

Sign Ordinance
Planning and Zoning Commission
Updated with Approved Amendments, July 1, 2009

4.6.8. F. Signs

4.6.8. F.1. The purpose of this Section is to create the legal framework for a comprehensive, but balanced, system of signs of all types and thereby to facilitate an easy and pleasant communication between the people and their environment. It is the intention of this Ordinance to regulate the number, location, size, height, and illumination of on premises signs.

4.6.8. F.2. The effect of this Section is:

4.6.8. F.2.a. To allow signs in all commercial zoning districts on a limited basis, subject to the standards and the procedures of this Section;

4.6.8. F.2.b. To prohibit signs not expressly permitted by this Section; and

4.6.8. F.2.c. To provide for the administration of the provisions of this Section.

4.6.8. F.3. Application and Permits for On-Premise Signs

4.6.8. F.3.a. All permanent and temporary on-premise signs shall require a permit. Permits shall be obtained from the Building Inspector of the appropriate jurisdiction. Prior to the issuance of a permit by the Building Inspector, the permit applications shall be approved by the Executive Director, or designee, in order to determine compliance with the Zoning Ordinance of Warren County and the Subdivision Regulations of Warren County as well as any recorded subdivision plat or development plan.

4.6.8. F.3.b. The following on-premise signs shall not require a permit:

4.6.8.F.3.b (1) On-premise signs which are in the public interest and contain no commercial reference, such as safety signs, pedestrian and motor vehicle control signs; signs of historical significance; clocks; temporary construction, real estate, flags (including government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), personal expression, and political campaign signs. These signs shall, however, otherwise comply with Section 4 (On-Premise Sign General Provisions) with regard to visibility and right-of ways.

4.6.8. F.3.b (2) Personal expression signs shall be limited to a maximum of 16 s.f. in size. Campaign signs shall not exceed 16 square feet (32 square feet in unincorporated areas of Warren County) and may be displayed immediately following the filing for an election, and no more than 30 days after the election date. All Real Estate signs shall be limited to on-site signs where property is for sale. This type of sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area and no larger than 7 feet in height. Temporary off-premise Real Estate signs used as directional signs may be allowed for a period not exceed 30 days prior to sale or auction date. Temporary construction signs shall be limited to a maximum of 16 s.f. in size. Flags of any other official designated institutions or business shall utilize freestanding flag poles, no taller than 40 feet in height; flag size shall not to

exceed 120 square feet in area for each flag. Integral signs shall be exempt from the provisions of this Section.

4.6.8. F.4. On-Premise Sign General Provisions

4.6.8. F.4.a. All on-premise signs shall conform to the sign standards provided in the Sign Standards Summary Table unless otherwise accepted in this Section. The sum of all sign faces on a freestanding sign shall not exceed twice the maximum permitted sign area as set forth in this Section or the Sign Standards Summary Table.

4.6.8. F.4.b. Freestanding Signs – The area of a sign shall include all lettering, wording, designs and symbols, together with a background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed. The supporting structure or bracing of a sign shall be omitted in measuring the area of the sign unless such structure or bracing is made part of the message or face of the sign.

4.6.8. F.4.c. Wall Signs-Where a sign consists of individual letters, words or symbols attached to a surface, building, canopy, awning or wall and such elements are located in the same plane, the sign area shall be the area of the smallest rectangle which completely encompasses all such letters, words or symbols and any accompanying background of a color different than the natural color of the wall.

4.6.8. F.4.d. No sign shall be erected to obstruct free and clear vision of an intersection and/or traffic signals. No sign may be placed in or extended over a public right-of-way or utility easement without the express written consent of the controlling jurisdiction or utility.

4.6.8. F.4.e. All freestanding signs shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of pavement. If the principal structure is located less than 20 feet from the edge of pavement, the sign shall be affixed to the flat surface of the building.

4.6.8. F.4.f. Nonconforming businesses shall be allowed to have or to replace existing on-premise signs, except when such signs violate the provisions of this Section.

4.6.8. F.4.g. No on-premise sign shall be erected within 50 feet of an abutting residential district.

4.6.8. F.4.h. No on-premise signs shall be permitted which exceed the intensity of illumination of 0.5 foot candles measured at five feet above grade at 20 feet from the sign. No sign shall have a flashing light or a light resembling any law enforcement or emergency vehicle light or revolving lights that will resemble any stop light, signal light, or traffic light.

4.6.8. F.4.i. No on-premise sign shall contain commercial advertising which is unrelated to the existing use of the property.

4.6.8. F.4.j. Wall or building signs may be placed on the vertical facade or the roof of the building but shall not extend above the roof line and shall be permitted in addition to any other permitted sign except in the residential districts and the office and professional districts.

4.6.8. F.4.k. Temporary signs such as: Banners, pennants, posters, flags (excluding government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), fixed balloons, or similar devices shall be permitted if the devices are solely affixed to a window or the principal facade of the building and does not extend above the roof line.

4.6.8. F.4.l. All non-residential buildings which utilize a freestanding sign shall incorporate a street address number or address range. Street address numbers shall be of a letter height specified by the Planning Commission. Street address number or address range shall be placed on freestanding monument signs, where applicable. The area of the address number shall not be computed as part of the sign face.

4.6.8. F.4.m. The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at a computed grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign (including the sign face, sign structure, or any other appurtenance). The computed grade shall be the elevation of the nearest point of the crown of the closest public street.

4.6.8. F.4.n. All signs shall be constructed of durable materials such as: high quality plastic, finished metal, stone, brick, decorative block, finished wood or EFIS. Pylon pole covers are encouraged for freestanding pole signs.

4.6.8. F.4.o. All freestanding signs shall be shown on any required landscape plans and site and development plans. The area immediately surrounding any ground signs shall be kept cleared of unsightly debris. Landscaping is encouraged in this area, provided that the selected landscape materials will not grow to obscure the sign face or building address.

4.6.8. F.5. Prohibited Permanent On-Premise Signs

4.6.8. F.5.a. On-premise signs erected, maintained, or continued which cause any interference to sight distance;

4.6.8.F.5.b. Portable signs (signs with no permanent attachment to a building or the ground, including but not limited to, A-frame signs, pole attachments, searchlights, and stands) on wheels or freestanding, shall not be allowed permanently on any site;

4.6.8.F.5.c. Banners, posters, pennants, flags (excluding, government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), large fixed balloons, or similar devices affixed to any independent support, fence, awning, pump canopy, curbstone, lamp post, utility pole, hydrant, bridge, culvert, public drinking fountain, public trash container, rest station building, tree, or in or on any portion of any public sidewalk, street, or sign shall be prohibited as permanent on premise signs.

4.6.8. F.5.d. Animated signs, defined as signs with externally moving parts or messages, or so operating as to give a viewer the illusion of moving parts or messages are prohibited. Official signs for safety purposes shall be exempt from this restriction.

4.6.8. F.5.e. Signs which are obscene, indecent, or immoral are prohibited.

4.6.8.F.5.f. Signs are prohibited that are made of paper or cardboard erected outside a completely enclosed building, except for any sign permitted by this Section that is constructed in a manner in which it does not rapidly deteriorate from rain or other

elements, is maintained in good condition and is promptly repaired or removed if it deteriorates.

4.6.8. F.5.g. Roof signs, defined as a sign erected, constructed and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building are prohibited. Mansard roof signs that do not extend above the parapet wall of the roof shall be considered wall signs.

4.6.8. F.5.h. Signs (other than approved community banners and those erected by a governmental agency or required to be erected by a governmental agency or its contractual agent) erected on the right-of-way of any public street, road, or way, or signs overhanging or infringing upon the right-of-way of any public street, road, or way, are prohibited except as specifically provided in this Section.

4.6.8. F.5.i. Signs erected on public property other than signs erected by public authority for public purposes are prohibited.

4.6.8. F.5.j. Signs so located as to prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape are prohibited. No sign shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.

4.6.8. F.5.k. Signs that emit any sound, visible or invisible gases, or odor as part of any message.

4.6.8. F.5.l. Signs on or attached to utility poles or trees, shrubs, or plants are prohibited except that approved community banners may be attached to utility poles.

4.6.8.F.5.m. Signs incorporated into trucks, motor vehicles, trailers and similar equipment bearing advertising visible from off-site and parked at the business location for the intended purpose of advertising a business, service or product, are considered vehicle signs and are prohibited. Delivery and service vehicles or trailers used on a daily basis in conjunction with an on-site business are exempt when they are parked in a location that is not visible from off-site, or otherwise creates the least possible visual impact without significant effect on the security of the vehicle or trailer.

4.6.8. F.5.n. Any sign that is not expressly permitted in section 4.6.8.F is prohibited.

4.6.8. F.5.o. Any off-premise advertising signs, except as specifically permitted by this Section are prohibited.

4.6.8. F.6. Temporary On-Premise Signs. Temporary Signs that are used for any special occasion or business Grand Opening such as: Banners, posters, pennants, flags (excluding government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), wind signs (gas, cold air or hot air balloons; streamers; and rotating devices, fastened in such a manner to move upon being subjected to pressure by wind or breeze) fixed balloons, or similar devices which are not solely affixed to a window or the principal facade, and portable signs on wheels or freestanding shall be permitted in all commercial zoning districts for a 30 day period not to exceed 4 times per calendar year.

4.6.8. F.7. Permanent On-Premise Signs

4.6.8. F.7.a. Integral signs, motor vehicle control signs, identification signs, and entrance signs are permitted in all commercial zoning districts.

4.6.8. F.7.b. High-Rise Signs. Property zoned Highway Business (HB) or industrial (LI or HI) and located within the general vicinity of the Scottsville Road/Interstate 65 interchange, the Louisville Road/Interstate 65 interchange or the Smiths Grove/Interstate 65 interchange may have a maximum of two freestanding signs, one which may be a high-rise sign. A high-rise sign is defined as any sign between 50 and 100 feet in height. For the purposes of calculating the permitted areas, the maximum heights and sign face areas from the interchanges set forth above, Exhibits A1, A2 and A3 in Appendix A shall apply.

Exit 22-Scottsville Rd-Exhibit A1 100 feet 250 square feet
Exit 28-Louisville Rd-Exhibit A2 100 feet 250 square feet
Exit 38-Smiths Grove-Exhibit A3 85 feet 200 square feet

4.6.8. F.7.c. Historic District. Signs in any Local Historic District shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness approved by the Historic Preservation Board. All on-premise signs shall conform to the sign standards provided in the Sign Standards Summary Table unless otherwise accepted in this Section. One identification sign per frontage is permitted and may be wall or canopy. One bulletin board is permitted per lot. Identification signs which are wall signs may be located in historically traditional locations, (i.e. on storefront belt courses or on flat surfaces of the building); painted on glass elements; or hanging or mounted inside windows or door. Signs should be constructed of historic sign materials such as: finished, carved or sandblasted wood; glass; gold leaf; brass and/or copper letters; plastic or unfinished wood (not plywood). Signs should be limited to no more than 2 or 3 colors coordinating with the overall building colors. Signs should be of a style appropriate to the period of the building. Signs should utilize lettering not exceeding 18 inches in height or covering more than 60 percent of the total sign area. The canopy sign shall not project above the roof line or above the vertical canopy face. The more restrictive of the Historic District Overlay or the underlying district shall apply.

4.6.8. F.7.d. Entrance Signs. The content of an entrance sign shall be limited to the name of the subdivision or residential complex only. No sign shall be internally illuminated. All entrance signs shall be constructed of durable materials. Landscaping is encouraged around entrance signs, provided the selected landscape materials will not grow to obscure sign face. Structural Type and Size. Any entrance sign must be monument type and the maximum sign face shall be 60 sq. ft. total. Maximum height shall be 5 feet. Entrance signs may be allowed in public right-of-way only with written permission of the applicable jurisdiction. The content of an entrance sign shall be limited to the name of the subdivision only. All permitted signs shall also comply with all the applicable Sign Development Standards in Section 4.6.8.F.

4.6.8. F.8. Dangerous, Defective, Destroyed, Damaged, Removed or Abandoned On-Premise Signs. Signs which are deemed dangerous or defective by the Building Inspector or other authorized Code Enforcement Officer shall be removed at the sole cost and expense of the property owner.

4.6.8. F.9. Existing On-Premise Non-Conforming Signs

4.6.8. F.9.a. Destroyed, Damaged, Removed, or Abandoned Signs. Whenever a non-conforming sign collapses, burns, or is removed from its location, it shall not be replaced or reconstructed, except in full compliance with the provisions of this Section. Signs which have been abandoned or which advertise an establishment, service, or product which has not existed or been available at that location for a period of one year shall be removed by the property owner at their sole cost and expense.

4.6.8. F.9.b. Freestanding signs which are not prohibited on-premise signs and in legal existence on the effective date of this Section and not in conformity with the provisions may remain in place and shall be referred to as nonconforming signs. Only routine maintenance may be performed on the sign and its structure until such time as the sign is brought into conformance with these regulations. Routine maintenance is limited to replacement of nuts and bolts, cleaning and painting, or manipulating to level or plumb the device but not to the extent of adding struts or guys for the stabilization of the sign or structure or substantially changing the sign. The routine changing of messages is considered to be routine maintenance but the replacement of new or additional panels or replacing of facing shall not be considered routine maintenance.

4.6.8. F.9.c. If the sign is destroyed beyond 55 percent of its replacement value, such sign can only be replaced or reconstructed in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance and the Subdivision Regulations, as well as any recorded subdivision plat or development plan. Any sign which cannot be replaced or reconstructed in compliance with this Section shall be removed by the property owner at owner's sole cost and expense.

4.6.8. F.10. Off-Premise Signs. Off premise signs are prohibited throughout Warren County except as Consolidated Shopping Center Signs allowed in Sec. 4.6.8.F.11 and as outdoor or billboard advertising signs allowed in Sec. 4.6.8.F.12. Off-premise Religious Institutional and Agriculture Related Product Signs (not to exceed 32 square feet) may be used as directional signs in unincorporated areas of Warren County.

4.6.8. F.11. Consolidated Shopping Center Signs

The following special regulations shall apply to on and off-premise signs for Shopping Centers zoned HB or Planned Unit Development.

4.6.8. F.11.a. Permitted Areas. Any Retail Shopping Center (Combined retail space of a minimum of 100,000 sf) zoned HB or Planned Unit Development shall be allowed one freestanding identification sign at each entrance into the development from a collector or arterial street provided that:

4.6.8. F.11.a (1) no identification sign shall be spaced closer than 600 feet from identification sign for the same Shopping Center Development.

4.6.8. F.11.a (2) location of the sign must be within 600 feet of the Shopping Centers Development, and

4.6.8. F.11.a (3) no identification sign shall be placed so as to obstruct the sight distance.

4.6.8. F.11.b. Maximum Area. The total area of the sign face for each side of the identification sign shall not exceed 200 square feet.

4.6.8. F.11.c. Maximum Height of Sign. The maximum height of the identification sign shall not exceed 30 feet above the average ground level at the base of the sign.

4.6.8. F.11.d. Maintenance and Easement. No off-premise identification sign shall be permitted before first having established an easement by plat or ownership of the property where the sign is to be located by fee simple absolute for the purpose of location of the sign. Further, said easement must include provisions for the maintenance, landscaping, and removal of the sign.

4.6.8. F.11.e. Content of Identification Sign. Any Consolidated Shopping Center identification sign may carry the name, or a combination of names, of the major enterprise(s) or firm(s) located within the Shopping Center Development. No sign less than twelve (12) square feet in sign face area or sign that contains lettering less than eight inches in height shall be allowed on the identification sign. The content shall not exceed the total allowable sign face in b. above.

4.6.8. F.11.f. Illumination. Signs may be illuminated provided such illumination shall be effectively shielded so as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any travel way, or which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle. No sign shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures an official traffic sign, device, or signal.

4.6.8. F.11.g. Sign Plan Required.

4.6.8. F.11.g (1) No building permit for a Consolidated Shopping Center sign may be issued without there having been approved an agreement between the affected property owners providing for the ongoing maintenance, construction standards and plan for locating the on-premise and off-premise signs. Any such agreement shall be in the form to be recorded in the office of the Warren County Clerk and shall contain provisions requiring it to run with the land for all purposes. Any such agreement shall contain a provision that it cannot be amended or repealed without the prior approval of the Planning Commission.

4.6.8. F.11.g (2) In lieu of an agreement described in the preceding section, a Detailed Development Plan shall be approved by the Planning Commission setting for the maintenance, construction standards and plan for locating the on-premise and off-premise signs.

4.6.8. F.12. Billboard Advertising Signs. The following special regulations shall apply to billboard advertising signs:

4.6.8. F.12.a. Permitted Areas.

4.6.8. F.12.a. (1) Interstate Billboards-Interstate Billboards are limited to only portions of Interstate 65 and the William H. Natcher Parkway, as shown on exhibit B1. Minimum setback of any interstate Billboard Sign shall be at least 660 feet along these roadways and shall be in compliance with all State and Federal guidelines for Interstate Billboards.

Interstate Billboards are limited to said highways in HB and industrial (LI and HI) zoning districts.

4.6.8. F.12.a. (2) Urban Billboards-Urban Billboards are limited to only portions of U.S. Hwy. 31-W, 231, 68, KY 80, KY 880, and KY 185 (as shown on exhibit B2) in HB and industrial zoning districts.

4.6.8. F.12.b. Maximum Area.

4.6.8. F.12.b (1) Interstate Billboards-Interstate Billboards shall not exceed the total signable area of 1,600 square feet inclusive of any border and trim.

4.6.8. F.12.b (2) Urban Billboards-Urban Billboards shall not exceed the total signable area per face of 600 square feet inclusive of any border and trim (no more than 300 sf per sign).

4.6.8. F.12.c. Maximum Height of Sign.

4.6.8. F.12.c (1) Interstate Billboards-The maximum height shall be 60 feet above the average ground level at the base of the sign for all Interstate Billboards.

4.6.8. F.12.c (2) Urban Billboards-The maximum height shall be 40 feet above the average ground level at the base of the sign for all Urban Billboards.

4.6.8. F.12.d. Maximum Width.

4.6.8. F.12.d (1) Interstate Billboards-The maximum width shall be 40 feet for all Interstate Billboards.

4.6.8. F.12.d (2) Urban Billboards-The maximum width shall be 50 feet for all Urban Billboards.

4.6.8. F.12.e. Sign Structure Configuration. Sign structures may be constructed back to back or V-shaped. Signs may be double stacked as long as they meet area, height and width requirements in items b, c and d.

4.6.8. F.12.f. Spacing Per Sign Structure. No billboard sign shall be located within 500 feet of another billboard sign (on each side of the roadway) as measured along the centerline of the parkway, interstate, or arterial highway on which such signs are located.

4.6.8. F.12.g. Illumination. Signs may be illuminated provided such illumination shall be effectively shielded so as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any travel way, or which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle are prohibited. No sign shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures an official traffic sign, device or signal.

4.6.8. F.12.h. Billboard Sign Lot Requirement. All billboard signs must be located on an individual lot, consisting of at least 5,000 square feet. All sign structures shall be considered principal structures for purposes of this Ordinance and shall be the sole structure on the lot. Such lots must meet all dimensional requirements (frontage, width,

setbacks, etc) of the specific zoning district in which the sign is located. Adequate water and sewer capacity shall not be required for such lots.

4.6.8. F.12.i. Cut-outs or Extensions. Cutouts or extensions of a nonpermanent nature shall not exceed 60 square feet and shall not exceed six feet in height or 10 feet in width (added to the top of the display face). Cutouts or extensions which would extend along the entire top of the signable area and thereby increase the overall height or width of the sign face shall be considered of permanent nature and shall be prohibited. No cut-outs or extensions shall be added to the sides or bottom of the sign face.