

CHAPTER 1
ZONING CODE
ARTICLE L. SIGNS

SECTION:

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9320: **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the zoning regulations set forth in this article is to allow the orderly and compatible display of signs identifying locations and businesses and to provide minimum standards in order to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, quality of materials, construction, illumination, location and maintenance of all signs and sign structures. (1960 Code)

9321: **DEFINITIONS:** The following words and phrases, whenever used in this article, shall be construed as defined as follows, except where the content clearly requires a contrary construction:

ANIMATED SIGN: A sign or part thereof, which is designed or utilized to attract attention through the movement or appearance of movement, of the whole or any part of the sign.

AREA, SIGN FACE:	The surface space within a single continuous perimeter containing words, letters, figures or symbols together with any frame, material or color forming an integral part of the display, but excluding support structures and incidental parts not drawing attention to the subject matter.
CANOPY:	Means and includes a structural, ornamental roof like appendage freestanding or attached to a building, including roof overhangs, but excluding awnings or metallic hooks.
DIRECTOR:	The director of planning of the city.
DOUBLED FACED SIGN:	A single sign structure having two sign face areas, with each face oriented up to one hundred eighty degrees (180°) from the other. A sphere or other irregular shape shall be measured by its projection or sign area.
FACE, SIGN:	That portion of a sign containing sign face area.
FLASHING SIGN:	An illuminated sign in which the illumination is not intended to be maintained in a constant intensity and shall include flashing and strobe lights located inside buildings which are visible from the public right of way. For the purposes of this article, time and temperature displays and Christmas lights are not considered flashing signs.
FREESTANDING SIGNS:	Permanent monument and pole signs and shall include any sign permanently erected on the ground and not attached to any building or other structure, having either a single or double face. Temporary A-frame sandwich board and information signs are not considered free-standing signs, and are not permitted.
HEIGHT:	The vertical distance of a sign and sign structure measured from the average finished grade of the lot upon which it is located.

ILLUMINATED SIGN:	A lighted sign which has a source of light on the surface of the sign or in the interior of the sign itself. A sign which is illuminated from a remote location shall be deemed a "lighted sign".
MARQUEE:	A permanent structure attached to and supported by a building and projecting outward from such building.
MARQUEE/UNDER CANOPY SIGN:	A sign mounted on the underside of any awning or canopy.
MOVING SIGN:	A sign which has an actual or apparent moving, revolving, or rotating part, activated by electrical, mechanical or other devices or by wind movement. For the purposes of this article, time and temperature displays, and traditional barber poles are not considered moving signs.
PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED SIGN:	A sign mounted on the face of a building or door which is oriented for pedestrian viewing.
PROJECTING SIGN:	Any sign, other than a wall sign, which is suspended from or supported by a building or structure, and which projects outward therefrom.
ROOF SIGN:	Any sign erected upon or over the roof or parapet of any building, and supported, in whole or in part, by the building, having either a single or double sign face.
SIGN:	Any device for visual communication, including any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display, illustration or insignia, which is used to advertise or promote the products or services of any person, business group or enterprise available on the lot where located. Architectural features constituting an integral structural part of a building shall not be considered a sign.
SIGN, ON PREMISES:	A sign which directs attention to a business, profession or use located upon the premises upon which the sign is displayed, which relates to the type of product sold, manufactured or

assembled, and/or services or entertainment offered on said premises.

TEMPORARY SIGNS: Includes any permitted sign, banner, pennant, valance, balloon (not more than 30 feet above roof top) or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard, or other light materials, with or without frames. All other signs shall be deemed nontemporary.

WALL SIGN: Means and includes any sign painted or otherwise affixed to the wall of any building or structure, in essentially a flat position on the wall, and canopies and marquees having sign face areas thereon. (1960 Code; amd. Ord. 83-543; Ord. 84-546; Ord. 85-571; Ord. 86-594)

9322: PERMITS; FEES: No person shall erect, construct, alter or maintain any sign, including temporary signs, upon any location in the city, without first obtaining a sign permit therefor from the director, except as hereinafter expressly provided. Permits required hereunder shall be in addition to those required pursuant to any other law, including, but not limited to, the city's building regulations. (1960 Code; amd. Ord. 86-594)

9323: GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- A. Exceptions: Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the erection of any property of any:
1. Sign prescribed or required by law;
 2. Sign owned by any governmental agency;
 3. Temporary political sign;
 4. Temporary real estate sign, relating only to the lot on which it is located;
 5. Signs customarily used by public utilities in the performance of their lawful functions;

6. One unlighted double faced, or two unlighted single faced, freestanding signs, not to exceed a total of sixty (60) square feet of sign area each, utilized in connection with the sale of lots or dwelling units in a subdivision. Such signs shall be removed thirty (30) days after the last lot is sold or within one year from and after the recording of the final tract map, whichever period is the lesser;

7. Temporary signs customarily used in conjunction with construction projects, provided that no such sign shall be in excess of thirty two (32) square feet in area and no freestanding sign shall exceed twelve feet (12') in height. All such signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days after completion of the project and issuance of an occupancy permit. No permits shall be required for signs referred to herein.

- B. Nature Of Copy: No sign shall be permitted advertising or displaying any immoral or unlawful act, business or purpose, nor any product or service other than that permitted as an on premises sign.
- C. Public Property: No sign of any kind, shall be erected upon or over any public street, sidewalk, parking lot or other public place or way without the consent of the city council, except as otherwise provided by law.
- D. Location: Permitted freestanding signs may be located on any part of the lot. No sign shall be erected in such a manner that any portion of the sign, or its support, is attached to, or will interfere with, the free use of any fire escape or standpipe, or obstruct any stairway, door, ventilator, or window.
- E. Interference With Traffic: No sign shall be erected in such a manner that it will, or may reasonably be expected to, interfere with, obstruct, confuse or mislead traffic.
- F. Animated Signs: Animated signs shall be permitted provided, if the sign is to revolve, that the revolution thereof shall not exceed six (6) rpm. Time and/or temperature signs and barber poles shall be excepted.
- G. Wall Signs: All wall signs shall be flat against a building, except signs located on a canopy or marquee, and shall not extend more than six feet (6') above the parapet eaves or building facade of the building on which the sign is located. Such signs shall not exceed a maximum thickness of eighteen inches (18").

- H. Roof And Wall Signs: Roof and wall signs shall be constructed so as to appear to be an integral part of the building where the same are located, and shall be constructed and maintained so that supporting members, other than main columns supporting a roof sign, are not visible from any public street or public parking area.
- I. Traffic Signs, Private Property: Vehicular directional signs visible from public thoroughfares, may be erected to facilitate or control pedestrians onto private property to which they pertain. Such signs shall not exceed a sign face area of six (6) square feet per face, nor a height of eight feet (8').
- J. Lighting: Exposed incandescent lights on signs shall be permitted provided such lighting does not exceed eleven (11) watts per bulb in a scintillating action; provided that not more than twenty percent (20%) of the bulbs in any sign shall be off at any time. (1960 Code)

9324: **PERMITTED SIGNS, ZONES R-1 AND R-2:** The following signs shall be permitted on property zoned R-1 or R-2:

- A. A name plate not exceeding one square foot in area containing the name and address of the occupant of the premises; no sign permit shall be required therefor.
- B. Signs permitted pursuant to subsection 9323A of this article. (1960 Code)

9325: **PERMITTED SIGNS, ZONES R-3:**

- A. The following signs shall be permitted on property zoned R-3:
 1. One sign with name and address of building not to exceed two and one-half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) square feet in area; no sign permit shall be required therefor.
 2. One name plate per unit not exceeding one square foot in area containing the name and address of occupant of the premises; no sign permit shall be required therefor.
 3. One interior lighted sign attached to the main building not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area pertaining only to the lease or rental of units in the particular buildings, property or premises upon which displayed. (1960 Code)

9326: COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SIGNS:

A. The following signs shall be permitted on property zoned C-1 within the limitations established herein:

1. Signs shall be subject to the following limitations:

a. The maximum total sign area for any property is one hundred fifty (150) square feet.

b. Moving and/or flashing signs are not permitted.

c. Roof signs are not permitted.

2. A wall sign and/or projecting sign (canopy or marquee with sign face area) located on the front of a building, if the same does not exceed two (2) square feet per one foot (1') of building frontage up to twenty feet (20') of building frontage plus one square foot of sign for each additional foot of building frontage. Projecting signs shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area, shall not project beyond three feet (3') from the face of the building, and if located on an interior lot, shall be mounted at the center one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the building.

3. One additional wall sign shall be permitted on the side of a building for a corner lot, and on the side of rear of a building for an interior or corner lot when there are pedestrian entrances on those elevations leading directly into the business, if the sign does not exceed one square foot of sign per one foot (1') of side or rear building frontage, with the total of such signs not to exceed the sign size permitted on the front of the building.

4. One under canopy/marquee sign and/or one pedestrian oriented wall sign shall be permitted in the commercial zones subject to the following limitations:

a. The total sign area does not exceed six (6) square feet.

b. Under canopy/marquee signs shall maintain a vertical clearance of seven feet six inches (7'6") above the sidewalk and shall not project beyond the edge of the canopy or marquee.

c. Signs shall be limited to the identification of the business or service and not be used for the purpose of advertisement.

B. The following signs shall be permitted on property zoned C-2, C-3, M-1 or M-2:

1. Name Plate: One name plate not to exceed two (2) square feet in area containing the name and occupation of each occupant shall be permitted at every exterior entrance to a building; no sign permit shall be required therefor.

2. Wall Sign: A wall sign and/or projecting sign (canopy or marquee with sign face area) located on the front of a building, if the same does not exceed three (3) square feet of sign face area for each linear foot of the front building facade, nor a maximum of three hundred (300) square feet of total sign face area for all such signs.

3. Additional Wall Sign: One additional wall sign may be permitted on the side of a building, if it does not exceed two (2) square feet of sign face area for each linear foot of the side building facade, nor a maximum sign face area of one hundred fifty (150) square feet of total sign face area.

4. Under Canopy/Marquee Sign: One under canopy/marquee sign and/or on pedestrian oriented wall sign shall be permitted in the commercial zones subject to the following limitations:

a. The total sign area does not exceed six (6) square feet.

b. Under canopy/marquee signs shall maintain a vertical clearance of seven feet six inches (7'6") above the sidewalk and shall not project beyond the edge of the canopy or marquee.

c. Signs shall be limited to the identification of the business or service and not be used for the purpose of advertisement.

5. Temporary Signage: No person shall erect, construct, alter, or maintain any temporary sign, upon any location in the city, without first obtaining a sign permit therefor from the community development director, except as hereinafter expressly provided. Permits required hereunder shall be in addition to those required pursuant to any other law, including, but not limited to, the city's building regulations.

a. Businesses Intending To Locate Or Relocate Within The City: Temporary signs used in conjunction with the promotion of a business intending to locate or relocate within the city of Temple City may place one sign announcing their impending arrival. Such sign

shall be permitted on the outside of the building on site for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of operations, and may not be posted for more than sixty (60) days in total.

b. **Businesses That Have Recently Located Or Relocated Within The City:** Temporary signs used in conjunction with the promotion of a business that has recently located or relocated within the city of Temple City may place one temporary sign and one A-frame sign announcing the commencement of business operations. Such signs shall be permitted on the outside of the building on site for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the commencement of business activities.

c. **All Other Temporary Signs:** All other temporary signs shall be permitted outside of the building on site, for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days in any six month period which thirty (30) days may be segmented into several lesser periods not less than five (5) days each; but in no event shall any such sign exceed thirty (30) days without at least a thirty (30) day break.

d. **Temporary Sign Limitations:** No temporary sign shall be permitted on or extend over any public property or public easement of any other domain owned or controlled by the city of Temple City without first having received consent of the city council, except as otherwise provided by law.

e. **Obstructing Signs:** No person shall post temporary signs in a manner so as to obscure traffic or street signs or devices, or to present any hazard to the public.

f. **Maintenance Of Signs And Support Structures:** All temporary signs and sign support structures, together with all of their supports, braces, guys, and anchors, shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation.

g. **Placement On Public Property:** No temporary sign shall be placed upon a telephone or other utility pole, or upon a permanent freestanding or monument sign.

h. **Placement On Vegetative Landscaping:** No temporary sign shall be affixed to trees, shrubs, or other vegetation. Methods of sign installation shall be at the discretion and direction of the city's community development department.

i. Scale: If a temporary sign is attached to a building, the sign shall be in scale with the building. Temporary signs and banners shall not exceed one foot (1') in length for each linear foot of building frontage, per street side.

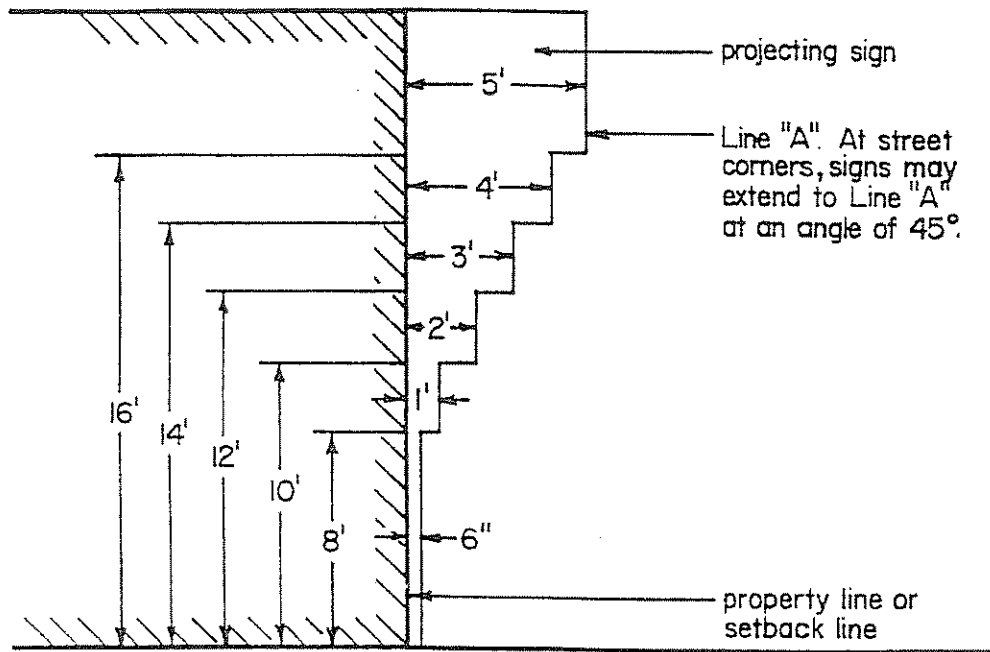
j. The city's code enforcement officer(s) may cause a temporary sign that is erected, placed, or maintained in violation of this section to be removed in conformance with section 3412 of this code.

k. Banner And A-Frame Signs: There shall be a limit of one temporary "banner" style sign and one A-frame style sign per business location.

- C. The following freestanding signs shall be permitted:
1. One freestanding sign shall be permitted, on any lot, having a sign face area not in excess of two (2) square feet for each linear foot of the front lot line per face.
 2. One additional freestanding sign shall be permitted for a shopping center for which a conditional use permit is not required. The sign face area of such sign shall not exceed one square foot for each linear foot of the front lot line of the lot upon which the shopping center is located.
 3. Shopping centers for which a conditional use permit is required may have such signs, roof, freestanding, or wall, as may be approved as a part of such conditional use proceeding.
 4. A freestanding sign shall not exceed a maximum height of twenty feet (20') where said sign advertises a single business, nor a maximum height of twenty six feet (26') where said sign advertises two (2) or more businesses.
- D. Roof signs are not permitted in any zone.
- E. Every freestanding sign or projecting sign, projected or suspended over any public property or right of way, shall comply with the height and overhead clearance limitations, as shown on diagram A of this section:

(see following page)

DIAGRAM "A"
 Allowable clearance & projection
 over property line or setback line



- F. Window signs painted on or attached to or otherwise utilizing windows as a means of display shall be permitted on ground floor windows only, and shall not exceed a total of twenty five percent (25%) of the combined window area of all ground floor windows.
- G. Sign content:
1. Each business in commercial or manufacturing zone having an on premises advertising sign visible from a public right of way or parking area open to the general public shall identify the name of the business or the nature of the business conducted on the property in the English language with appropriate block style letters or other print style as may be approved by the planning commission, at least nine inches (9") in height and in a color(s) compatible with the background color(s).

a. Any building without a sign, housing one or more businesses, in any commercial or manufacturing zone shall have one identification sign in conformance with the above requirement by December 31, 1991.

2. Each business in commercial and manufacturing zones shall have the address of such property in Arabic numerals at least five inches (5") high, in a color contrasting to the background of the numerals.

3. The address shall be located at the front of the business and, if public access is available, at the rear of the business. (1960 Code; amd. Ord. 76-441; Ord. 85-571; Ord. 86-594; Ord. 87-577; Ord. 90-675; Ord. 91-706; Ord. 03-885)

9327: CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE:

- A. All signs shall be constructed in accordance with all applicable provisions of law.
- B. All signs and sign structures shall be maintained in a state of safe condition and good repair.
- C. In the event a use on any lot is vacated, terminated or abandoned, for any reason, for a period of one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days, the owner or person in possession of the property shall be responsible for removal of all signs on the property or for having the copy thereon painted out, immediately upon notice from the city.
- D. Signs and associated appurtenant structures which are abandoned or not in use shall be removed within ninety (90) days of their abandonment or lack of use. (1960 Code; amd. Ord. 83-543)

9328: NONCONFORMING SIGNS:

A. Amortization:

1. Signs which are rendered nonconforming by reason of the application thereto of the provisions of this article, shall be abated, or made to comply with the provisions hereof, within the following periods of time:

- a. Temporary signs: Ninety (90) days.

b. Signs painted on buildings, walls and fences: One year.

c. All other signs: Ten (10) years.

Such periods of time above set forth, shall commence to run as of the time such signs became nonconforming by reason of the application thereto of the provisions of this article.

2. The provisions of section 9270 of this chapter, shall apply to all signs rendered nonconforming pursuant to the provisions hereof, except as expressly provided to the contrary in this article.

3. Signs which are rendered nonconforming by reason of the application thereto of the provision of section 9326 of this article shall be abated, or made to comply with the provisions hereof within the following periods of time:

a. Temporary signs: Ninety (90) days.

b. Flashing and moving signs, relocated signs, and signs painted on buildings or walls with a useful life of less than fifteen (15) years: Five (5) years.

c. All other signs: Fifteen (15) years. (1960 Code; amd. Ord. 83-543)

9329: **OUTDOOR ADVERTISING STRUCTURES:** Outdoor advertising structures are specifically prohibited in all zones of the city except where explicitly authorized, and in particular, such outdoor advertising structures are prohibited in the residential and commercial zones except where specifically permitted by explicit language. (1960 Code)