

Village of Merrionette Park  
11720 S. Kedzie Avenue  
Merrionette Park, IL 60803  
Phone: (708)396-3183 Fax: (708)396-3890

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION IS HEREBY MADE TO ERECT A SIGN FOR:**  
(Owner or User)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ New Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN MANUFACTURER \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF SUPPORT FOR SIGN-BEAM Canopy Pole Bldg Ground  
Type of SIGN: Length \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
NON - ELECTRIC \_\_\_\_\_ ELECTRIC \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHEDULE OF FEES:**

A. Non-electric and non-motive signs

1. Ten square ft to and including 25 sq. ft. \$35.00

2. Twenty five square ft. and greater..... \$35.00

Plus a fifty cents (.50) per sq. ft in excess of 25 sq. ft.

B. Electric of motive sign regardless of where power is obtained. Permit

Fees shall be the same as the schedule in paragraph (A) with an additional fee.

(See Electrical Permit)

A sign in direct line of vision of any traffic signal shall not have red, green or amber illumination. The applicant Hereby Certifies to the Correctness of the above application and agrees to abide by all the Ordinances, rules and regulations of the Village.

**CONTRACTOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS/PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*ALL EXISTING ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK HAVE BEEN COMPILED WITH AND PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED TO ERECT A SIGN AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.*





# VILLAGE OF MERRIONETTE PARK

11720 South Kedzie Avenue  
Merrionette Park, Illinois 60803  
708-396-3183 • FAX 708-396-3890  
www.merrionettepark.org

## APPLICATION FOR ELECTRICAL PERMIT

|                                                                    |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| OFFICIAL USE<br>ONLY                                               | Plan Examiner:                                                      | Date:                    | Permit No.                  | Zoning Dist.                                               | Fee:<br>\$     |
| PLEASE PRINT                                                       | Address of Installation (Number, Direction, Street, City, Zip Code) |                          |                             | Real Estate Index No.                                      |                |
| Property Owner Name:                                               |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
| Address of Owner: (Number, Direction, Street, City, Zip Code)      |                                                                     |                          |                             | Area Code/Telephone No.                                    |                |
| Permit No.                                                         | Electrical Contractor Company:                                      |                          |                             | Contractor License No.<br>Certificate of Registration City |                |
| Address of Contractor: (Number, Direction, Street, City, Zip Code) |                                                                     |                          |                             | Area Code/Telephone No.                                    |                |
| CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE BOXES                                        |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Service/Feeder                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Circuits                    | <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | New Home Data  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Intercom                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monthly Maintenance (Month) | <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | Telephone      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | TV                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire Alarm                  | <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | Central Vacuum |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                           | Fiber                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Security System             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | Other:         |
| Services                                                           | Voltage                                                             | Phase                    | Wire                        | Amps                                                       |                |
| BELOW PLEASE FILL IN DESCRIPTION OF WORK                           |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
|                                                                    |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
|                                                                    |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
|                                                                    |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
|                                                                    |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
|                                                                    |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |
| Estimated Cost of Job: \$                                          |                                                                     |                          |                             |                                                            |                |

Supervising Electrician: I hereby certify that the information provided on this application is true and correct, and that all work performed under authority of this permit shall be installed by myself or by employees of the licensed contractor listed above, under my supervision. I further certify that all work to be performed in conformance with all applicable code requirements.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## Section

## Section

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 155.001 SHORT TITLE.

This chapter shall be known as the sign code of the village or may be so cited and pleaded and shall be referred to herein as the code.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

§ 155.002 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

(A) This code creates the legal framework for signage regulations that is intended to facilitate an easy and agreeable communication between people. It recognizes the need to protect the safety and welfare of the public, the need for well maintained and attractive appearance in a community, and the need for adequate business identification and advertising and communication.

(B) This code recognizes that aesthetics and design quality cannot be satisfactorily legislated and shall not attempt to regulate design or copy content of any permitted sign, as individual opinions vary and general public opinions vary from one era to another. It is recognized, however, that a great percentage of that which is unattractive can be eliminated by sensible quality control, through adequate maintenance and inspection, and by reasonable guidelines formulated to minimize clutter.

(C) This code authorizes the use of signs visible from public rights-of-way provided the signs:

(1) Are compatible with zoning regulations.

(2) Allow and promote optimum conditions for meeting the sign user's needs while at the same time promoting

the amenable environment desired by the general public.

(3) Are designed, constructed, installed, and maintained in such a manner that they do not endanger public safety or traffic safety.

(4) Are legible, readable, and visible in the circumstances in which they are used.

(5) Are respectful of the reasonable rights of other advertisers whose messages are displayed.

(D) In summary, this code is designed to prevent a vast majority of those things which are undesirable in commercial signage without hampering the inherent right of business to communicate reasonably, to advertise, and to reasonably assist a potential customer to conveniently locate and identify any product, goods, service, or facility which he may desire to use or purchase from at any given time.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### § 155.003 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this sign code the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

"ABANDONED SIGN." A sign which no longer correctly directs or exhorts any person, advertises a bona fide business, lessor, owner, product, or activity conducted or product available on the premises where the sign is displayed.

"ACCESSORY SIGN." See "ON-PREMISE SIGN."

"ADMINISTRATOR." The Building Commissioner or his designated representative.

"ADVERTISING MESSAGE." That copy on a sign describing products or services being offered to the public.

"ANIMATED SIGN." Any sign which includes action or motion. For the purposes of this code, this term does not refer to "FLASHING", "CHANGING", or "INDEXING", all of which are separately defined.

"ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTION." Any projection not intended for occupancy which extends beyond the property line, not including signs, canopies, or marquees.

"AREA OF COPY." The entire area within a single, continuous perimeter composed of squares or rectangles, which enclose the extreme limits of the advertising message, announcement, or decoration on a fascia or wall sign.

"AWNING." A temporary shelter supported entirely from the exterior wall of a building and composed of nonrigid materials except for the supporting framework.

"BANNER SIGN." A temporary sign composed of lightweight material either enclosed or not enclosed in a rigid frame, secured or mounted so as to allow movement of the sign caused by movement of the atmosphere.

"BILLBOARD." A sign structure advertising an establishment, merchandise, service, or entertainment, which is sold, produced, manufactured, or furnished at a place other than on the property on which the sign is located.

"BUILDING SIGN." A sign lettered to designate the name of the building itself, as opposed to the name of occupants or services.

"CANOPY", "MARQUEE", or "CARPORT." A permanent roof-like shelter extending from part or all of a building face over a public or private right-of-way and constructed of some durable material such as metal, glass, or plastic.

"CANOPY, MARQUEE, or CARPORT SIGN." Any sign attached to or constructed in or on a canopy, marquee, or carport.

"CHANGING SIGN, AUTOMATIC." A sign such as an electronically or electrically controlled public service time, temperature, and date sign, message center, or reader-board where different copy changes are shown.

"COPY, PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY." The wording on a sign surface either in permanent or removable letter form.

"DETACHED SIGN." See "FREE-STANDING SIGN" or "GROUND SIGN".

"DIRECTLY ILLUMINATED SIGN." Any sign designed to provide artificial light either through exposed lighting on the sign face or through transparent or translucent material from a light source within the sign.

"ELECTRICAL SIGN." Any sign containing electrical wiring which is attached or intended to be attached to an electrical energy source.

"ERECTED." This term shall mean attached, altered, built, constructed, reconstructed, enlarged, or moved, and shall include the painting of wall signs, but does not include copy changes on any sign.

"EXEMPT SIGN." Sign exempted from normal permit requirements.

"FACE OF SIGN." The entire area of the sign on which copy could be placed.

"FACIA SIGN" or "WALL SIGN." A sign attached to or erected against a wall of a building, with the face horizontally parallel to the building wall.

"FLASHING SIGN." Any sign which contains an intermittent or flashing light source, or which includes the illusion of intermittent or flashing light by means of animation, or an externally-mounted intermittent light source. Automatic changing signs such as public service time, temperature, and date signs, or electronically controlled message centers are classed as "CHANGING SIGNS" or "FLASHING SIGNS."

"FREE-STANDING SIGN." See "GROUND SIGN" or "DETACHED SIGN."

"GROUND LEVEL." Street grade.

"GROUND SIGN." A sign erected on a free-standing frame, mast, or pole and not attached to any building. See also "DETACHED SIGN" or "FREE-STANDING SIGN."

"HEIGHT OF SIGN." The vertical distance measured from the adjacent street grade or upper surface of the nearest street curb other than an elevated roadway, which permits the greatest height to the highest point of the sign.

"IDENTIFICATION SIGN." A sign which is limited to the name, address, and number of a building, institution, or person and to the activity carried on in the building or institution, or the occupancy of the person.

"ILLUMINATED SIGN." Any sign which emanates light either by means of exposed tubing or lamps on its surface, or by means of illumination transmitted through the sign on its surface, or by means of illumination transmitted through the sign faces.

"INCIDENTAL SIGN." A sign pertaining to goods, products, services, or facilities which are available on the premises where the sign is located.

"INDEXING." Turning and stopping action of the triangular vertical sections of an upright sign designated to show three messages in the same area.

"INDIRECTLY ILLUMINATED SIGN." Any sign which reflects light from a source intentionally directed upon it; for example, by means of floodlights or externally-mounted fluorescent light fixtures.

"INDIVIDUAL LETTER SIGN." Any sign made of self-contained letters that are

mounted on the face of a building, top of a parapet, roof edge of a building, or on top of, or below, a marquee.

"MAINTAIN." To permit a sign, structure, or any part of each to continue, or to repair or refurbish a sign, structure, or any part of either.

"MESSAGE." The wording or copy on a sign.

"NAMEPLATE." A nonelectric sign identifying only the name and occupation or profession of the occupant of the premises on which the sign is located. If any premises include more than one occupant, "NAMEPLATE" refers to all names and occupations or professions as well as the name of the building and directional information.

"NONELECTRICAL SIGN." Any sign that does not contain electrical wiring or is not attached or intended to be attached to an electrical energy source.

"NONCONFORMING SIGN, LEGAL." Any advertising structure or sign which was lawfully erected and maintained prior to such time as it came within the purview of this code and any amendments thereto, and which fails to conform to all applicable regulations and restrictions of this code, or a nonconforming sign for which a special permit has been issued.

"OFF-PREMISE SIGN" or "OFF-SITE SIGN." A sign that advertises goods, products, services, or facilities, or directs persons to a different location from where the sign is installed.

"ON-PREMISE SIGN" or "ON-SITE SIGN." Any sign identifying or advertising a business, person, activity, goods, products, or services located on the premises where the sign is installed and maintained.

"OWNER." A person recorded as such on official records and including duly authorized agent or notary, a purchaser, devisee, judiciary; any person having a vested or contingent interest in the property in question.

"PARAPET" or "PARAPET WALL." That portion of a building wall that rises above the roof level.

"PERSON." Any individual, corporation, association, firm, partnership, and the like, singular or plural.

"POLE SIGN." See "GROUND SIGN" or "FREE-STANDING SIGN."

"PORTABLE SIGN." Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or building.

"PREMISES." An area of land with its appurtenances and buildings which, because of its unity of use, may be regarded as the smallest conveyable unit of real estate.

"PROJECTING SIGN." Any horizontal or vertical sign which is attached to a building or other structure and extends beyond the line of the building or other structure or beyond the surface of that portion of the building or structure to which it is attached.

"PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION SIGN." Any sign intended primarily to promote items of general interest to the community such as time, temperature, and date, atmospheric conditions, news or traffic control, and the like.

"REAL ESTATE" or "PROPERTY FOR SALE, RENT, OR LEASE SIGN." Any sign pertaining to the sale, lease, or rental of land or buildings.

"ROOF LINE." The top edge of the roof or the top of the parapet, whichever forms the top line of the building silhouette.

"ROOF SIGN." Any sign erected upon, against, or directly above a roof or on top of or above the parapet of a building.

"SEASONAL OR HOLIDAY SIGN." A sign such as a Christmas decoration, or that used for an historic holiday, and installed for a limited period of time.

"SIGN." Any identification, description, illustration, or device illuminated or nonilluminated which is visible from any public place or is located on private property and exposed to the public and which directs attention to a product, service, place, activity, person, institution, business, or solicitation, including any permanently installed or situated merchandise; or any emblem, painting, banner, pennant, placard, or temporary sign designed to advertise, identify, or convey information, with the exception of window displays and national flags. For the purpose of removal, "SIGNS" shall also include all sign structures.

"SIGN LEGEND." See "COPY."

"SIGN STICKER." A sticker affixed either to the face or the channel of a sign denoting the name of the manufacturer or designated servicing company for a purpose of identification by Building Department officials.

"SIGN STRUCTURE." Any structure which supports, has supported, or is capable of supporting a sign, including decorative cover.

"SPECIAL PURPOSE SIGN." Any sign other than a business, nonaccessory, identification sign, including but not limited to traffic signs.

"STREET." A public highway, road, or thoroughfare which affords the principal means of access to adjacent lots, measured from property line to property line.

"SWINGING SIGN." A swinging sign, built for attracting business.

"TEMPORARY SIGN." A sign which is not permanently affixed. All devices such as banners, pennants, flags (not intended to include flags of any nations), searchlights, twirling or sandwich-type signs, sidewalk or curb signs and balloons or other air- or gas-filled figures, to be displayed for a period of not more than 28 days.

"TEMPORARY WINDOW OR BUILDING SIGN." A sign painted on the interior of a window or constructed of paper, cloth, or other like material and attached to the interior side of a window or displayed on the exterior of a building wall in order to direct attention of persons outside the building to a sale of merchandise or a change in the status of business.

"UNDER CANOPY OR MARQUEE SIGN." A sign suspended below the ceiling or roof of a canopy or marquee.

"UNLAWFUL SIGN." A sign which contravenes this code, or which the Building Commissioner may declare as unlawful if it becomes dangerous to public safety by reason of dilapidation or abandonment; or a nonconforming sign for which a permit required under a previous code was not obtained.

"USE." The purpose for which a building, lot, sign, or other structure is arranged, intended, designed, occupied, or maintained by city officials. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### INSURANCE; PERMITS

#### § 155.010 INSURANCE.

Every sign contractor shall provide or show proof of a certificate of liability to indemnify the village against any form of liability to a minimum of \$300,000 or shall be responsible through any agent or subcontractor. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### § 155.011 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT.

Application for permit shall be made to the Building Commissioner upon a form provided by the Commissioner and shall be

accompanied by information as may be required to assure compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations of the village, including the following.

(A) Name and address of the owner of the sign.

(B) Name and address of the owner or the person in possession of the premises where the sign is located or to be located.

(C) Clear and legible drawings with description and nominal dimensions, showing the location of the sign which is the subject of the permit and all other existing signs whose construction require permits, when the signs are on the same premises. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### \$ 155.012 ISSUANCE; DENIAL.

(A) The Building Commissioner shall issue a permit for the erection, alteration, or relocation of a sign within the village when the permit application is properly made, all required information has been provided, and all appropriate fees have been paid as outlined in § 155.014.

(B) The Building Commissioner may, in writing, suspend or revoke a permit issued under provisions of this section whenever the permit is issued on the basis of a misstatement of fact or fraud. When a sign permit is denied by the Commissioner, he shall give written notice of the denial to the applicant, together with a brief written statement of the reasons for the denial. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### \$ 155.013 EFFECT OF ISSUANCE.

No permit for a sign issued hereunder shall be deemed to constitute permission or authorization to maintain an unlawful sign, nor shall any permit issued hereunder constitute a defense in an action to abate an unlawful sign. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### \$ 155.014 PERMIT FEES.

(A) Application for permits shall be filed with the Building Commissioner, together with a permit fee as specified by the Commissioner, for each sign in accordance with the schedule on file with the Village Clerk. The minimum fee for a permit, exclusive of any permit costs for electrical components, shall be not less than \$25 or \$1 per square foot, whichever is greater.

(B) In addition, when any sign is hereafter erected, placed, installed, or otherwise established on any property prior to obtaining permits as required by this section, the fees shall be doubled; but the payment of double fees shall not relieve any person from complying with other provisions of this section or from penalties prescribed herein. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 91-553, passed 8-21-91)

#### \$ 155.015 APPEALS.

(A) Appeal from denial of permit.

(1) When a sign permit is denied by the Building Commissioner, he shall give written notice of the denial to the applicant, together with a brief written statement of the reason or reasons for the denial.

(2) Appeal shall be taken to the Zoning Board of Appeals from the Commissioner's denial of a sign permit. The appeal may be made at a regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, provided a request for a hearing shall be made in writing to the Village Clerk or to the Building Commissioner no less than seven days before a scheduled meeting. Established rules and procedures for a hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals shall apply. The Building Commissioner shall comply with and enforce the decision on the appeal.

(B) Appeal from the failure of the Building Commissioner to grant permit within ten days. The Commissioner's failure to either formally grant or deny a sign permit, application within ten days of the date of filing an application meeting the requirements of the code shall be grounds for appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals at its next regularly scheduled meeting. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### \$ 155.016 INSPECTION.

The person erecting, altering, or relocating a sign shall notify the Building Commissioner prior to the commencement of work for which permits are required.

(A) Inspections. The village shall conduct initial and annual structural inspections of all free-standing signs and an initial and annual electrical inspection of all signs which have electrical service. The owner of the sign shall pay an annual inspection fee of \$75 or \$0.50 per square foot, whichever is greater.

(B) Maintenance. Every sign in the village including but not limited to those signs for which permits or for which no permits or permit fees are required, shall be maintained in good structural condition at all times. The Commissioner shall inspect and have the authority to order the painting, repair, alteration, or removal of signs which become dilapidated or are abandoned, or which constitute physical hazard to the public safety.

(C) Signs declared unlawful.

(1) The Commissioner may declare any sign unlawful if it endangers public safety by reasons of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, or abandonment. The declaration shall state the reasons of the Commissioner for stating that the sign constitutes a safety hazard to the general public.

(2) Any sign owned, kept, displayed, or maintained by any person within the village, the ownership keeping a display which is unlawful pursuant to the provisions of this code, is declared to be in violation of this code.

(3) The Commissioner may declare any such sign to be unlawful. The declaration shall state, in writing, the reason or reasons why the sign and the keeping, owning, maintenance, construction, and display or operation thereof, is unlawful under the terms of this code. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 94-643, passed 4-20-94; Am. Ord. 97-730, passed - 97; Am. Ord. 07-979, passed 3-21-07)

SIGNS PERMITTED IN ZONING DISTRICTS

§ 155.025 RESIDENTIAL ZONES.

(A) Temporary real estate, personal message, celebration, special event and garage sale signs on residentially-zoned property, are subject to the following.

(1) No such sign shall exceed 65 square feet in sign surface area.

(2) No more than two temporary signs shall be placed on the property at any one time.

(3) No such sign shall be illuminated.

(4) No such sign shall project higher than 42 inches above the ground level at the base of the sign.

(5) No such sign shall be located within ten feet of any other lot, parcel or tract.

(6) A temporary sign erected in connection with a rummage sale or garage sale shall not be erected for a period longer than three days.

(7) The sign must be placed at least 15 feet from the nearest edge of the sidewalk pavement.

(B) The President and Board of Trustees specifically find and declare that proliferation of an unlimited number and size of signs in residentially-zoned areas of the village would create ugliness, visual blight and clutter, tarnish the natural beauty of the landscape and architectural environment, impair property values, substantially impinge upon the privacy and special ambience of the community and cause safety and traffic hazards to motorists, pedestrians and children. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 04-912, passed - 04)

§ 155.026 BUSINESS ZONES.

Within these zones, signs are permitted as follows.

(A) One free-standing ground sign for each developed parcel or premises having frontage on a public right-of-way, not to exceed one square foot of sign area for each one linear foot of street frontage abutting the portion of the parcel or premises.

(B) One wall or facia sign for each occupancy within a developed parcel, not to exceed a total copy area of one square foot for each linear foot of building occupancy. If occupancy is on a corner, one wall or facia sign will be permitted for each frontage. If occupancy is on a corner and the rear of the building is facing a roadway of four or more lanes, in addition to signs allowed on front and other frontage, an additional sign may be placed on the rear of the building facing a roadway of four or more lanes. If the building includes a canopy, each occupancy will be permitted one under-canopy sign.

(C) The Village Board of Trustees may grant a variance to permit one free-standing ground sign for each developed parcel or premises having frontage on a public right-of-way, not to exceed one-and-one-half square feet of sign area for each one linear foot of street frontage abutting the portion of the parcel or premises or for any other portions of § 155.026. The Board may impose such conditions on the granting of the variance as it sees fit. The variation may only be given if the Board finds that:

(1) The variation is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the village sign regulations;

(2) The plight of the petitioner is due to unique circumstances;

(3) There are practical difficulties and particular hardship in carrying out the requirements of the sign regulations on the petitioner's property; and

(4) The variation, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the locality. The variation provided in this division (C) shall be an alternative to the variance procedure provided in § 155.110 and § 155.111.

(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 91-552, passed 8-21-91; Am. Ord. 15-1087, passed 8-19-15)

§ 155.027 INDUSTRIAL ZONES.

Within the industrial zones, signs are permitted as follows.

(A) One free-standing ground sign for each developed parcel or premises having frontage on a public right-of-way, not to exceed two square feet of sign area for each two linear feet of street frontage abutting the portion of the parcel or premises.

(1) Where a parcel is permitted to have more than one free-standing ground sign under these regulations, the distance between the free-standing ground signs on each parcel shall not be less than 100 feet.

(2) The total area of all free-standing ground signs on each parcel shall not exceed two square feet of sign area for each two linear feet of street frontage of the first 100 linear feet and one square foot of sign area for each additional two feet of street frontage in excess of 100 feet.

MERRIONETTE PARK

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provided that no one sign shall exceed 200 linear feet of street frontage. On parcels exceeding 200 feet of street frontage, the sign area shall not exceed a total of equal to one square foot of sign area for each linear foot of street frontage.

(B) One wall or fascia sign for each occupancy within a developed parcel. The sign shall not exceed a total area of three square feet of copy area for each two linear feet of building occupancy. If the occupancy is on a corner, one wall sign will be permitted for each frontage. If the building includes a canopy, each tenant will be permitted one under-canopy sign.

(C) Other signs are permitted as follows.

(1) Two directional signs are permitted for each driveway on each street frontage. The area of each sign may not exceed four square feet. The directional signs shall not be considered as part of the total allowable sign square footage permitted under this code. Maximum permitted height for the top of these signs shall be eight feet above grade.

(2) Any of the types of signs permitted in this code may be permitted as manual or automatic changeable copy signs. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 04-912, passed - -04)

#### \$ 155.028 SIGNS PERMITTED IN ALL ZONES.

No other signs, except those signs provided for under § 155.071, shall be permitted in all of the above zones. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### PROHIBITED SIGNS

#### \$ 155.040 MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS AND POSTERS.

The tacking, pasting, or otherwise affixing of signs of a miscellaneous character, visible from a public way, located on the walls of buildings, barns, sheds, or on trees, poles, posts, fences, or other structures is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by this code. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.041 ABANDONED SIGNS.

Business signs that advertise an activity, business, product, or service no longer conducted or available on the premises on which the sign is located shall be prohibited. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.042 PARKING OF ADVERTISING VEHICLES.

(A) No person shall park any vehicle or trailer on a public right-of-way, which has attached thereto or located thereon any sign or advertising device for the basic purpose

of providing advertisement of products or directing people to a business or activity located on the same or nearby property or any other premises.

(B) This section is not intended to prohibit any form of vehicular signage such as a sign attached to a bus or lettered on a motor vehicle.

(C) This section is not intended to prohibit any vehicle signs advertising sale by the village which had been obtained via ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, §§ 36 et seq. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 13-1052, passed 8-21-13) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.043 SIGNS IN PUBLIC AREAS.

No sign shall be permitted which is placed on public property or over or across any street or public thoroughfare except as may otherwise expressly be authorized by this code. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.044 BANNERS AND PORTABLE SIGNS.

(A) Banners, pennants, searchlights, twirling signs, sandwich board signs, sidewalk or curb signs, or balloons or other gas-filled figures shall not be used on a permanent basis.

(B) Signs described in division (A) above will be permitted as special promotion in a commercial or industrial district for a total period not to exceed 28 consecutive days and will be allowed in residential districts in conjunction with an open house or model home demonstration conducted by a realtor for seven consecutive days before the opening of such a demonstration to seven consecutive days after and not to exceed a total period of 28 consecutive days. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.045 FLAGS.

Flags other than those of any nation, state, or political subdivision or corporate flags are prohibited except as set forth in § 155.044(B). (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.046 SWINGING SIGNS.

Swinging signs, built for attracting business, are prohibited. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### \$ 155.047 A-FRAME SIGNS.

A-frame or sandwich board, sidewalk or curb signs are prohibited except as set forth in § 155.044(B). (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 155.048 UNCLASSIFIED SIGNS.

The following signs are also prohibited.

(A) Signs which bear or contain statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, pornographic, immoral character, or which contain advertising matter which is untruthful.

(B) Signs which purport to be, are an imitation of, or resemble an official traffic sign or signal, or which bear the words "stop", "go slow", "caution", "warning", or similar words.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 155.049 OTHER PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following signs are prohibited.

(A) Ad bench signs.

(B) Signs of which any part is above 30 feet from the ground level.

(C) Billboards larger than 65 square feet in surface area.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85; Am. Ord. 04-912, passed - -04) Penalty, see § 10.99

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

§ 155.060 COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTRICAL CODE.

All signs shall comply with the latest effective provisions of the Chicago Electrical Code and the additional construction standards hereinafter set forth.

(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

Cross-reference:

Adoption of Chicago Electrical Code by reference, see § 151.02  
Amendments to Chicago Electrical Code, see § 151.03

§ 155.061 CONSTRUCTION OF SIGN.

(A) Obstruction to exits. No signs shall be erected, constructed, or so maintained as to obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window, or door openings used as a means of egress.

(B) Obstruction to ventilation. No sign shall be attached in any form, shape, or manner which will interfere with any openings required for ventilation. Signs may be erected in front of and may cover transom windows when not in violation of the provision of the building or fire prevention codes.

(C) Clearance from high voltage power lines. Signs shall be located in such a way that they maintain horizontal and vertical clearance of all overhead electrical conductors in accordance with the latest effective Chicago Electrical Code specifications, depending on voltages concerned. However, in no case shall a sign be installed closer than 24 inches horizontally or vertically from any conductor or public utility guy wire.

(D) Drainage. The roofs of all marquees shall be properly guttered and drained.

(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

Cross-reference:

Adoption of BOCA Basic Building Code, see § 150.01

Adoption of Chicago Electrical Code, see § 151.02

Fire prevention, see Ch. 93

§ 155.062 FREE-STANDING SIGNS.

All free-standing sign structures or poles shall be self-supporting structures erected on or permanently attached to concrete foundations.

(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 155.063 WIND LOADS.

All signs, except those attached flat against the wall of a building, shall be constructed to withstand wind loads as follows.

(A) For solid signs, 30 pounds per square foot on one face of the sign.

(B) For skeleton signs, 36 pounds per square foot of the total face area of the letters and other sign surfaces, or ten pounds per square foot of the gross area of the sign and determined by the overall dimensions of the sign, whichever is greater.

(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 155.064 SIGN ANCHORING.

No sign shall be suspended by chains or other devices that will allow the sign to swing due to wind action. Signs shall be anchored to prevent any lateral movement that would cause wear on supporting members or connections.

(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 155.065 POSTING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY PROHIBITED.

No sign of any type shall be posted, installed, or mounted on any utility pole,

streetlight, traffic signal, traffic control box, tree, or any other public property. (Ord. 90-541, passed 12-19-90) Penalty, see § 10.99

PERMIT EXCEPTIONS; EXEMPT SIGNS

§ 155.070 PERMIT EXCEPTIONS.

The following operations shall not be considered as creating a sign insofar as requiring the issuance of a sign permit, but the signs must be in conformance with all other codes, electrical laws, and regulations of the village.

(A) Changing of the advertising copy of message on an existing approved painted or printed sign, marquee, changeable copy sign or similar approved sign whether electrical, illuminated, electronic changing message center, or non-illuminated painted message which are all specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy.

(B) Painting, repainting, cleaning, or other normal maintenance and repair of a sign not involving structural changes. Replacement of the plastic face will be included as an exempt operation provided that it is due to a change caused by the breakage or deterioration of the face, but not the substitution of a new or different advertiser.

(C) Changes in the content or show window displays and permitted temporary signs. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

§ 155.071 EXEMPT SIGNS.

(A) Construction signs. One construction sign per construction project not exceeding 32 square feet in sign area in residential districts or 64 square feet in commercial or industrial districts. These signs shall be erected no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of construction for which a valid building permit has been issued, shall be confined to the site of construction, and shall be removed 30 days after completion of construction and prior to occupancy.

(B) Directional or instructional signs. Nonelectrical signs which provide instruction or direction and are located entirely on the property to which they pertain and do not exceed four square feet in area; signs identifying rest rooms, public telephones, walkways; or signs providing direction such as parking lot entrances and exit signs, and those of a similar nature, such as handicap parking signs.

(C) Flags. The flags, emblems, or insignia of any nation or political subdivision or corporate flag.

(D) Governmental signs. Governmental signs for control of traffic and other regulatory purposes, street signs, danger signs, railroad crossing signs, and signs of public service companies indicating danger and aids to service or safety which are erected by or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his public duty.

(E) Holiday decorations. Signs of a primarily decorative nature, clearly incidental and customary, and commonly associated with any national, local, or religious holidays.

(F) House numbers and nameplates. House numbers and nameplates not exceeding two square feet in area for each residential building.

(G) Interior signs. Signs located within the interior of any building or stadium, or within an enclosed lobby or court of any building, and signs for and located within the inner or outer lobby, court, or entrance of any theater. This does not, however, exempt these signs from the structural, electrical, or material specifications as set out in this code.

(H) Memorial signs. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or so inlaid as to be part of the building or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible material.

(I) Notice bulletin boards. Notice bulletin boards not over 32 nominal square feet in area for medical, public, charitable, or religious institutions where the notice bulletin boards are located on the premises of the institution.

(J) No trespassing or no dumping signs. No trespassing or no dumping signs not to exceed 1-1/2 square feet in area per sign and not exceeding four in number per lot, except that special permission may be obtained from the Building Commissioner for additional signs under proven special circumstances.

(K) Occupant signs. One sign for each dwelling unit not to exceed two square feet in area indicating the name of the occupant, location, or identification of a home professional office.

(L) Plaques. Plaques or nameplate signs not more than four square feet in area which are fastened directly to the building.

(M) Public notices. Official notices posted by public officers or employees in the performance of their duties.

(N) Public signs. Signs required or specifically authorized for a public purpose by any law, statute, or ordinance which may be of any type, number, area, height above

grade, location, illumination, or animation, required by the law, statute, or ordinance under which the signs are erected.

(O) Real estate signs. One real estate sign on any lot or parcel, provided the sign is located entirely within the property to which the sign applies, is not directly illuminated, does not exceed six square feet in area, and is removed within seven days after the sale, rental, or lease has been accomplished.

(P) Symbols or insignia. Religious symbols, commemorative plaques of recognized historical agencies, or identification emblems of religious orders or historical agencies, provided that no such symbol, plaque, or identification emblem shall exceed four square feet in area. All symbols, plaques, and identification emblems shall be placed flat against a building.

(Q) Warning signs. Signs warning the public of the existence of danger, but containing no advertising material, of a size as may be necessary, to be removed upon subsidence of danger.

(R) Neighborhood identification signs. In any zone, a sign, masonry wall, landscaping, and other similar materials or features may be combined to form a display for neighborhood or tract identification, provided that the legend of the sign or display shall consist only of the neighborhood or tract name.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### REMOVAL AND DISPOSITION

#### § 155.080 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR; COMPLIANCE WITH SAFETY STANDARDS.

(A) Every sign including, but not limited to, those signs for which permits or for which no permit fees are required, shall be maintained in a safe, presentable, and good structural material condition at all times, including the replacement of defective parts, painting, repainting, cleaning, and other acts required for the maintenance of the sign.

(B) The Building Commissioner shall require compliance with all standards of this code. If the sign is not made to comply with adequate safety standards, the Commissioner shall require its removal in accordance with this subchapter.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 155.081 ABANDONED SIGNS.

(A) Except as otherwise provided in this code, any sign which is located on property which becomes vacant and unoccupied for a period of three months or more, or any

sign which pertains to a time, event, or purpose which no longer applies, shall be deemed to have been abandoned.

(B) Permanent signs applicable to a business temporarily suspended because of a change in ownership or management of the business shall not be deemed abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a period of six months or more.

(C) An abandoned sign is prohibited and shall be removed by the owner of the sign or owner of the premises.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 155.082 DANGEROUS OR DEFECTIVE SIGNS.

No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained on any premises owned or controlled by him any sign which is in a dangerous or defective condition. Any such sign shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the sign or the premises.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 155.083 UNLAWFUL SIGNS.

No person shall erect on any premises owned or controlled by him any sign which does not comply with the provision of this code.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 155.084 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Any sign projecting over a public right-of-way at the time of the effective date of this code which was subject to removal or relocation at the owner's expense pursuant to a permit or other ordinance of the village, shall be removed by the owner or altered at the owner's expense to comply with the regulation of this code if, as the result of, or after completion of a street improvement project, the sign does not or would not comply with the provisions of this code.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 155.085 REMOVAL OF SIGNS BY BUILDING COMMISSIONER.

(A) The Building Commissioner shall cause to be removed any sign that endangers the public safety such as an abandoned, dangerous, or materially, electrically, or structurally defective sign, or a sign for which no permit has been issued. The Building Commissioner shall prepare a notice which shall describe the sign and specify the violation involved, and which shall state that if the sign is not removed or the violation is not corrected within ten days, the sign shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(B) All notices mailed by the Building Commissioner shall be sent by certified mail. Any time periods provided in this section shall be deemed to commence on the date of the receipt of the certified mail.

(C) For all other signs, the notice shall be mailed to the owner of the property on which the sign is located as shown on the last equalized assessment roll. If known, or with reasonable care should be known, the notice shall be mailed to or delivered to the owner of the sign and the occupant of the property. Any person having an interest in the sign or the property may appeal the determination of the Building Commissioner ordering removal or compliance by filing a written notice of appeal with the Zoning Board of Appeals within 30 days after the date of mailing the notice, or 30 days after receipt of the notice if the notice was not mailed.

(D) In cases of emergency, the Building Commissioner may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or defective sign without notice.

(E) Any sign removed by the Building Commissioner shall become the property of the village and may be disposed of in any manner deemed appropriate by the Building Commissioner. The cost of removal of the sign by the village shall be considered a debt owed to the village by the owner of the sign and the owner of the property, and may be recovered in any appropriate court action by the village or by assessment against the property. The cost of removal shall include any and all incidental expense incurred by the village in connection with the sign removal.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGNS

#### § 155.090 NOTIFICATION OF NONCONFORMITY.

(A) After the enactment of this code, the Building Commissioner shall, as soon as practicable, survey the village for signs which do not conform to the requirements of this code.

(B) Upon determination that a sign is nonconforming, the Building Commissioner shall use reasonable efforts to so notify either personally or in writing the user or owner of the property on which the sign is located of the following.

(1) The sign's nonconformity.

(2) Whether the sign is eligible for characterization as legal nonconforming or unlawful.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### § 155.091 SIGNS ELIGIBLE FOR CHARACTERIZATION AS LEGAL NONCONFORMING.

Any sign located within the village limits on August 21, 1985, or located in an area annexed to the village thereafter, which does not conform with the provisions of this code, is eligible for characterization as a legal nonconforming sign and is permitted, provided it also meets the following requirements.

(A) The sign was covered by a sign permit or variance on the date of adoption of this code, August 21, 1985, if one was required under applicable law.

(B) If no sign permit was required under applicable laws for the sign in question, the sign was in all respects in compliance with applicable law on the date of adoption of this code, August 21, 1985.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### § 155.092 LOSS OF LEGAL NONCONFORMING STATUS.

(A) A legal nonconforming designation is lost if:

(1) The sign is altered in any way in structure or copy (except for changeable copy signs and normal maintenance), which tends to or makes the sign less in compliance with the requirements of this code than it was before the alteration.

(2) The sign is relocated to a position making it less in compliance with the requirements of this code.

(3) The sign is replaced or relocated.

(B) On the happening of any of division (1), (2), or (3) above, the sign shall be immediately brought into compliance with this code with a new permit secured therefore, or shall be removed.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### § 155.093 NOTIFICATION TO OWNER.

Under any circumstances where the Building Commissioner makes a determination under the authority of § 155.092 that an existing sign does not qualify as a legal nonconforming sign, then he shall thereafter inform the owner or user of the property on which the sign is located that the subject sign is unlawful and should be removed in accordance with the procedures of § 155.085.  
(Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### § 155.094 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.

Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner or user of a legal nonconforming sign

or the owner of the property on which the legal nonconforming sign is located from the provisions of this code regarding safety, maintenance, and repair of signs. Cleaning and other normal maintenance or repair of the sign or sign structure shall not modify the sign structure or copy in any way which makes it more nonconforming, or the sign may lose its legal nonconforming status. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

#### SPECIAL SIGNS

##### § 155.100 SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT SIGNS.

The Building Commissioner may issue a special permit for a temporary sign in a zone in connection with the marketing of lots or structures in a subdivision, subject to the following conditions.

(A) Permit. The permits may be issued for a period not to exceed one year. The Commissioner may renew the permits for additional periods of up to one year for each permit upon written application at least 30 days prior to its expiration.

(B) Signs as used in this section refer to all types of signs except signs exempted under § 155.071 and those prohibited under §§ 155.040 through 155.049.

(C) Legend. The off-site sign may contain advertising in connection with the name of the subdivision, development firm, building contractor, and real estate sales firm, and may refer to materials, appliances, supplies, and building trades used in construction of the dwelling units, or services provided by the developer.

(D) Location. Any subdivision development sign shall comply with all applicable setback requirements for the zoning district in which the property is located. No such sign shall be permitted to remain in one subdivision or in one unit of a subdivision for the purpose of advertising the sale of lots or structures in another subdivision, or another unit within the same subdivision, without the express permission of the Building Commissioner. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85) Penalty, see § 10.99

##### § 155.101 SIGNS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS.

Temporary signs, not in excess of 32 square feet in area, may be erected as participation in a public parade, public event or public celebration for a period not to exceed ten days, provided, however, that the erection of the sign shall be approved by the Building Commissioner. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

#### VARIANCES

##### § 155.110 INTENT.

The intent of this subchapter is to allow certain provisions of this sign code to be modified where the modifications will encourage excellence in the planning and design of signs. Nothing in this subchapter, however, is intended to permit the erection or maintenance of signs which are prohibited in §§ 155.040 through 155.049. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)

##### § 155.111 PLAN COMMISSION HEARING.

(A) In the event that any party wishes to construct or install a sign or signs other than as permitted in this code, that party shall be entitled to a hearing before the Plan Commission for a special use.

(B) Requests for hearings shall be made in writing to the Village Planning Commission.

(C) The Plan Commission will make the final decision on appeals of interpretation of this code. It will also review all cases of variance requested at public hearings and make recommendations to the Village Board for final action. (Ord. 85-428, passed 8-21-85)