

190 Sign Regulations

- A. Sign regulations are specifically established to protect the public welfare and safety. In addition to the prerequisite for safety, special consideration shall be given to the aesthetics of sign design, size, and location as it relates to preserving the character of the immediate neighborhood as well as the atmosphere of the Town in general. Signs shall be constructed and maintained in such a manner as to prevent any injurious effects on adjacent property.

No sign shall be erected at any location where the position, size, shape, color, movement or illumination may interfere with, obstruct the view, or be confused with a traffic signal or sign or in any manner confuse traffic. Traffic visibility shall be a prime consideration in the issuance of a sign permit.

All signs shall be constructed, connected, operated and maintained according to all specifications and requirements of applicable building and electrical codes.

All signs shall be maintained in a good state of repair. The Town may order the removal of any sign that is not properly maintained.

All signs hereafter erected shall be in accordance with visibility requirements as set forth in Section 230 of this Chapter as well as with regulations of this section.

The Town by and through the Building Commissioner, Police Department, Plan Commission, Council Of Zoning Appeals, or Town Council may order the removal of any sign that is not properly maintained or not in compliance with these regulations. Any sign in violation may be removed by the Building Commissioner or his designee.

Violations of this Section shall be subject to a fine of \$25.00 per day for each day of violation.

... Non-Conforming Signs

Any sign lawfully established prior to the year 2010 that does not conform to the regulations of this ordinance shall be deemed a non-conforming sign and may be continued in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance except as noted in the provisions of this Section.

Expansion of such non-conforming signs, or the erection of signs accessory to a non-conforming use, may be authorized only by the Council of Zoning Appeals as a variance. No variance granted by the Council of Zoning Appeals shall exceed the size regulations for similar permitted signs.

... Special Use Signs

Signs accessory to a Special Use may be approved as a part of the Special Use Permit in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of this ordinance.

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e. Sign Design. The design of the copy cannot be created in such a way as to be a distraction to motorists.
f. Requirements. The sign must meet all other criteria for the zoning district in which it is located.

2. Motion Message Signs

a. Operational Limitation. Such displays shall be limited to static displays, messages that appear to disappear from the display through dissolve, fade, travel or scroll modes, or similar transitions and frame effects that have text, animated graphics or images that appear to move or change in size, or be revealed sequentially rather than all at once.

b. Minimum Display Time. Each message on the sign must be displayed for a minimum of two (2) Seconds.

c. Message Transition Sequence. A maximum of one (1) second shall be allowed as transition time between messages.

d. Light Intensity Change. No flashing, strobing, scintillating, or variation of light intensity effects where the effect takes place more than two (2) times per second.

e. Sign Design. The design of the copy cannot be created in such a way as to be a distraction to motorists.

f. Requirements. The sign must meet all other criteria for the zoning district in which it is located.

3) Video Message Signs

a. Operational Limitation. A sign capable of displaying words, symbols, figures, or images that can be electronically or mechanically changed by remote or automatic means, including animated graphics and videos.

b) Location. Video Message Signs are only allowed in non-motor vehicular areas and must not be visible from any motor vehicle traveled public street.

c) Light Intensity Change. No flashing, strobing, scintillating, or varying of light intensity effects where the effect takes place more than two (2) times per second.

d. Sign Design. The design of the copy cannot be created in such a way as to be a distraction to motorists.

e. Requirements. The sign must meet all other criteria for the zoning district in which it is located.

4) All electronic message signs shall come equipped with automatic dimming technology which automatically adjusts the sign's brightness in direct correlation with ambient light conditions.

5) No electronic message signs shall exceed a brightness level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light as measured using a foot candle meter at a distance of 100 feet from the sign.

6) Any Electronic Message Sign that malfunctions, fails, or ceases to operate in its usual or normal programmed manner, causing motion, movement, flashing, or any similar effects, shall be restored to its normal operation, conforming with this section within forty-eight (48) hours unless the Zoning Administrator considers such malfunction to be a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and orders the sign to be turned off, disconnected, or disabled.

7) Location requirements for EMC signs:

(a) Setback from residential. The leading edge of an EMC sign shall be a minimum distance of 100 feet from an abutting residential use or residential zone boundary

(b) Setback from other EMC signs. EMC signs shall be separated from other EMC signs by a minimum of 100 feet.

(c) Orientation. When located within 500 feet of a residential use or a residentially-zoned parcel, the EMC sign shall be oriented so no portion of the sign face is visible from an existing or permitted structure on that parcel.

(d) Location. The EMC sign shall be located on the parcel or lot of the use identified by the sign.

(e) No more than 50% of the facing surface of the sign may be comprised of a changeable electronic or digital display

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... Limitations On Signs

No business or advertising sign shall be permitted in any district except as herein provided.

... General Requirements

1. No projecting sign shall be erected or maintained from the front or face of a building a distance of more than two (2) feet, including those projecting from the face of any theater, hotel, or motel marquee;
2. No sign shall be placed on the roof of any building;
3. No sign erected or maintained in the window of a building, visible from any public or private street or highway, shall occupy more than twenty (20) percent of the window surface;
4. No sign shall be placed in or over any public right-of-way without the written approval of the Culver Town Council. Temporary signs directing and guiding traffic and parking on private property but bearing no advertising matter shall be permitted on any private property with the owner's written permission.
5. No building wall shall be used for display of advertising except that pertaining to the use carried on within such building;
6. All permanent signs shall conform to building setback and height requirements;
7. Temporary signs, a maximum of two (2), not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area, announcing special public or institutional events, may be erected on the site for a specific pre-designated time period and shall be promptly removed when they have fulfilled their function;
8. Signs erected by governmental agencies are exempt from the limitations on sign regulations contained in this ordinance;
9. No signs are permitted on utility posts or poles, trees, or fences;
10. Signs advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the premises upon which the sign is located, shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area, except in all residential districts where the area of the sign shall not be more than six (6) square feet.
11. A "Home For Sale" sign, including a directional arrow, not more than two (2) square feet containing no advertising may be placed at the entrance of a dead-end street or cul-de-sac.
12. Open house signs, not to exceed six (6) square feet, for real estate open houses, occasional business / commercial open houses and yard / garage sales. Such signs may not be placed more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the event and must be removed at the conclusion of the event. No sign for the same event may be re-erected to subvert the requirements of this ordinance. No more than five (5) signs per event. All such signs placed on private property must be with the owner's written permission and in compliance with Section 5.1 herein. Such signs must contain the name of the event sponsor or a contact telephone number for the sponsor and the date and time of the event. No such signs may be placed on any public right-of-way or on any infrastructure of any public utility.
13. Professional name plates not to exceed four (4) square feet in area;
14. Signs denoting the name and address of the occupants of the premises, not to exceed two (2) square feet in area;
15. Bulletin Boards customarily incidental to places of worship, libraries, museums, social clubs, or societies shall not exceed fifteen (15) square feet in area and shall be located on the premises of such institutions.

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... Construction Signs

Signs posted on construction sites are permitted provided that a building permit has been issued, they are not located in the right-of-way, do not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, and are removed within 30 days of the issuance of the Certificate Of Occupancy or completion of the project.

... Business Signs

Business signs shall be permitted in connection with any legal business or industry when located only on the primary business premise and if they meet the following requirements:

1. Signs shall not contain information or advertising for any products not sold or produced on the premises;
2. Total signage on the building shall not have an aggregate surface size greater than four (4) square feet for each foot of width of the principal structure on the premises, maximum 300 square feet;
3. Signs shall not project over public rights-of-ways;
4. Signs shall not be illuminated in any manner, which causes undue confusion, distraction, or hazard to vehicular traffic.
5. No electronic message signs shall exceed a brightness level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light as measured using a foot candle meter at a distance of 100 feet from the sign.

... Advertising Signs

Signs advertising an enterprise that is not located on the premise of the enterprise are not permitted.

... Permission For Signs

No sign shall be placed on private property without the written consent of the owner or agent thereof.

Proof of such consent must be filed with the Building Commissioner.

.....Electronic Message Signs (EMC)

Electronic Message Signs are permitted and may be incorporated as part of a Ground/Free Standing or Wall mounted permanent signs with the following restrictions:

1. Static Message Signs

- a. Operational Limitation. Such displays shall contain static messages only, and shall not have movement, or the appearance or optical illusion of movement, of any part of the sign structure, design, or pictorial segment of the sign, including the movement or appearance of movement, of an illumination.
- b. Minimum Display Time. Each message on the sign must be displayed for a minimum of five (5) seconds.
- c. Message Change Sequence. A maximum of three tenths (0.3) seconds shall be allowed with no image displayed between each message displayed on the sign.
- d. Light Intensity Change. No flashing, strobing, scintillating, or variation of light intensity effects where the effect takes place more than two (2) times per second