

ORDINANCE NO. 655

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PRIOR ORDINANCE NO. 515 OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, ADOPTED OCTOBER, 1987 AND TO AMEND SECTION 6 TITLED SIGNS AND TO MAKE SAID AMENDMENTS TO ADD THE FOLLOWING."

SECTION 6-SIGNS

The regulations herein set forth shall apply and govern in all zoning districts as hereinafter provided. No sign or outdoor advertising device shall be erected unless it is in compliance with regulations for the district in which it is located as specified in this section.

Section 6.1-General Requirements and Limitations:

A. Business (on-premise) Sign Requirements

1. Business (on-premises) signs must be flat on the building with the largest square foot of the sign attached to the building with no more than a two (2) inch extension for attachments.
2. Business (on-premises) signs advertising the primary nature, activities or products of the business or industry conducted or sold on the premises shall setback a minimum of 5 feet from the right-of-way line.
3. The height limitation of the business signs shall be thirty-five feet to the top of the sign.
4. A business sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in a neighborhood commercial zone (C-1); 80 square feet in a community commercial zone (C-2); 150 square feet in a highway commercial Zone (C-3).
5. Shopping centers or multiple commercial buildings on the same premises are considered as one business in this section, and paragraph 6.1 A.1 through 4 shall apply. Each business in the shopping area may be identified on the business sign.

B. Outdoor advertising signs off premises is not allowed in the City of Philadelphia.

C. **Limitations**

1. Portable trailer signs or mobile signs are not allowed in the City of Philadelphia. Phase out within six months.
2. Signs with flashing, or blinking lights shall be restricted to 75-watt bulb capacity, and red, amber or blue flashing lights are prohibited.
3. The placing, tacking, painting, hanging or otherwise affixing of any kind of sign, outdoor advertising or poster of a miscellaneous character, visible from the public highways, streets or roads, on the walls of buildings, barns, sheds, trees, vehicles, fences, utility poles or any other structure except as otherwise provided in these regulations is prohibited.
4. Signs shall not interfere with driver visibility of any traffic control device or sign, or with the visibility of the street, road, thoroughfare or expressway itself. Such signs shall maintain a setback of twenty-five (25) feet from the intersection of two (2) streets, except if the sign is constructed with the bottom of the sign no lower than nine (9) feet from the ground and mounted on a pole no larger than nine (9) inches in diameter.
5. All signs that are illuminated shall be permanently wired to meet the national electric code. Special care shall be given to ground fault connections, underground wire and/or conduit with proper circuit breakers. Connecting wire from sign to permanent outlet shall not exceed four (4) feet.
6. Any sign which by reason of size, shape, content, coloring, location or manner of illumination interferes with driver visibility of any traffic control device or sign; or any sign which resembles any traffic control or emergency device or sign which creates any traffic hazard is not allowed.

Signs placed on any city building, structure or lot or within the right-of-way of any city road or easement without a permit issued therefor by appropriate city authority shall be subject to immediate removal by the City.

Section 6.4-Design and Maintenance:

It shall be the owner's responsibility that all signs shall be designed according to generally accepted engineering practices to withstand wind pressures and that loads are distributed to structural supports to avoid over stress, and that all signs are properly anchored to avoid being swept away by wind. Also, all signs shall be maintained in good repair and appearance.

Section 6.5-Permit required:

It shall be unlawful to erect, enlarge, rebuild or structurally alter any sign without first obtaining proper permit except permitted and exempted signs as in Section 6.2

A. Permit Fees

Permit Fees shall be as adopted and approved by the City Council.

Section 6.6-Penalty:

A fine, up to \$500.00 and jail time up to 6 months or both shall punish any person violating this ordinance. Any violation that continues each day shall be a separate offense.

This amendment to Ordinance No. 515 and to Section 6 of the Philadelphia Code has been reduced to writing and having been fully read to the Aldermen as stated for the amendment, the following action was taken:

Motion by Janice Payne to approve the Ordinance.
Seconded by Joe Tullos; the vote was as follows:

Aldерwoman Janice Payne voted Aye
Alderman Joe Tullos voted Aye
Alderman Roy White voted Aye
Alderman Ronnie Jenkins voted Aye

- J. Integral decorative or architectural features of buildings except letters, trademarks, moving parts or moving lights.
- K. Signs not exceeding four (4) square feet, and guiding traffic and parking on private property, but bearing no advertising matter.
- L. On-site signs, advertising property for sale or rent provided such signs in single-family residential districts shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet.
- M. On-site church directory or bulletin board not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet and not over eight (8) feet in height.
- N. Special purpose signs advertising a special area event (i.e., Neshoba County Fair or Choctaw Indian Fair) may be erected on property by the owner thereof or with the property owner's consent provided such sign or poster shall not be erected more than sixty (60) days prior to the event and shall be removed within ten (10) days after the event and provided such sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.

Section 6.3-Signs in Disrepair or Abandoned:

Any outdoor advertising sign, whether permitted to remain as non-conforming sign structure or an erected advertising sign structure under the terms of this ordinance, which is found to be abandoned, or is not properly maintained and in a state of disrepair, or signs which do not meet all requirements of the building codes, including the issuance of a permit therefor, shall be removed by the property owner or sign owner within thirty (30) days after written notice to the property owner or lessee is provided by the City. Advertising signs not removed within thirty (30) days are subject to removal by the City, without liability.

Signs which are not properly maintained and are in a state of disrepair, or which are abandoned, may likewise be removed by the city, without liability, following a thirty (30) day period of notification to the property owner or lessee.

Section 6.2-Permitted and Exempted Signs:

- A. On-Site signs on the site of any construction work bearing the name of the building, owner, and those furnishing construction or professional services or materials used on such construction work of a temporary nature, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet.
- B. Temporary poster signs erected behind glass windows or temporary signs painted on glass windows.
- C. Any political sign or poster not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet erected on property by the owner's consent pertaining to a candidacy or issue to be voted upon at any election or referendum, provided such sign or poster shall not be erected more than thirty (30) days prior to such election or referendum and shall be removed within ten (10) days after referendum, or last such election in which the candidate is eligible. No political sign or poster shall be allowed at any time on utility poles.
- D. Signs painted on, or attached to, trucks or other vehicles for identification purposes.
- E. Signs on glass doors or windows not exceeding six (6) square feet of sign area stating name or nature of business, location and hours of business.
- F. Signs at entrances to subdivisions, multifamily dwellings or mobile home parks showing name, description or location only and not exceeding fifteen (15) square feet.
- G. Signs not exceeding one (1) square foot in area and bearing only property numbers, post office box numbers, names of occupants of premises or other identification of premises not having commercial connotation.
- H. Flags and insignia of any government except when displayed in connection with commercial promotion.
- I. Legal notice or identification, information or directional signs erected or required by governmental bodies.