

SECTION 1001 SIGNS - INTENT AND PURPOSE

The intent of this article is to provide a comprehensive system of sign regulation for Munson Township that recognizes the necessity and desirability of communication by outdoor signs while promoting an order to signage which eliminates visual clutter and confusion within the physical environment. The purpose of this article is to protect the safety and general welfare of the public within the Township by encouraging compatibility between the design and functional nature of the sign and its location within the physical environment, thus reducing the propensity for traffic accidents and personal hazards caused by distractions, sight obstructions, and unsafe structures.

SECTION 1002 ZONING CERTIFICATE

Subject to Section 1003.4 no sign of any kind, the area of which exceeds 2.25 square feet, shall be erected in the township unless and until the person responsible for erecting the sign has applied for, and the Zoning Inspector has issued a certificate for the sign pursuant to Article 12.

SECTION 1003 GENERAL PROVISIONS

The general provisions relating to signs, their use, illumination and location in any district follow:

1003.1 **Measurement of Sign Area**

The surface or face of a sign shall be computed as including the entire area within a regular, geometric form or combinations of regular geometric forms comprising all of the display area of the sign and including all of the elements of the matter displayed. Frames and structural members not displaying advertising matter shall not be included in computation of surface area. Sign area shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet, except as otherwise specified herein.

1003.2 **Measurement of a Ground Sign Height**

The height of a ground sign shall be measured from the average finished grade level adjacent to the base of the sign, and vertically to the highest point of such sign including frames and structural members. Sign height shall not exceed six (6) feet.

1003.3 **Location**

No sign shall be located closer than five (5) feet from a road right-of-way line and/or within twenty-five (25) feet of a lot line.

1003.4 **Real Estate**

Real estate signs shall be limited to two (2) per building or two (2) per parcel of land, but to not more than two (2) if such parcel includes a building. No Real Estate sign shall be greater than six (6) square feet.

1003.5 **Signs Permitted in the Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Medical Use Zoning Districts**

Only the following designs of signs may be located, erected, moved, constructed, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, converted, or structurally altered in the commercial, industrial, institutional and medical use zoning districts upon the issuance of a zoning certificate and subject to the following limitations:

- a. Each commercial, industrial, institutional or medical complex may be permitted the following signs on the premises:
 1. One (1) wall sign, per business entity, which shall have a maximum area of forty (40) square feet, and
 2. One (1) ground sign, which shall have a maximum area of twenty (20) square feet per sign face and shall be no higher than six (6) feet as defined in Section 1003.2.
- b. Commercial, industrial, institutional or medical premises which has both frontage and an access driveway on a second road may have a second ground sign provided such sign is located on the second road frontage and that it complies with the height and area provisions of Subsection (a) hereof.
- c. One (1) of the signs permitted in subsections (a) or (b) may be an electronic changeable sign subject to conformance with the provisions of Section 1003.7.
- d. All permitted signs may be illuminated.
- e. Signs shall not be illuminated between the hours of 10pm and 6am, provided however, that signs may be illuminated between those hours during the actual hours of operation of the business or use.

1003.6 **Temporary Signs**

Temporary signs not previously mentioned in this section intended to draw attention to a particular activity shall be removed within three (3) days following the activity. Not more than one (1) on-site sign which shall not exceed an area of thirty-six (36) square feet per sign face, and two (2) off-site signs, which shall not exceed an area of twenty (20) square feet per sign face each, shall be permitted. Temporary signs are not permitted to be erected more than thirty (30) days prior to a particular activity.

1003.7 **Electronic Changeable Signs**

Multiple message and variable message signs which are changed electronically shall conform to the following regulations:

- a. The maximum area per sign face shall be ten (10) square feet.
- b. Each message shall remain fixed for at least thirty (30) seconds. Messages shall not flash, including moving video displays or animation, or emit intermittent light.
- c. Changes to messages or images shall be accomplished in not more than three (3) seconds.
- d. Such sign must be capable of regulating the digital display intensity and the light intensity level of the display and must automatically adjust to natural ambient light conditions.
- e. No such sign shall be of such intensity as to create a distraction or nuisance for motorists.
- f. Such signs shall not emulate traffic control devices.

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- g. Such signs shall contain a default design that will freeze the sign in one position or cause it to go dark if a malfunction occurs.
- h. The entire message shall change at once, without scrolling, animation, flashing or blinking or other movement or noise.
- i. The changeable portion of any ground sign shall not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the total area of the sign.
- j. No more than one (1) electronic changeable sign is permitted for premises regardless of the number of signs permitted or the number of uses on the premises.

SECTION 1004 PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following signs shall be prohibited in all zoning districts:

- 1004.1 Signs which prevent the driver of a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view of official governmental signs and/or approaching or merging traffic.
- 1004.2 Signs which interfere with, imitate or resemble an official governmental sign, signal, or device.
- 1004.3 Signs illuminated so as to interfere with the effectiveness of, or which obscure an official governmental sign, signal, or device.
- 1004.4 Roof signs.
- 1004.5 Signs on which the illumination is flashing, moving, or intermittent.
- 1004.6 Home occupation signs.
- 1004.7 No sign, temporary or permanent, shall be placed in the public road right-of-way with the exception of signs erected by the state of Ohio, a political subdivision thereof, or an authorized governmental department or entity.
- 1004.8 Inflatable devices.
- 1004.9 No sign shall be placed anywhere in a residential district, except as noted in this Resolution, that is permitted in a commercial, industrial, institutional or medical use district.

SECTION 1005 REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Any existing conforming or nonconforming sign which no longer relates to the building, structure or use of the affected premises shall be completely removed within thirty (30) days after written notification of same has been sent by the zoning inspector to the owner or lessee.