tenant office building, in addition to all other permitted signs, one (1) projecting non-illuminated sign per entrance used shall be allowed to identify the location of each tenant's premises. Projecting signs shall adhere to the following: does not exceed three (3) square feet in area; is uniform in size, material, color and shape and is placed in an equivalent location to other such signs located on the same building; is suspended from the eave or soffit of the building; and maintains a minimum of seven (7) feet clearance between the bottom of the sign and the walkway below.
10. *Internal Development Signs.* Internal development signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. Includes but is not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional, safety signs and directional signs associated with hospitals and other emergency care facilities. Internal directional signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height except that signs associated with hospitals and emergency care facilities shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area. (Added May 7, 2008)

**E. Commercial, Industrial Park, and Mixed Use Districts (C-1, C-2, M-1A, MIX) (Article IX, Article X, section 10.1, Article VIII, section 8.2 - Fulton County Zoning Resolution).**

1. *Freestanding Signs.*
  - a. One (1) maximum twenty (20) square foot, freestanding sign shall be permitted for each lot which contains less than 3 (three) acres.
  - b. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, for each lot which contains 3 (three) or more, but not more than fifteen (15) acres.
  - c. For lots that contain more than fifteen (15) acres, one (1) maximum sixty-four (64) square foot, freestanding for each street on which the lot has primary frontage and one thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign for each street on which the lot has secondary frontage. If the primary frontage

of the lot is five hundred (500) linear feet or more and if the lot has two (2) or more entrances on the street on which it has primary frontage, the one maximum sixty four (64) square foot sign may be substituted with two (2) single-faced freestanding signs not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. The sign shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet if thirty-two (32) square feet or less and eight (8) feet if sixty-four (64) square feet or less and may be externally illuminated. No more than two (2) signs shall be allowed per development unless there is a secondary frontage.

- d. All signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet if thirty-two (32) square feet or less, a maximum height of eight (8) feet or less if greater than thirty-two (32) square feet, may be internally lighted, and shall not have changeable copy. Each sign may have not more than four (4) tenant panels if thirty-two (32) square feet or less, or not more than six (6) tenant panels if greater than thirty-two (32) square feet.
  - e. Within the Mixed Use (MIX) district One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign or two (2) single-faced freestanding signs not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet for each side of a platted residential component's entrance shall be permitted for each street on which the residential component has an entrance.
2. *Wall Signs.* Wall signs are permitted on street-facing walls (including windows and doors). Businesses without a street on which there is frontage, but which have exterior entrances to the building, are entitled to one (1) wall sign on the exterior wall of the business where the primary entrance is located. Wall sign(s) shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the applicable wall area or one hundred (100) square feet, whichever is smaller. Wall signs shall not have changeable copy unless approved as a marquee sign. Each place of business is allowed a maximum of two wall signs. Only one sign per business is allowed per wall. Wall signs shall face public streets and/or pedestrian-parking areas. (Amended May 7, 2008)
  3. *Wall Signs, Tenant over 50,000 square feet.* A tenant that has over fifty thousand (50,000) square feet of gross floor space and has independent leased space within a shopping center shall be allowed wall signs not to exceed five percent (5%) of the applicable wall area or three hundred (300) square feet, whichever is smaller.
  4. *Menu Sign.* One menu sign as part of a drive-thru or drive-in facility, not legible by the traveling public, shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
  5. *Banner.* Banners shall be allowed for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days with no more than three (3) such fourteen (14) day periods being permitted per calendar year per lot. In the case of lots which contain multiple businesses, each business shall be allowed a banner. Banners shall not be more than thirty-two (32) square feet. No banner shall be mounted so as to extend above the horizontal plane of the roof where the building wall and roof meet, or shall not extend more than five (5) feet above

grade when on the ground.

6. *Signs during Construction.* One (1) additional sign shall be allowed during construction. The sign shall not be internally illuminated. The sign shall be allowed beginning with the commencement of construction and ending with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or installation of a permanent sign, whichever occurs first. The sign shall not exceed the maximum freestanding sign allowed on the lot.
7. *Out-of-Store Marketing Device.* Out-of-store marketing devices shall be allowed, shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height, and shall not be illuminated except for illumination intrinsic to the device. No permit shall be required.
8. *Flags.* Each lot may display no more than three (3) flags and/or flagpoles. Flagpoles shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size shall not be more than twenty (20) square feet.
9. *Entrance Signs.* In a multi-tenant commercial or office building, in addition to all other permitted signs, one (1) projecting non-illuminated sign per entrance used shall be allowed to identify the location of each tenant's premises. Projecting signs shall adhere to the following: does not exceed three (3) square feet in area; is uniform in size, material, color and shape and is placed in an equivalent location to other such signs located on the same building; is suspended from the eave or soffit of the building; and maintains a minimum of seven (7) feet clearance between the bottom of the sign and the walkway below.
10. *Window Signs.* Not more than three (3) window signs per unit shall be allowed and shall not be larger than four (4) square feet or cover more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the area of each window in which a sign is placed, whichever is less. Such signs shall not be illuminated, except that one window sign may be illuminated. Window signs shall not be counted towards the wall sign total square footage.
11. *Awning/canopy Signs.* Awning/canopy Signs may be displayed. A permit is required. The signs shall be deducted from allocated wall sign area. The area of the sign shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of the awning or canopy. The area of an Awning/canopy Sign shall be deducted from the allowable area of a Wall Sign.
12. *Standard Informational Signs.* Each lot having one (1) business or residence may display two (2) standard informational signs, and each lot having more than one (1) business may display four (4) standard informational signs without a permit, except that during a political election, each lot may display no more than six (6) standard informational signs during the period 90 days before the date of the election and the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate.
13. *Projecting Signs.* In a multi-tenant commercial or office building, in addition to all other permitted signs, one (1) projecting non-illuminated sign per entrance used shall be allowed to identify the location of each tenant's premises. Projecting signs shall

adhere to the following: does not exceed three (3) square feet in area; is uniform in size, material, color, and shape and is placed in an equivalent location to other such signs located on the same building; is suspended from the eave or soffit of the building; and maintains a minimum of seven (7) feet clearance between the bottom of the sign and the walkway below.

14. *Internal Freestanding Signs.* Internal freestanding signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. The freestanding sign shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area and six (6) feet in height and shall not be legible by the traveling public from a public right-of-way. (Added May 7, 2008)
15. *Internal Development Signs.* Internal development signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. Includes but is not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional, safety signs and directional signs associated with hospitals and other emergency care facilities. Internal directional signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height except that signs associated with hospitals and emergency care facilities shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area. (Added May 7, 2008)

**F. Industrial Districts (M-1, M-2) (Article X, sections 10.2 and 10.3 of the Zoning Resolution of Fulton County).**

1. *Billboards.* Within industrial districts (M-1 and M-2), freestanding signs shall not exceed six hundred seventy-two (672) square feet and shall be located according to the following standards:
  - a. Along, and oriented toward, State numbered primary routes or national highways only;
  - b. At least five hundred (500) feet from all residential or AG-1 zoning districts;
  - c. Minimum one hundred (100) foot setback from right-of-way;
  - d. Minimum of one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet from any other billboards or freestanding sign, except standard informational signs;
  - e. The lot on which the billboard is located shall have sufficient area to accommodate the Fall Zone, and excepting the sign, no buildings, structures, or appurtenances shall be contained in the Fall Zone;
  - f. Be in compliance with applicable height standards for the district in which

located.

2. *Freestanding Signs*

- a. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign shall be permitted for each street on which the lot has up to and including five hundred (500) feet of frontage. The sign shall have a maximum height of twenty (20) feet and shall not have changeable copy.
- b. One (1) maximum sixty-four (64) square foot, freestanding sign shall be permitted for each street on which the lot has more than five hundred (500) linear feet and up to one thousand (1,000) linear feet of frontage. The sign shall have a maximum height of twenty (20) and shall not have changeable copy.
- c. One (1) maximum seventy-two (72) square foot, freestanding sign shall be permitted for each street on which the lot has more than one thousand (1,000) linear feet of frontage (excludes spin sites and out-parcels). The sign shall have a maximum height of twenty (20) feet and shall not have changeable copy.
- d. One (1) maximum thirty-two (32) square foot, freestanding sign per spin site or out-parcel which is identified on a site plan approved pursuant to a single zoning case. The sign shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet and shall not have changeable copy.

3. *Wall Signs.* Wall signs are permitted on street-facing walls (including windows and doors). Businesses without a street on which there is frontage, but which have exterior entrances to the building, are entitled to one wall sign on the exterior wall of the business where the primary entrance is located. Wall sign(s) shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the applicable wall area or one hundred eighty (180) square feet, whichever is smaller. Wall signs shall not have changeable copy unless approved as a marquee sign. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an anchor tenant that has over fifty thousand (50,000) square feet of gross floor space within a shopping center shall be allowed wall signs not to exceed five percent (5%) of the applicable wall area or three hundred (300) square feet, whichever is smaller. Each place of business is allowed a maximum of two wall signs. Only one sign is allowed per wall. Wall signs shall face public streets and/or pedestrian-parking areas.

4. *Menu Sign.* One menu sign as part of a drive-thru or drive-in facility, not legible by the traveling public, shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.

5. *Banner.* Banners shall be allowed for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days with no more than three (3) such fourteen (14) day periods being permitted per calendar year per lot. In the case of lots which contain multiple businesses, each business shall be allowed a banner. Banners shall not be more than thirty-two (32) square feet. No

banner shall be mounted so as to extend above the horizontal plane of the roof where the building wall and roof meet or shall not extend more than five (5) feet above grade when on the ground.

6. *Signs during Construction.* One (1) additional sign shall be allowed during construction. The sign shall not be internally illuminated. The sign shall be allowed beginning with the commencement of construction and ending with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or installation of a permanent sign, whichever occurs first. The sign shall not exceed the maximum freestanding sign allowed on the Lot.
7. *Out of Store Marketing Device.* Out of store marketing devices shall be allowed, shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height, and shall not be illuminated except for illumination intrinsic to the device. No permit shall be required.
8. *Flags.* Each lot may display no more than three (3) flags and/or flagpoles. Flagpoles shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size shall not be more than twenty (20) square feet.
9. *Projecting Signs.* In a multi-tenant commercial or office building, in addition to all other permitted signs, one (1) projecting non-illuminated sign per entrance used shall be allowed to identify the location of each tenant's premises. Projecting signs shall adhere to the following: does not exceed three (3) square feet in area; is uniform in size, material, color, and shape and is placed in an equivalent location to other such signs located on the same building; is suspended from the eave or soffit of the building; and maintains a minimum of seven (7) feet clearance between the bottom of the sign and the walkway below.
10. *Window Signs.* Window signs are allowed without a permit and shall not occupy in the aggregate more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the window area. Window signs shall not be counted towards the wall sign total square footage.
11. *Awning/canopy Signs.* Awning/canopy signs may be displayed. A permit is required. The signs shall be deducted from allocated wall sign area. The area of the sign shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of the awning or canopy. The area of an Awning/canopy Sign shall be deducted from the allowable area of a Wall Sign.
12. *Standard Informational Signs.* Each lot having one (1) business may display two (2) standard informational signs, and each lot having more than one (1) business may display four (4) standard informational signs without a permit, except that during a political election, each lot may display no more than six (6) standard informational signs during the period 90 days before the date of the election and the final determination on each ballot issue or candidate.
13. *Internal Freestanding Signs.* Internal freestanding signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. The freestanding sign shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area

and six (6) feet in height and shall not be legible by the traveling public from a public right-of-way. (Added May 7, 2008)

14. *Internal Development Signs.* Internal development signs (signs not visible from a public right of way) are permitted adjacent to internal road(s) serving the development. Includes but is not limited to signs such as parking lot information, directional and safety signs. Internal directional signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height. (Added May 7, 2008)

**Section 26: Severability.**

Should any article, section, clause, or provision of this Article be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such action shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part hereof other than the part so declared to be invalid, it being the intent of the County that each article, section, clause, and provision hereof be severable.