

Chapter 19

Signs and Billboards

Part 1

Signs and Billboards

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Part 1**Signs and Billboards****§19-101. “Sign” Defined.**

The word “sign,” as used in this Part, shall mean and include any structure, board, banner or article (any part of which is located out of doors), including all frames, braces and supports thereof, used or intended to be used for the carrying or display of any announcement, advertisement or notice. The word “sign,” as used in this Part, shall not include any of the following:

A. Any address marker sign not over 1 square foot in area attached directly to the wall of a building occupied by the person to whom such nameplate or professional sign is applicable. [Ord. 978]

B. Any official sign erected under the provisions of the Vehicle Code, Title 75, Pa.C.S.A., or any ordinance adopted thereunder.

C. Any street name sign or directional sign erected by or under direction of the authorities of the Borough.

D. Any danger sign.

E. Any legal notice.

F. Any “no trespassing” sign.

G. Any sign that is embedded or set into a building or which is so constructed as to become a part of such building, provided that such sign bears only such information as the following: the name of the owner of the building, the date of erection of the building and the nature of the business conducted therein.

H. Any tablet constructed entirely of stone, metal or other incombustible material that is built into or firmly attached to the wall of a building, provided that such tablet contains only such information as is mentioned in paragraph .K, or reading matter commemorating a person or an event.

(Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §1; as amended by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011)

§19-102. Definitions and Interpretation.

1. In this Part, the following words shall have the meanings hereby respectively ascribed thereto, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Ground sign—any sign erected upon a support sunk into the ground and not attached to any building.

Person—any natural person, partnership, association, firm or corporation.

Projecting sign—any sign, other than a wall sign or a roof sign, that shall be attached to any building.

Roof sign—any sign erected upon the roof of any building or other structure.

Wall sign—a flat sign, of solid-face construction, not over two inches in thickness, which is placed against a building or other structure and fastened

directly thereto. [*Ord. 978*]

2. In this Part, the singular shall include the plural and the masculine shall include the feminine and the neuter.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §2; as amended by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011*)

§19-103. Regulations Applicable to All Signs.

The following regulations shall apply to all signs located and maintained in the Borough:

A. No sign shall be erected or located so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any window, door or fire escape of or upon any building, nor shall any sign be attached to any fire escape.

B. Every electrical device and all electric wiring installed for any purpose upon any sign or placed within such sign or constructed on the outside of such sign shall conform to the requirements of the Uniform Construction Code. [*Ord. 978*]

C. No sign shall be so erected or located that, by reason of its location, shape or color, or the color, shape or location of the lights used in conjunction therewith, such sign might interfere with traffic or be confused with or obstruct the view or effectiveness of any official traffic sign, traffic signal or traffic marking.

D. No sign or any post, support or brace therefor shall be constructed, erected or located upon any sidewalk, street or Borough property.

E. Illuminating arrangement for every sign shall be such that the light is concentrated upon such sign that no glare shall be such that the light is concentrated upon such sign and that no glare shall be cast upon the street, the sidewalk or adjoining property.

F. No sign shall be a flashing sign.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §3; as amended by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011*)

§19-104. Permit Required; Application; Fee.

No sign shall hereafter be erected, altered, located, relocated or enlarged in the Borough until the person proposing to erect, alter, locate, relocate or enlarge such sign shall have obtained a permit therefor from the Code Enforcement. Such permit shall be issued only when such person shall have complied with all the preliminary requirements of this Part and when the Code Enforcement Officer shall have satisfied himself that such sign will, in every respect, comply with all of the applicable provisions of this Part, such provisions being designed for the safety of the inhabitants of the Borough and the persons using the Borough thoroughfares. Any person who shall desire any such permit shall file an application therefor in the office of the Code Enforcement Officer. Such application shall contain all information necessary to obtain a correct understanding of the characteristics and specifications, and of the compliance of such sign with the provisions of this Part. If required by the Code Enforcement Officer, such application shall be accompanied by plans and specifications for the sign. Such application shall be accompanied by a fee, in an amount as established from time to time by resolution of Borough Council, which shall be for the use of the Borough and is hereby imposed to cover or partially cover the cost of investigation and inspection of the work of construction of such sign.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §4; as amended by Ord. 846, 9/18/1991, §19-104; and by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011*)

§19-105. Continued Maintenance of Existing Signs.

Every sign erected in the Borough, prior to the enactment of this Part, may continue to be maintained in spite of lack of conformity with all of the provisions of this Part, until such sign is altered, replaced or relocated, at which time such sign shall be brought into conformity with the provisions of this Part. Provided, nothing herein shall apply to any sign projecting over a sidewalk, which shall be brought into conformity with §19-112.B and .C of this Part upon notice from the Code Enforcement Officer to do so. Provided further, all such signs heretofore erected shall be maintained in safe and secure condition.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §6; as amended by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011*)

§19-106. Maintenance of Newly Erected, Altered, Located, Relocated or Enlarged Signs.

Every sign hereafter erected, altered, located, relocated or enlarged at any place within the Borough shall constantly be maintained in strict accordance with all the applicable provisions of this Part.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §7*)

§19-107. Inspection of Signs; Removal or Alteration of Unlawful or Unsafe Signs.

The Borough Council may cause any or all signs in the Borough to be inspected in order to determine whether such signs are being maintained in safe and secure condition and in conformity with the provisions of this Part. In case any sign is found not to conform to the applicable requirements or not to be maintained in safe and secure condition, the Council shall notify the owner of the property upon which such sign is located either to remove such sign or to make such alterations as necessary, within 15 days of such notice. If such sign shall not be removed or altered within such time limit the Borough may cause the removal of such sign, or of any unsafe or nonconforming portion thereof, if, in the opinion of the Code Enforcement Officer, the removal of such portion would be sufficient to eliminate all source of danger to the public, and the Borough may collect the cost of such removal, together with a penalty of 10 percent from the owner of such property, in the manner provided by law.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §8; as amended by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011*)

§19-108. New Roof Signs Unlawful.

It shall be unlawful for any person hereafter to erect or locate any roof sign at any place within the Borough.

(*Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §10*)

§19-109. Regulations Applicable to Wall Signs.

Every wall sign hereafter constructed, altered, located, relocated or enlarged within the Borough shall conform to all of the following requirements:

A. No sign shall be erected upon any wall of any building so as to project above the roof cornice or above the roof level where there is no cornice or parapet wall.

B. No wall sign or any part thereof shall project more than 1 foot beyond the building.

C. If any wall sign is illuminated by a reflector, such reflector shall be at least 10 feet above the surface of the sidewalk, and shall be equipped with a wire mesh, or similar, guard. In no case may any reflector or any of its supports extend more than 2 feet from the building. [Ord. 978]

(Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §11; as amended by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011)

§19-110. Regulations Applicable to Projecting Signs.

Every projecting sign hereafter constructed, altered, located, relocated or enlarged within the Borough shall conform to all of the following requirements:

A. No projecting sign shall be a swinging sign.

B. No projecting sign shall project more than 5 feet beyond the building line in the direction of the street, nor shall any portion of any projecting sign be closer than 2 feet from the face of the street curb or curb line.

C. No portion of any projecting sign shall be less than 10 feet above the surface of the sidewalk above which such sign projects.

D. No projecting sign shall have a greater area on the side than 15 square feet.

E. No projecting sign shall have a vertical dimension greater than 10 feet, or a horizontal dimension greater than 5 feet.

F. On no property in the Borough shall there be more than one projecting sign for any one business or profession located therein, or more than one such sign for each 20 feet of frontage, whichever is the greater number.

(Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §12)

§19-111. Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 615, 6/20/1962, §13; as amended by Ord. 846, 9/18/1991, §19-113; and by Ord. 978, 5/31/2011)