

ZONING ORDINANCE

SECTION 10 SIGN REGULATIONS

10.1 INTENT

The purpose of these regulations is to control the location, number, size, placement, and other features of signs in the City of Chaska in order to facilitate communications between citizens and their environment while avoiding the visual clutter that is potentially harmful to traffic and pedestrian safety, property values, business opportunities, and community appearance. Accordingly, it is the intention of these regulations to:

- a) Promote and protect the public health, safety, comfort, and convenience;
- b) Enhance the economy of Chaska by assisting the reasonable, orderly, and effective promotion of Chaska business identification; and
- c) Promote signs that are compatible with their surroundings, appropriate to the type of activity that displays them, and modest in size and height, thereby enhancing the tastefulness of the Chaska community.

10.2 DEFINITIONS

Activity: Any business or institutional, professional, or religious entity that provides products or services.

Architectural Detail: Any projection, relief, cornice, column, change of building material, window, or door opening on any building.

Awning Sign: A sign that is affixed to a roof-like cover designed for protection from the weather or as a decorative embellishment, and which projects from a wall or roof of a structure primarily over a window, walk, or the like. Awning signs are counted as wall signs for the computation of allowed signage on a building.

Backlit Awning Sign: An internally illuminated awning sign.

Building Facade: The height of the facade as measured from the base of the building to the eaves line or top of the uppermost inhabitable level by the width of the facade. When there is more than one activity in a building, width shall be defined as the width of the activity as it relates to the facade.

Business Center: A development of three (3) or more principal structures with common characteristics as determined by the city. Common characteristics may include shared access, similar architecture, single ownership or history of site plan review approval.

Business Center Identification Sign: Ground signs stating the name of a business center or industrial park and/or the names of the activities or tenants located within the business center or industrial park.

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Cabinet Sign: Any wall sign that is not of channel or individually mounted letter construction, (also referred to as a Canister Sign).

Canopy Sign: Any sign that is affixed to a projection or extension of a building or structure of a building, erected in such a manner as to provide a shelter or cover over the approach to any entrance of a building. Canopy signs are counted as wall signs for the computation of allowed signage on a building.

Changeable Copy Sign: A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or the surface of the sign.

Commercial Sign: A sign which advertises or identifies a product, business, service, event, or any other matter of a commercial nature, even though the matter may be related to a nonprofit organization.

Construction Sign: A temporary sign identifying the project under construction and/or individuals or companies involved in design, construction, wrecking, financing, or development when placed upon the premises where the project is under construction.

Directional Sign: An on-premise sign providing information for the convenience of the public, such as the location of entrances, exits, parking lots, and other instances when signage is necessary for orderly traffic movement.

Flashing Sign: An illuminated sign on which an artificial source of light is not maintained stationary or at constant intensity or color at all times when such sign is illuminated.

Freestanding or Ground Sign: A sign supported by one or more uprights, posts, or bases affixed to the ground and not attached to any part of a building.

Governmental Signs: A public sign designed for the control of traffic and other regulated purposes including street signs, warning signs, railroad-crossing signs, and signs of public service companies. For the purposes of these regulations, a governmental sign also includes any sign that is located off-premise and is specifically designed to provide directions to a public or semi-public building such as City Hall, the Courthouse, libraries, hospitals, and schools.

Home Improvement Sign: A temporary sign that identifies and announces the construction company responsible for the home improvement of the property.

Illumination, External: A sign that is affected by an artificial light source that is not contained within the sign itself.

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Illumination, Internal: Illumination of a sign from a light source that is concealed or contained within the sign and becomes visible in darkness through a translucent surface. For the purpose of these regulations, neon signs shall not be considered to be internally illuminated.

Incidental Sign: A sign that has a purpose secondary to the use of the lot on which it is located, such as “telephone”, “drive-up window”, “cash machine”, “air”, and other similar directives.

Monument Sign: A freestanding sign that does not utilize pylons, posts, poles, or uprights for support, but instead is anchored directly to the ground or is attached to a base that is anchored to the ground.

Nameplate Sign: An accessory sign that designates an address and/or name only.

Nonconforming Sign: A sign that does not adhere to one or more of the provisions contained in Section 10.

Off-premise Sign: A sign which directs attention to a business, profession, activity, commodity, service, or entertainment other than one conducted, sold, or offered upon the premises where such sign is located, or within the building to which sign is affixed. Billboard signs are one, but not the only, type of off-premise sign.

Opaque Sign Face: The nontransparent face for an internally illuminated sign. Illumination shall be emitted only for the name, trademark, logo, or other similar device or text used to identify a particular business, place or activity.

Political Sign: A temporary sign which states the name and/or picture of an individual seeking election or appointment to a public office, or pertaining to a forthcoming public election or referendum.

Portable Sign: A sign designed so as to be movable from one location to another, and that is not permanently affixed to a building, structure, or the ground, including but not limited to, signs designed to be transported by means of wheels, sign converted to A-Frames, and menu and sandwich board signs.

Projecting Sign: A sign that is wholly or partially dependent upon a building for support and which projects more than 12 inches from such building. For the purposes of these sign regulations, an awning or canopy sign shall not be considered a projecting sign.

Pylon Sign: A ground sign erected upon pylons, posts, poles, or uprights that are anchored to the ground.

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Real Estate Sign: A sign pertaining to the sale, lease or rent of land or buildings. For the purpose of these sign regulations, open house signs shall also be included under this definition.

Roof Sign: A sign that is displayed, in whole or in part, above the eaves or roofline of a building.

Sign: Any writing, pictorial presentation, number, illustration or decoration, flag, banner or other device that is used to announce, direct attention to, identify, advertise any business, product, goods, activity, services or any interests. However, this shall not include any emblem or insignia of a government, school, or religious group when displayed for official purposes.

Sign Display Area: The area of a sign shall be computed by means of the smallest circle, rectangle or triangle that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the building facade against which it is placed, but not including any supporting framework, pole, or bracing. One ascender and one descender of a sign, that are less than 100% of the size of the sign, shall not be included in the computation of the sign area.

For monument signs, the method in the previous paragraph shall be used. Only the face that is specifically intended to be used for signage shall be included when computing the sign area. Any base or other supporting structure, along with all adjoining structures such as fences or walls shall not be included when computing the sign area.

Special Event Sign: A temporary sign that is used to advertise or promote an event of special significance in the City of Chaska. Such special events include events of civic, philanthropic, educational, or religious organizations; examples of which are River City Days and the Fall Festival.

Temporary Sign: A non-permanent sign erected, affixed, or maintained on-premise for a limited period of time.

Temporary Business Sign: A temporary sign, located on-premise and meant to identify a special unique or limited event, service, product, sale of limited duration, or grand opening. Included under this definition are banners containing a message and erected for any of the above purposes.

Wall Sign: A sign attached to or erected against the wall of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane approximately parallel to the face of the wall, and which does not project more than 12 inches from such building or structure.

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Window Sign: A sign attached to, placed upon, or painted on the interior of a window or door of a building that is intended for viewing from the exterior of such building.

10.3 RESIDENTIAL SIGN REGULATIONS

Within Residential, Rural, Open and Planned Residential Districts, the following signs are:

10.3.1 PERMANENT SIGNS:

- a) **Nameplate signs:** One sign not to exceed two (2) square feet for an individual dwelling unit in a Residential District and not more than four (4) square feet in the Rural and Open Districts and located in the front or street side yards. Neon and internally lit nameplate signs are prohibited.
- b) **Residential entrance ground signs:** For each residential subdivision or other residential developments including townhome, condominium, apartment, and manufactured home developments, entrance signs are permitted subject to the following requirements:
 - i) One freestanding sign per each entrance.
 - ii) 50 square feet maximum display area.
 - iii) Six (6) feet maximum height as measured from the base of the sign or abutting street grade, whichever is higher.
 - iv) A second sign may be located at a primary entrance as long as the combined display area of the two signs does not exceed 80 square feet.
 - v) Single or double faced; if double faced, the sign faces shall be parallel.
 - vi) Neon and internal illumination is prohibited.
 - vii) A neighborhood or homeowner's association shall be responsible for perpetual maintenance of the sign.
- c) **Educational, Religious and Public Institution Signs:** For each educational, religious, public or private institution, nursing home property or similar property, signs are permitted subject to the following requirements:
 - i) *Monument signs:*
 - One sign not to exceed 32 square feet in display area;
 - Five (5) feet maximum height as measured from the abutting street grade;

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- Single or double faced.

- ii) *Wall mounted signs:*

- One wall sign, except when more than one building facade has street frontage. In this instance, an activity may have one wall sign for each facade with street frontage. The sign area shall not exceed 32 square feet or 10% of the area of the facade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller.

- Indirect illumination only.

10.3.2 TEMPORARY SIGNS:

- a) Construction signs are subject to the following requirements:

- i) One on-premise temporary construction sign for each new residential subdivision or development, except where a subdivision or development abuts two or more streets, one additional sign oriented to each abutting street shall be allowed;

- ii) 32 square feet maximum display area;

- iii) Ten (10) feet maximum sign height for signs not exceeding four (4) feet in width, otherwise eight (8) feet maximum height, and it shall have a minimum clearance above the ground of two (2) feet;

- iv) One off-premise directional sign to advertise a new subdivision or development per each arterial or Class I collector leading to the residential subdivision or development. The sign area shall be no more than four (4) square feet and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than six (6) feet in height. No such sign shall be placed greater than one mile from the nearest entrance to the residential subdivision or development; and

- v) All construction signs and off-premise directional signs shall be removed within five (5) days after their intended purpose is served, or when 75% of the lots or rental units in the residential subdivision or development have been occupied, whichever event occurs first.

- b) Home improvement/remodeling signs are subject to the following requirements:

- i) One sign per lot, not exceeding six (6) square feet display area and four (4) feet in height;

- ii) Such sign shall be located in the front yard of the lot that the described activity is occurring and shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the property line; and

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- iii) The sign shall be displayed only until approval of the final inspection or the project is substantially completed, but in no event longer than 30 days.
- c) Within low and medium density residential zoning districts, temporary real estate signs are subject to the following requirements:
 - i) Six (6) square foot maximum display area;
 - ii) Six (6) feet maximum height;
 - iii) One sign located on the site which the sign is advertising; and
 - iv) Shall be removed within seven (7) days after the execution of a rental or lease agreement or the closing of a sale.
- d) Within high density residential zoning districts, leasing or sale of building signs which meet the following standards are permitted:
 - i) One sign located on the site that the sign is advertising.
 - ii) Display period shall end seven (7) days after sale of property or 12 months after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy (for multi-phased developments where construction is continuous, issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the last building).
 - iii) For freestanding signs, the following standards apply:
 - 32 square foot maximum display area.
 - Ten (10) feet maximum height for signs not exceeding four (4) feet in width, otherwise eight (8) feet maximum height.
 - iv) For banner signs, the following standards apply:
 - 32 square foot maximum area.
 - Shall be affixed to a building wall.

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10.4 PUBLIC USE DISTRICTS' SIGN REGULATIONS

Within the P1 and P2 Districts, permanent signs are permitted subject to the following requirements:

- a) **Wall Signs:** One wall sign, except when more than one building facade has street frontage. In this instance, an activity may have one wall sign for each facade with street frontage. The sign display area shall be no more than 40 square feet or 10% of the area of the facade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller.

If a cabinet sign is used, the sign display area shall be no more than 35 square feet or 8% of the area of the facade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller (Ordinance No. 691, Section 4, dated 11-20-00).

- b) **Ground signs:** One of the following freestanding identification signs:
 - i) *Pylon signs:* Not exceeding 50 square feet in display area and not more than 20 feet in height as measured from the abutting street grade.
 - ii) *Monument signs:* Not exceeding 50 square feet in display area and not more than five (5) feet in height as measured from the base or abutting street grade, whichever is higher.

10.5 NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE SIGN REGULATIONS

Within the C1 District, permanent signs are permitted subject to the following requirements:

- a) **Wall signs:** One wall sign for each distinct activity located in a building, except when more than one building facade has street frontage. In this instance, an activity may have one wall sign for each facade with street frontage. The sign display area shall be no more than 50 square feet or 10% of the area of the facade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller.

If a cabinet sign is used, the sign display area shall be no more than 40 square feet or 8% of the area of the facade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller (Ordinance No. 691, Section 1, dated 11-20-00).

- b) **Non-fronting wall signs:** Additional wall signage is allowed in locations that do not front a public right-of-way but have a customer entrance. The additional signage shall not exceed 18 square feet and shall be limited to the identification of the principal businesses.
- c) **Ground signs:** One of the following freestanding identification signs:
 - i) *Pylon signs:* Not exceeding 50 square feet in display area and not more than 20 feet in height as measured from the abutting street grade.

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- ii) *Monument signs:* Not exceeding 32 square feet in display area and not more than six (6) feet in height as measured from the base or abutting street grade, whichever is higher.

10.6 GENERAL COMMERCE AND PCD SIGN REGULATIONS

Within the C2 and Planned Commercial Districts, permanent signs are permitted subject to the following requirements:

- a) **Wall signs:** Two wall signs for each distinct activity located in a building, except when more than one building facade has street frontage. In this instance, an activity may have two wall signs for each facade with street frontage.

If a cabinet sign is used, the sign display area shall be no more than 100 square feet or 8% of the area of the façade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller (Ordinance No. 691, Section 1C, dated 11-20-00).

The sign display area shall be calculated using the following table:

Wall Area		Total Maximum Wall Signage			
From (in sq. ft.)	To (in sq. ft.)	Base Allowed Sign Area	Plus	of Area Over	To a Maximum Area of
0	1,500	0 square feet	10%	0.00	150 square feet
1,500	2,500	150 square feet	5%	1,500	200 square feet
2,500	—	200 square feet	2%	2,500	300 square feet

- b) **Non-fronting wall signs:** Additional wall signage is allowed in locations that do not front a public right-of-way but have a customer entrance. The additional signage shall not exceed 24 square feet plus any excess allowed signage from any single building facade. The non-fronting wall sign shall be limited to the identification of the principal business.
- c) **Ground signs:** One of the following freestanding identification signs for each lot:

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- i) *Pylon signs*: Not exceeding 125 square feet in display area and not more than 24 feet in height as measured from the abutting street grade.
- ii) *Monument signs*: Not exceeding 100 square feet in display area and not more than ten (10) feet in height as measured from the base or abutting street grade, whichever is higher.

d) **Service Stations:**

- i) One monument sign not to exceed 80 square feet in size or seven (7) feet in height as measured from the ground, **or** one pylon sign not to exceed 80 square feet in size and 24 feet in height. Monument signs are generally encouraged over pylon signs; however, the choice of monument or pylon shall be determined by the City Council based on the proximity of the site to residential zoning districts or uses.
- ii) Two (2) wall signs not to exceed 150 square feet in combined area.
- iii) Two (2) internally illuminated canopy signs not to exceed 40 square feet of combined area. (Such signs shall be allowed to extend no more than 12" above the top of the canopy.)
- iv) On-site directional signs as regulated in Subsection 10.11(a) of the Zoning Ordinance except that no such signage shall be affixed to the canopy support columns.
- v) No extraneous informational (except government mandated safety warnings) or advertising signs, either permanent or temporary, such as those referring to credit or bank cards or merchandise for sale, shall be affixed to or hung from the canopy, the canopy support columns, light poles, the trash enclosure, or the ground sign. (Ord. No. 651, Sec. 1, 2/22/99)

10.7 DOWNTOWN DISTRICT SIGN REGULATIONS

Within the C3 District, permanent signs are permitted subject to the following guidelines and requirements:

- a) The choice of signage shall be consistent not only with the building and its surroundings, but also with the small-town, historic character of Chaska. Signs which are good examples of a particular period in Chaska's and/or the building's history, or an integral part of its identity, shall be promoted.
- b) Signs on buildings/sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or designated as historic preservation sites by the Chaska City Council shall be designed to relate to, rather than obscure and disrupt, the design elements of the building to which they are attached. Signs shall not clutter the building's image or detract from the unity of the facade. Sign materials shall complement materials of the related building.

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- c) No part of any sign shall be located higher than the height of the sills of the second story windows of a building.
- d) **Wall signs:** One wall sign for each distinct activity located in a building. The sign display area shall be no more than 50 square feet or 10% of the area of the facade upon which the sign is located, whichever is smaller. Internal illumination is prohibited.

If a cabinet sign is used, the sign display area shall be no more than 40 square feet or 8% of the area of the façade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller (Ordinance No. 691, Section 1, dated 11-20-00).

- e) **Non-fronting wall signs:** Additional wall signage is allowed in locations that do not front a public right-of-way but have a customer entrance. The additional signage shall not exceed 18 square feet and shall be limited to the identification of the principal businesses.
- f) **Projecting signs:** The sign area shall be no more than 12 square feet and the sign shall project no more than four (4) feet from the facade on which it is attached. If the sign projects into the public right-of-way, it may extend no more than three (3) feet into the public right-of-way, and shall have a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above ground level, unless projecting over a vehicular right-of-way, in which case minimum clearance shall be 14 feet.
- g) Awning or canopy signs may be used with a wall sign if the sign on the awning/canopy is either less than seven (7) square feet in size or eight (8) inches in height, is in the lowest section of the awning/canopy and is parallel to the building.

10.8 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS' SIGN REGULATIONS

Within the I, I-2, and Planned Industrial Development Districts, permanent signs are permitted subject to the following requirements:

- a) **Wall signs:** Two wall signs for each distinct activity located in a building, except when more than one building facade has street frontage. In this instance, an activity may have two wall signs for each facade with street frontage. The total sign display area shall be no more than 125 square feet or 20% of the area of the facade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller.

If a cabinet sign is used, the sign display area shall be no more than 75 square feet or 8% of the area of the façade on which the sign is located, whichever is smaller (Ordinance No. 691, Section 1, dated 11-20-00).

- b) **Non-fronting wall signs:** Additional wall signage is allowed in locations that do not front a public right-of-way but have a customer entrance. The additional signage shall not exceed 24 square feet plus any excess

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allowed signage from any single building facade. The non-fronting wall sign shall be limited to the identification of the principal business.

- c) **Ground signs:** One monument sign not exceeding 100 square feet and not more than eight (8) feet in height as measured from the base or abutting street grade, whichever is lower. If a site has two street frontages, a second monument sign may be located at a secondary entrance as long as the total display area of the two signs does not exceed 150 square feet. (Ord. No. 651, Sec. 2, 2/22/99)

10.9 BUSINESS CENTER IDENTIFICATION SIGN REGULATIONS

Within Commercial and Industrial Districts, business center signs are permitted subject to the following requirements. Uses governed under this Section may also have signs permitted under Subsections 10.6 and 10.8.

a) Business Center Identification Monuments:

- i) Only one business center identification sign shall be allowed per each entrance or street frontage to the business center or industrial park.
- ii) Such signs may be placed on the same lot as a second ground sign provided that no single activity is mentioned on both signs.
- iii) Maximum sign area and sign height for Business Center Identification signs are regulated as follows:

District	Maximum Sign Display Area (in sq. ft.)	Maximum Sign Height - Pylon	Maximum Sign Height - Monument*
C1	40	20'	6'
C2, PCD	200.00	24'	10'
I, PID	100.00	—	8'

* As measured from the base of sign or grade of the nearest roadway, whichever is higher.

10.10 COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC TEMPORARY SIGN REGULATIONS

Within Commercial, Industrial and Public Districts, real estate and temporary signs are permitted according to the following standards:

10.10.1 TEMPORARY BUSINESS SIGNS:

- a) Banners and freestanding signs according to the following:
 - i) Not more than one such sign shall be allowed for an activity at any given time.

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- ii) Maximum 30 day display period to coincide with the grand opening of a business.
 - iii) A business may display a temporary sign a maximum of 55 days per year; there shall be a maximum of ten (10) occasions per year. Each business may decide how to divide up the days and occasions, but under no circumstances shall the maximum number of days or the maximum number of occasions be exceeded.
 - iv) Banners shall not exceed 32 square feet in commercial and public districts and 125 square feet in industrial districts, and must be affixed to a principal structure that is owned or leased by the business that the sign is advertising.
 - v) Freestanding signs shall not exceed 32 square feet, shall have a maximum height of ten (10) feet, be professionally designed and be constructed of wood.
 - vi) Under no circumstances shall a temporary business sign be placed on public property or within the public right-of-way.
- b) Temporary Pennants are allowed a maximum of 55 days per year; there shall be a maximum of ten (10) occasions per year. Each business may decide how to divide up the days and occasions, but in no circumstance shall the maximum number of days or the maximum number of occasions be exceeded. A maximum 30 day display period to coincide with the grand opening of a business is also permitted.
- c) ~~Inflatable advertising devices are permitted according to the following:~~ |
- i) 25 foot maximum height of inflatable;
 - ii) A seven (7) day display period to coincide with the grand opening of a business or a new development (business park or shopping center); and
 - iii) Written authorization from the property owner or their designee must be submitted with the sign permit application.
- d) Temporary Window Signs: Window signs shall not cover more than 50% of the window or door in which the sign is placed. Permits are not required.
- f) Temporary Special Event Signs are allowed subject to the following requirements:
- i) Not more than one special event sign may be located on any one lot or parcel at any time. Such a sign may be located either on- or off-premise. A special event sign shall be erected and maintained for a period not to exceed ten (10) days prior to the date that the special

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event is scheduled to occur. Furthermore, such sign shall be removed within two (2) working days of the termination of the special event;

- ii) Within a residential district, the sign area shall be no more than 12 square feet and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than five (5) feet in height. In all other districts, the sign area shall be no more than 32 square feet and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than ten (10) feet in height; and
- iii) Any special event sign erected by the City of Chaska shall be exempt from the above restrictions, and may be placed within the public right-of-way.

10.10.2 TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION OR REAL ESTATE SIGNS ON UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY:

A vacant parcel within a business or industrial zone is permitted a temporary construction or real estate sign subject to the following requirements:

- a) One sign located on the site which the sign is identifying, except where a development abuts two or more streets, one additional sign is permitted as long as each sign is oriented to each abutting street;
- b) 32 square feet maximum sign area and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than ten (10) feet in height, and it shall have a minimum clearance above the ground of two (2) feet;
- c) A temporary construction sign for a nonresidential development shall be removed prior to occupancy of the development or completion of the project; and
- d) Such signs shall not be illuminated in any manner.

10.10.3 TEMPORARY REAL ESTATE SIGNS:

Signs indicating the rental, lease, or sale of a business or industrial building are permitted according to the following:

- a) One sign located on the site which the sign is advertising, except where a development abuts two or more streets, one additional sign is permitted as long as each sign is oriented to each abutting street;
- b) 16 square feet maximum sign area and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than six (6) feet in height;
- c) For signs indicating the sale of a building, 32 square feet maximum sign area and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than ten (10) feet in height; and
- d) Such signs shall not be illuminated in any manner.

10.11 GENERAL REGULATIONS

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The following regulations shall apply to all signs permitted in all districts:

- a) **Incidental Signs:** On-site incidental and directional signs oriented for viewing by on-site vehicular and pedestrian traffic, rather than traffic on public streets or on adjacent property are allowed subject to the following requirements:
 - i) The sign area shall be no more than seven (7) square feet per sign;
 - ii) Freestanding signs shall be no more than six (6) feet in height, and signs mounted on walls shall be mounted only high enough to be visible to on-site users;
 - iii) Menu board signs shall be no more than 20 square feet in size, and if freestanding, shall be no more than eight (8) feet in height;
 - iv) Directional signs shall contain no advertisement; and
 - v) Within all residential districts, directional and incidental signs shall not be illuminated in any manner.
- b) **Governmental Signs:** Street signs and other permanent governmental signs for control of traffic and other regulatory/notification purposes are exempt from the provisions of this Section.
- c) **Private Informational Signs:** Private informational signs such as “No Trespassing”, “No Dumping”, “No Parking”, “Tow away Zone”, and other similar signs are allowed subject to the following requirements: The sign area shall not exceed two (2) square feet and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than six (6) feet in height.
- d) **Political Campaign Signs:** Temporary political campaign signs are allowed subject to the following requirements:
 - i) Political signs are prohibited within public use districts. Within a residential district, the sign area shall be no more than 16 square feet and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than six (6) feet in height. In all other districts, the sign area shall be no more than 32 square feet and, if the sign is freestanding, it shall be no more than ten (10) feet in height;
 - ii) The sign refers to a candidate or issue to be voted upon locally;
 - iii) The sign shall be permitted for a period not to exceed 45 days before and five (5) days after an election or public referendum;
 - iv) Not permitted on public property or right-of-way;
 - v) A political sign shall not be illuminated in any manner;

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- vi) Consent of property owner is required; and
- vii) The preceding restrictions are applicable unless otherwise indicated by State of Minnesota Statute.
- e) **Flags:** Noncommercial flags are permitted provided they are under 125 square feet in size, and United States flags under 150 square feet. Corporate flags are permitted in industrial districts only.
- f) **Sign Setbacks:** All freestanding signs shall meet the building setback requirements of the underlying zoning district, except along the sides of a lot with street frontage, where freestanding signs shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from the street right-of-way.
- g) **Maximum Angle:** Unless otherwise specified maximum angle permitted between faces of a double face freestanding sign is 45 degrees.
- h) **PMD Zoning Districts:** Signs in Planned Multiple-Use Development Districts shall be regulated by use, applying the standards provided in the most closely related district. In instances where sign regulations are specified in existing or new Planned Multiple-Use Development Districts, those regulations shall supersede any regulations specified in the most closely related district.
- i) **Planned Development Districts:** The City Council may recognize separate sign plans for Planned Development Districts which will supersede this Ordinance. The sign plans that have been approved by the City Council will have the effect of a sign ordinance for the specific property. An individual PDD sign plan will be considered if the development includes a substantial site area and/or the sign plan is necessary to address the visibility needs of a development. However, the net intent is to remain a balanced environment among commercial districts and among industrial districts.

10.12 PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following types of signs are expressly prohibited in all districts:

- a) Portable signs;
- b) Roof signs including signs mounted on a roof surface or projecting above the roof line or a structure if either attached to the structure or cantilevered over the structure;
- c) Revolving and moving signs except electronic message center/time and temperature display signs;
- d) Flashing and animated signs except flashing time and temperature signs and readerboard signs that display messages intended for the public interest;

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- e) Off-premise signs, except for the following:
 - i) Temporary off-premise directional signs for new residential subdivisions or developments;
 - ii) Temporary special event signs; and
 - iii) Governmental signs (includes hospitals, Court House, schools, etc.);
- f) Signs that resemble or imitate government signs;
- g) Signs that obstruct the vision of pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists traveling on or entering public streets;
- h) Signs painted on walls: Works of art that are not commercial messages are exempt;
- i) Signs affixed to vehicles and/or trailers that are parked on a public right-of-way, public property, or private property so as to be visible from a public right-of-way where the apparent purpose is to advertise a product or direct people to an activity located on the same or a nearby property shall be prohibited. Signs affixed to vehicles where the sign is incidental to the use of the vehicle are not prohibited;
- j) Signs within the public right-of-way except for the following:
 - i) Governmental signs;
 - ii) Special event signs erected by the City of Chaska; and
 - iii) Projecting signs and backlit canopy signs, which may extend no more than three (3) feet into the public right-of-way;
- k) Any other sign which is not in conformance with the regulations provided herein; and
- l) Any sign not expressly permitted by the provisions in this Ordinance.

10.13 DESIGN GUIDELINES

- a) A sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building and site to which it principally relates. Materials and colors that are compatible with the character of the building and the surrounding environment should be used on all signage.
- b) Shared Facades: For businesses sharing the same facade, the same or a similar method of signing must be used for all parties desiring to place a sign on the facade.
- c) Lights shall be used judiciously to illuminate signs and shall be directed only upon the sign that they are meant to illuminate. All illuminated signs shall be designed, located, shielded, and directed so as to prevent the

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casting of glare or direct light from the illumination upon the adjacent public right-of-way and surrounding property.

d) Basic Design Elements for Specific Identification Signs:

i) *Wall Signs:*

- A wall sign shall not extend above the roof or parapet line.
- The linear measurement of any wall sign shall not exceed 80% of the linear frontage of the applicable facade of the building.
- Cabinet signs that are internally illuminated shall have an opaque face with reversed lettering.

ii) *Canopy and Awning Signs:*

- The sign area shall not exceed 40% of the total face area of the canopy or awning upon which the sign is affixed. The total face area of an awning or canopy is defined as the portion of the awning or canopy that is parallel, or within 15% of parallel, to the building facade upon which it is attached.
- The maximum vertical dimension of a canopy/awning sign shall be five (5) feet and shall be limited to the first story only for multi-story buildings.
- Canopy/awning signs may extend three (3) feet into the public right-of-way and shall have a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above the ground level unless projecting over a vehicular right-of-way, in which case clearance shall be 14 feet.
- Backlit awnings shall be limited to building facades that contain signs, and shall not exceed 25% of the area of the facade upon which it is placed.

iii) *Freestanding Signs:* Six (6) inch minimum character for each activities' primary message.

iv) *Changeable Copy Signs:* The sign face for a sign with changeable copy shall be opaque with reversed letters.

10.14 SIGN CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

All signs constructed and maintained within the City of Chaska shall conform to the following requirements:

- a) Signage shall be in compliance with all relevant provisions specified in the Building Code.

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- b) Signage shall be maintained so as not to endanger life or property, and any sign that through lack of repair, type of construction, or otherwise imperils health, life or property shall be deemed a nuisance becoming subject to the provisions of Section 10.15.
- c) Activities considered to be maintenance shall include activities such as replacing lamps and lightbulbs; replacing ballast in freestanding signs; replacing transformers in building identification signs; painting the pole of freestanding signs, the cabinet of freestanding or building identification signs, and sign faces of wooden signs; replacing or repairing the sign face; replacing trim; and replacement of sign fasteners, nuts and washers. A maintained sign structure shall have a sign face.
- d) No sign shall be constructed which covers or interferes with an architectural detail of a building or obstructs any window, door, fire escape, stairway, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress to any building.
- e) If supporting structures are used in the display of a sign, they shall be of a quality able to withstand the elements. However, excessive or unnecessary supporting structures are prohibited.

10.15 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

- a) **Nonconforming Signs:** Excluding normal maintenance, face changes, and repair, a nonconforming sign shall not be moved, altered, enlarged or reconstructed unless it is brought into compliance with the sign regulations.
- b) **Abandoned and Irrelevant Signs:** Any sign, which is abandoned, falls into a state of disrepair, or no longer relates to the activity located on the premises shall be removed by the property owner within 30 days.
- c) **Signs as Nuisance:** The Building Official may make a finding that a sign is a public nuisance by reason of it being dilapidated, unsafe, rotted, unsightly, or for other reasons. Such finding shall be in writing and shall enumerate the reasons and circumstances that made the sign a nuisance.
- d) **Signs on Public Property or within Public Right-of-Way:** The City may at any time and without notice impound signs that have been installed on public property or within public right-of-way or easement. The sign owner may retrieve the signs according to the following:
 - i) The sign may be retrieved from a designated impound area during routine business hours and within 15 days from the date of impounding. After 15 days, the City may dispose of the sign; and
 - ii) The City may not be held liable for any damage to impounded signs.

10.16 PERMITS AND PERMIT FEES

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Signs that require a permit and the corresponding fee are listed in the following:

- a) All permanent signs permitted in Subsections 10.3 through 10.9 shall require a sign permit. The permit shall be received prior to installation of the sign.
- b) All temporary signs permitted in Subsection 10.10 shall require a temporary sign permit.
- c) The permit application shall include the following:
 - i) Information concerning the location, height, size of the sign, and the date on which it is to be erected, displayed, moved or significantly altered;
 - ii) A drawing or photo of the building facade and lot plan indicating the location of the proposed sign and all existing signs displayed by the activity;
 - iii) If the application is for a wall sign, a drawing to scale showing the location of the sign within the building facade and the percent of the facade covered by the wall sign;
 - iv) Specifications for the construction of the sign and for its illumination, if any is to be provided; and
 - v) Sign permit fee.