

CHAPTER 1165

Signs

- 1165.01 Purpose.**
- 1165.02 Definitions.**
- 1165.03 Application of sign regulations.**
- 1165.04 Computations and rules of measurement.**
- 1165.05 Signs in nonresidential districts.**
- 1165.06 Signs in residential districts.**
- 1165.07 Prohibited signs.**
- 1165.08 Sign illumination, construction and maintenance standards.**
- 1165.09 Regulations for nonconforming signs.**
- 1165.10 Design standards.**
- 1165.11 Administrative provisions.**

CROSS REFERENCES

Power to regulate advertising - see Ohio R.C. 715.65

Advertising on State and Interstate highways - see

Ohio R.C. Ch. 5516

1165.01 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Chapter is to promote the public health, safety and welfare through the provision of standards for existing and proposed signs of all types. More specifically, this Chapter is intended to:

- (a) Enhance and protect the physical appearance of all of the community and to protect and enhance property values;
 - (b) Promote and maintain visually attractive, residential, retail, commercial and industrial districts and to protect and enhance property values;
 - (c) Ensure that signs are located and designed to reduce sign distraction and confusion that may be contributing factors in traffic congestion and accidents, and maintain a safe and orderly pedestrian and vehicular environment;
 - (d) Provide review procedures that enable the Village to comprehensively evaluate the appropriateness of a sign to the site, buildings and surroundings; and
 - (e) Prohibit all signs not expressly permitted by this Chapter.
- (Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.02 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) Signs shall mean any visual communication, display, object, device, graphic, structure or part, situated indoors or outdoors, or attached to, painted on or displayed from a building or structure, in order to direct attention, or to announce or promote, an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or business or the like, by means of letters, words, model, banner, flag, pennant, insignia, logo, device designs, colors, symbols, fixtures, images, illuminations or representation used as, or which is in the nature of an announcement, direction, or advertisement. For the purpose of this Code, the word "sign" does not include flag, pennant, badge, or insignia of any government or governmental agency.
- (b) A-Frame Sign shall mean a sign that is in or on a foldable frame or sandwich board folding type sign or a sign in or on a portable base that can be easily put up and taken down.
- (c) Animated Sign shall mean any sign that uses flashing lights or movement of the sign or some element thereof, to depict action or create a special effect or scene.
- (d) Awning or Canopy Sign shall mean any sign that is painted on, printed on or attached to an awning, canopy, or other fabric, plastic, or structural protective cover.

(e) Back Lighted Letter is an illuminated reverse channel letter with an open or translucent back so that light from the letter is directed against the surface behind the letter producing a halo effect around the letter; also referred to as a silhouette or halo lighted.

(f) Banner Sign shall mean a sign made of lightweight fabric or similar material with no enclosing framework that is secured to a building or other structure at one or more edges.

(g) Billboard Sign (synonymous with off-site advertising) shall mean a sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered elsewhere than upon the same lot.

(h) Building Sign shall mean any sign attached parallel to any part of a building and including wall signs, awning or canopy signs and window signs.

(i) Cabinet Sign is a sign structure consisting of the frame and face(s) not including the internal components, embellishments, or support structure.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(j) Changeable Copy Sign shall mean a portion of a sign with letters, characters, or graphics that are not permanently affixed to the structure, framing, or background allowing the letters, characters or graphics to be modified manually from time to time as situations change, such as a bulletin board or announcement board. Electronic Reader Boards are not considered to be Changeable Copy Signs for purposes of this chapter.

(Ord. 13-103. Passed 4-4-13.)

(k) Channel letter is a fabricated or formed three-dimensional letter that may accommodate light source.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(l) Electronic Reader Board is a variable message sign that utilizes computer generated messages or some other electronic means of changing copy. Electronic Reader Boards shall be permitted only as Ground Signs.

(Ord. 13-103. Passed 4-4-13.)

(m) Entrance or Exit Sign shall mean a sign located at the driveway entrance or exit and intended to provide for safe ingress and egress.

(n) Exterior Illuminated Sign is a sign that is illuminated by a light source that is directed towards and shines on the face of a sign; also called direct illumination.

(o) Flag Sign shall mean a piece of flexible material having a distinctive size, color, and design, used as a symbol, standard, signal, or emblem.

(p) Ground or Monument Sign shall mean a sign supported from the ground and not attached to any building, and shall include a "Post and Panel Sign."

(q) Halo lighted See definition (e) Back lighted letter.

(r) Ideological Sign shall mean any temporary sign announcing an idea, opinion or position on a social or political issue and containing no commercial message.

(s) Illuminated Sign shall mean a sign with an artificial light source incorporated internally or externally for the purpose of illuminating the sign.

(t) Instructional Sign shall mean a sign that has a purpose secondary to the use on the lot and that is intended to instruct employees, customers, or users as to matters of public safety or necessity such as specific parking requirements, the location or regulations pertaining to specific activities on the site or in the building, and including a sign erected by a public authority, utility, public service organization or private industry that is intended to control traffic; direct, identify or inform the public; or provide needed public service as determined by the rules and regulations of governmental agencies or through public policy.

(u) Internally Illuminated Sign is sign illuminated internally through its sign face by a light source contained inside the sign.

(v) Marquee Sign shall mean a sign attached to a structure, other than an awning or canopy sign, projecting from a wall of a building above an entrance and extending over a street, sidewalk, or part thereof.

(w) Menu Board is a sign listing the services or goods sold by the business, the price thereof, and may include incidental advertising or the business logo. A "menu board" shall not be counted as a sign under Chapter 1165 so long as it complies with the following requirements.

(1) It is constructed as an accessory use to a drive up service window;

(2) The menu board does not face a municipal right of way;

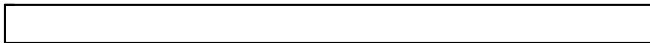
(3) It complies with all other requirements, as applicable, for wall signs or ground signs as set forth in this Chapter.

(x) Mobile Sign shall mean a sign painted on or attached to a vehicle or trailer.

(y) Pan Channel Letter is a dimensional letter that is constructed with sidewalls, a back, and a face making the letter a solid integral unity with the sidewalls and back having a pan-shaped cross section.

(z) Permanent Sign shall mean a sign that is not temporary.

(aa) Post and Panel Sign shall mean a Sign Face supported between two posts on each end of the Sign Face. (See example of post and panel sign below.)



(bb) Projecting Sign shall mean a sign that is attached to a building wall and extending twelve (12) inches or more perpendicular to the face of the wall.

(cc) Reverse Channel Letter is a fabricated dimensional letter with opaque face and sidewalls. (See definition (e) Backlighted letter.)

(dd) Roof Sign shall mean a sign erected, constructed or maintained wholly upon or over the roof parapet wall of any building with the principal support on the roof structure.

(ee) Sign Face shall mean the area or display surface used for the message.

(ff) Sign Plate shall mean a wall sign not exceeding two (2) square foot in area.

(gg) Temporary Sign shall mean a sign that is designed to be used only temporarily and is not intended to be permanently attached to a building, a structure or permanently installed in the ground.

(hh) Wall Sign shall mean a sign painted on, attached to, or erected against the wall of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of the wall and not extending more than twelve (12) inches therefrom and which does not project above the roofline or beyond the corner of the building.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(ii) Wall Mural Sign or Wall Mural shall mean a sign painted or applied to an exterior wall of a building and used for artistic purposes which does not contain any advertising of products or services. Wall Mural Signs are permitted only as conditional uses as provided herein. (Ord. 13-149. Passed 1-9-14.)

(jj) Window Sign shall mean a sign that is applied or attached to a window or door, or a sign located near a window within a building for the purpose of being visible to and read from the outside of the building.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09; Ord. 13-149. Passed 1-9-14.)

1165.03 APPLICATION OF SIGN REGULATIONS.

(a) The regulations contained in this Chapter shall apply to signs outside of the public right-of-way, except when specifically stated otherwise.

(b) A sign may only be erected, established, painted, created or maintained in the Village in conformance with the standards, procedures, exemptions and other requirements of this Chapter.

(c) All Permanent signs shall comply with the sign design guidelines set forth in section [1165.10](#), Design Standards.

(d) Architectural Features. Architectural features that are either part of the building or part of a freestanding structure are not considered signs and are thus exempt from these regulations. Architectural features include:

(1) Any construction attending to, but not an integral part of the sign, and which may consist of landscape, building or structural forms that enhance the site in general.

(2) Graphic stripes and other architectural painting techniques applied to a structure that serves a functional purpose or to a building when stripes or other painting technique do not include lettering, logos or pictures.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.04 COMPUTATIONS AND RULES OF MEASUREMENT.

The following regulations shall control the computation and measurement of sign area, sign height, and building frontage:

(a) Determining Sign Area Dimension.

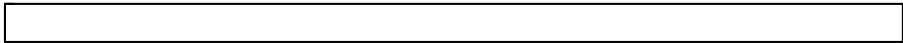
(1) Sign area shall include the face of all the display area of the sign. Sign area shall not include the frame and structural support unless such structural support is determined to constitute an integral part of the sign design.

(2) For a sign that is framed, outlined, painted or otherwise prepared and intended to provide a background for a sign display, the area of the sign shall be the area of one (1) rectangular shape that encompasses the entire background or frame.

(3) For a sign comprised of individual letters, figures or elements on a wall or similar surface of a building or structure, or an irregular shaped ground sign, the area of the sign shall be the area of one (1) rectangular shape that encompasses the perimeter of all the elements in the display.

A. When separate elements are organized to form a single sign, but the elements are separated by open space, the area shall be the area of one (1) rectangular shape that comprises all the display areas, including the space between the elements.

B. One minor protrusion may be permitted to extend above or below the sign area when the area of the protrusion is less than 25% of the open space included in the sign area. For the purpose of this section, only the open space within the sign area that is located above and below the majority of the letters shall be included in the calculation. See Figure 1.



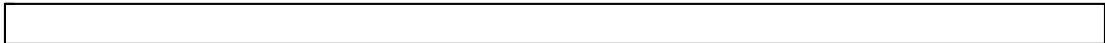
(4) For ground signs and projecting signs:

A. The sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one (1) of the faces when two (2) identical display faces are joined, are parallel or within thirty (30) degrees of being parallel to each other and are at no point separated by a distance that exceeds two feet apart.

B. No more than two display faces shall be permitted.

C. The portion of a solid sign base that is mostly screened by landscaping, up to a maximum height of two (2) feet, shall not be calculated as sign area.

(5) Air under a ground sign between supporting posts, air between a projecting sign and the wall to which it is attached, and lighting fixtures and associated brackets shall not be included in the calculation of sign area. See Figure 2.



(b) Determining Sign Height. The height of a sign shall be measured from the average natural grade at the base of the sign or support structure to the tallest element of the calculated sign area. A ground sign on a man-made base, including a graded earth mound, shall be measured from the average site grade prior to the addition of the sign.

(c) Determining Building Frontage and Building Unit. For the purposes of these sign regulations, the length of the building wall that faces a public street or that contains a public entrance to the uses therein shall be considered the building frontage.

(1) The building frontage shall be measured along such building wall between the exterior faces of the exterior side walls.

(2) In the case of an irregular wall surface, a single straight line extended along such wall surface shall be used to measure the length.

(3) A building shall have only one building frontage except as otherwise set forth below.

(4) A building shall have two frontages whenever the lot fronts on two or more streets, or the building has a public entrance on a wall other than the wall that faces the street. The property owner shall determine which wall shall be primary building frontage and which wall shall be the secondary building frontage. Only one outside wall of any business shall be considered its primary frontage and only one additional wall considered its secondary frontage.

(5) For multi-occupant buildings, the portion of a building that is owned or leased by a single occupant shall be considered a building unit. The building frontage for a building unit shall be measured from the centerline of the party walls defining the building unit.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.05 SIGNS IN NONRESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.

Signs in nonresidential districts shall conform to the standards set forth in this Section, except for residential uses which shall comply with the standards set forth in Section [1165.06](#).

(a) Maximum Number and Area of Permanent Signs Attached to Buildings. Permanent signs attached to buildings shall conform to the maximum number and area limitations set forth in Table [1165.05\(a\)](#). In addition to the sign area permitted in Table [1165.05\(a\)](#), each building shall be permitted to display numerals indicating the building's street address, provided the numerals and letters do not exceed eight (8) inches in height.

Table 1165.05(a) Permanent Signs Attached to Buildings		
Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Area
(A) Signplate	2/address and 1/entry	2 sq. ft.
(B) Building Sign	1/ground floor Occupant frontage	1.4 sq. ft. per linear ft. of building frontage, not to exceed 100 sq. ft. (a)
(C) Projecting Sign	1/ground floor Occupant frontage (b)	6 sq. ft.
(D) Instructional Sign	Shall be exempt from regulations when in compliance with Section 1165.05(e)	
(a) See Section 1165.05(b)		
(b) See Section 1165.05(c)		

(b) Building Signs. The building sign permitted in Table [1165.05\(a\)](#) shall be a wall sign or an awning sign erected in compliance with the following additional regulations.

(1) Awning Signs. Awning signs may be permitted to extend over a public right-of-way provided such awning signs comply with the regulations of this Chapter.

(2) Corner Lots and Public Entrances Not Fronting a Street. The maximum allowable area for building signs set forth in Table [1165.05\(a\)](#) shall be the area allowed for the occupant's primary frontage. In the event an occupant has a secondary frontage as defined in Section [1165.04](#)

(c) additional sign area shall be permitted in compliance with the following:

A. The sign area for the secondary building frontage shall be forty (40) percent of the sign area permitted for the primary frontage.

B. The property owner may choose to locate the permitted building sign area on any exterior building wall provided the sign area on any one wall does not exceed the formula set forth in Table [1165.05\(a\)](#) and signs are attached to no more than two (2) exterior walls.

(3) Large Building Setbacks. The maximum allowable area for a building sign may be increased by twenty five (25) percent for each additional one hundred (100) feet of building setback when the principal building is located more than one hundred (100) feet from the principal street on which the building is located and the building is visible from the street. The additional twenty five (25) percent in area for each additional one hundred (100) feet of setback can be used on a graduated scale basis for each additional one hundred (100) feet of setback. For example, a principal building with a setback of one hundred and fifty (150) feet from the principal street may have a building sign not to exceed one hundred twelve and one half (112.5) percent of the maximum allowable area.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no sign shall exceed two hundred (200) percent of the maximum allowable area.

(4) Illumination. Building signs shall be illuminated only in compliance with Section [1165.08](#).

(c) Projecting Signs.

(1) Projecting signs shall be limited to occupants that have a minimum of twelve (12) feet of occupant frontage.

(2) All Projecting signs shall not extend above the roofline or exceed a height of fourteen (14) feet, whichever is less, and shall have a minimum clearance of seven (7) feet from the ground to the bottom of the sign, except when the projecting sign is located above a landscaped area or other area that does not permit pedestrian traffic beneath the sign.

(3) Illumination. Projecting signs shall be illuminated only in compliance with Section [1165.08](#).

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(d) Permanent Ground Signs. Permanent ground signs permitted in nonresidential districts, including Electronic Reader Boards, shall comply with the following regulations: (Ord. 13-103. Passed 4-4-13.)

(1) Maximum Number, Area and Height, Minimum Setback of Permanent Ground Signs. Permanent ground signs shall comply with the maximum number, area and height limitations and minimum setback from the street right-of-way set forth in Table [1165.05\(d\)](#).

Table 1165.05(d) Permanent Ground Signs				
	Maximum Number	Maximum Area	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
1. Ground Sign (a)				
a. Building setback 30 feet (b)	1 per lot (c)	32 sq. ft.	8 ft.	15 ft.
b. Building setback 12 but < 30 ft. (b)	1 per lot (c)	24 sq. ft.	6 ft.	Equal to height of sign
2. Entrance/Exit Signs	2 per driveway (1 in, 1 out)	2 sq. ft.	3 ft.	4 ft.
3. Instructional Signs	Shall be exempt from regulations when in compliance with Section 1165.05(e)			
(a) Not permitted on the site when the building is setback less than 12 ft. from the street right-of-way.				
(b) From street right-of-way.				

(c) Except as otherwise permitted in Section [1165.05](#)(d)(2) for lots that exceed 500 ft. in street frontage.

(2) Additional Ground Signs. One additional ground sign shall be permitted for every additional five hundred (500) feet of street frontage or fraction thereof per lot greater than five hundred (500) feet. For example, if the street frontage of the lot is five hundred one (501) feet, up to two (2) ground signs are permitted and three (3) ground signs are not permitted unless the street frontage of the lot is at least 1,000 feet. For corner lots, each street frontage shall be calculated separately. Ground signs on the same lot shall be separated by a minimum of two hundred (200) feet, as measured along the street right-of-way line. For corner lots, both sides of the intersection shall be used in measuring spacing.

(3) Minimum Sign Setback from Intersection. On corner lots, ground signs shall comply with the minimum sign setback from both street rights-of-way, as set forth in Table [1165.05](#)(d).

(4) Minimum Sign Setback from Side Lot Lines. Ground signs shall be located a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from any side lot line except that when a side lot line coincides with a residential district boundary line or a lot used for residential purposes, the minimum setback shall be thirty (30) feet.

(5) Base and Skirting. Ground signs, other than temporary signs and post and panel signs, shall have a solid base or solid skirting around the bottom of the sign extending from the bottom of the sign panel down to the ground.

(6) Landscaping. Ground signs shall be erected in a landscaped setting and not on sidewalks, drives or in parking lots. Neither the landscaping nor the ground sign shall obstruct the view of vehicles entering or exiting the property. There shall be landscaping around the base of the ground sign and the landscaping shall be continuously maintained during the existence of the sign. (Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(7) Changeable Copy. Changeable copy signs may have up to thirty (30) percent of the sign area set forth in Table [1165.05](#)(d) devoted to changeable copy.

A. The changeable copy shall not be changed more than eight (8) times per day, and no more than one (1) time per hour.

B. Changeable copy may only be manually changed.

C. All changeable copy shall comply with the lettering style, lettering color, background color and all elements approved as a part of the sign application. No alphabetic letter or number shall be used as a substitute for a different alphabetic letter or number or a different color of letter. (Ord. 13-103. Passed 4-4-13.)

(8) Multi-Occupant Facilities. When a ground sign is permitted on a site that has more than one occupant, it is the property owner's responsibility to determine if the sign area shall be devoted to identification of the building(s), the anchor occupant, all occupants, or some combination thereof.

(9) Illumination. Ground signs shall be illuminated only in compliance with Section [1165.08](#).

(e) Instructional Signs. Instructional signs that are clearly intended for instructional purposes shall be permitted as needed provided such signs comply with the following:

(1) The signs are not larger than necessary to serve the intended instructional purpose;

(2) The number of instructional signs located on the site is the minimum needed to serve the intended instructional purpose;

(3) Lettering on the sign does not exceed two (2) inches in height; and

(4) The signs are not in a location and do not possess design characteristics that constitute or serve to attract attention beyond the perimeter of the site.

(f) Temporary Signs In Nonresidential Districts. The following regulations for temporary signs in nonresidential districts are in addition to the maximum sign area set forth in Tables [1165.05\(a\)](#) and [1165.05\(d\)](#).

(1) Temporary signs may be ground signs, window signs, or banner signs.

(2) The total maximum number and area permitted for temporary ground signs and temporary banner signs shall be regulated based on the district in which the lot is located.

A. In Districts CB - Central Business, GC - General Commercial, and I - Industrial a maximum of one (1) sign per parcel shall be permitted provided the total area of all temporary ground signs and temporary banner signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per parcel.

(3) Temporary ground signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet and shall be located a minimum distance of twelve (12) feet from the public right-of-way and a minimum distance of fifteen (15) feet from a side lot line, except that when a side lot line coincides with a residential district boundary line or a lot used for residential purposes, the minimum setback shall be thirty (30) feet.

(4) One temporary ideological ground sign permitted in Subsection [1165.05\(f\)\(3\)](#) may be erected for an unspecified time. All other temporary ground signs and temporary banner signs shall be permitted for a maximum of fifteen (15) consecutive days, and not more than a total of seventy-five (75) days per calendar year.

(5) Temporary signs that are erected in order to announce or advertise a specific event shall be removed within three (3) days after the close of such event.

(6) Temporary A-Frame Signs shall be allowed in all CB - Central Business, GC - General Commercial, and I - Industrial zoning districts. The maximum of one sign per business having an exterior store front will be permitted. The sign shall be placed adjacent to the exterior store front and shall not be located closer than three (3) feet to a public right of way on the parcel; nor shall it impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic in any way. The sign shall not exceed three (3) feet in height or two (2) feet in width. The temporary A-Frame sign shall be removed at the close of each business day.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(g) Wall Mural Signs or Wall Murals. Wall Mural Signs or Wall Murals shall contain no advertising of products or services, and shall be permitted only as conditional uses as provided by Chapter [1135](#) of the Codified Ordinances.

(Ord. 13-149. Passed 1-9-14.)

1165.06 SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.

Signs in residential districts shall comply with the regulation set forth in this section.

(a) Sign Standards. Signs in residential districts shall be limited in number, area, height and setback based on the type of use, as set forth in Table [1165.06\(a\)](#).

Table 1165.06(a) Signs in Residential Districts					
Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Total Sign Area per Type	Maximum Area Per Sign	Regulations for Ground Signs	
				Maximum Height	Min. Setback from ROW
(A) Signs for Single-Family Dwellings, Duplexes and Townhomes:					
1. Permanent signs					
a. Sign plate sign	Per DU(a)	2 sq. ft.	2 sq. ft.		
b. Ground sign	1/building	2 sq. ft.	2 sq. ft.	5 ft.	8 ft.(b)
2. Ground Sign for Residential Subdivision	2/subdivision entrance	(c)	15 sq. ft.	8 ft.	15 ft.

3. Temporary Ground Sign (d)	Per building (a)	12 sq. ft.	6 sq. ft.	5 ft.	4 ft. (b)
(B) Multi-Family Buildings:					
1. Permanent Signs					
a. Sign plate	Per DU(a)	2 sq. ft.	2 sq. ft.		
	1/public entrance to building	2 sq. ft.	2 sq. ft.		
b. Ground sign	1/development entrance	15 sq. ft.	15 sq. ft.	8 ft.	15 ft.
2. Temporary Sign (d)					
b. Ground Sign	Per building (a)	16 sq. ft.	6 sq. ft.	5 ft.	8 ft. (b)
(C) Parcels Used for Nonresidential Purposes:					
1. Permanent Signs					
a. Sign plate	1/address	2 sq. ft.	2 sq. ft.		
b. Primary Wall Signs	1/building	40 sq. ft.	40 sq. ft.		
c. Primary ground sign	1/500 feet of parcel frontage (e)	15 sq. ft. plus 5 sq. ft. for every 50 ft. of frontage > 100 ft.	40 sq. ft.	8 ft.	15 ft.
2. Temporary ground sign or banner sign	Per parcel (a)	16 sq. ft./200 ft. of parcel frontage	16 sq. ft.	8 ft.	Equal to height of sign
(D) Instructional Sign:	Shall be exempt from regulations when in compliance with Section 1165.06(e) .				

(a) No limit on the number provided the total area of this type of sign does not exceed the maximum area permitted.

(b) But no closer than ten (10) feet from the pavement of the travel lane of the public or private street.

(c) See also subsection [1165.06\(b\)\(3\)](#).

(d) See also subsection [1165.06\(c\)](#).

(e) Or fraction thereof, except as otherwise permitted in Section [1165.06\(b\)\(5\)](#) for lots that exceed five hundred (500) feet in street frontage.

DU = Dwelling Unit

ó (b) Supplemental Regulations for All Ground Signs.

(1) Ground signs shall be erected in a landscaped setting and not on sidewalks, drives or in parking lots.

(2) No part of a ground sign, the wall or entry feature on which a sign is mounted, or the landscaping shall obstruct the view of vehicles entering or exiting the property.

(3) For residential subdivisions, the ground sign shall have a maximum of two (2) sign faces per entrance and be either a double-faced ground sign or two (2) single-faced sign faces attached to walls or entry features located one on each side of the street entrance.

(4) For all parcels used for nonresidential purposes in residential districts, one (1) additional primary ground sign shall be permitted for every five hundred (500) feet of frontage. For corner lots, each street frontage shall be calculated separately. Ground signs on the same lot shall be separated by a minimum of two hundred (200) feet, as measured along the street right-of-way line. For corner lots, both sides of the intersection shall be used in measuring spacing.

(5) For all parcels used for nonresidential purposes, a maximum of thirty (30) percent of the permitted ground sign area may be devoted to changeable copy.

- A. The changeable copy shall not be changed more than once per day.
- B. Changeable copy shall only be manually changed.
- C. All changeable copy shall comply with the lettering style, lettering color, background color and all other elements approved as a part of the sign application. No alphabetic letter or number shall be used as a substitute for a different alphabetic letter or number.

(c) Supplemental Regulation for Temporary Signs.

(1) Temporary signs for residential uses permitted in Table [1165.06\(a\)](#) may be erected for an unspecified time.

(2) On parcels used for nonresidential purposes, one temporary ground sign that does not exceed six (6) square feet may be erected for an unspecified time. All other temporary ground signs and temporary banner signs shall be permitted for a maximum of fifteen (15) consecutive days, not more than seventy-five (75) days per calendar year.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) above, vacant parcels in residential districts shall be permitted one (1) temporary sign that may be erected for an unspecified time. The permitted sign area shall be eight (8) square feet for every two hundred (200) feet of lot frontage or fraction thereof, provided the sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.

(4) Temporary signs that are erected in order to announce or advertise a specific event shall be removed within three (3) days after the close of such event.

(d) Illuminated Signs in Residential Districts. Permanent signs shall be permitted to be illuminated, provided such illumination complies with Section [1165.08](#).

(e) Instructional Signs. Instructional signs that are clearly intended for instructional purposes shall be permitted as needed on a lot in a residential district when the lot is devoted to a multi-family or nonresidential use provided such signs comply with the following:

- (1) The signs are not larger than necessary to serve the intended instructional purpose;
- (2) The number of instructional signs located on the site are the minimum needed to serve the intended instructional purpose;
- (3) Lettering on the sign does not exceed two (2) inches in height;
- (4) The signs are not in a location and do not possess design characteristics that constitute or serve to attract attention beyond the perimeter of the site.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.07 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

All signs not expressly permitted in this Chapter shall be prohibited in the Village. Such signs include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Billboards;
- (b) Flags intended for advertising or commercial purposes;
- (c) (EDITOR'S NOTE: Former subsection (c) was repealed by Ordinance 13-103, passed April 4, 2013.)
- (d) Kiosk signs;
- (e) Advertising signs which are attached to, mounted on, pasted on, painted or drawn on any vehicle, whether motorized or not, which is placed or parked at a location for the basic purpose of directing attention to products or business activity, sold on or off premises, except those permanent signs on commercial vehicles regularly used in the normal course of business. Such commercial vehicles shall not be parked closer to the street than the rear line of a building for a continuous period of 48 hours if the principal building has a rear parking area.
- (f) Temporary directional signs, other than Municipal or emergency signs or those temporary signs as may be approved by Village Council.
- (g) Flashing, moving, inflatable, blinker, racer type, intermittent, rotating, moving or revolving signs, whirligig devices, tethered inflatable signs, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, exposed

light bulbs, and strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigid background, and other similar types of attention-getting devices.

(h) The interior illumination of signs, except as expressly permitted in Section [1165.08\(a\)\(2\)](#) and signs with characters, letters, figures, designs or outlines by electric lights or luminous tubes as part of the sign.

(i) Merchandise, equipment, products, vehicles or other items not themselves for sale and placed for attention getting, identification or advertising purposes.

(j) Permanent signs erected or attached to accessory structures.

(k) No sign shall be placed on any curb, sidewalk, post, pole, hydrant, bridge, wall, tree, or other surface or structure located on public property or over or across any public street except as expressly authorized by the Mayor, Village Administrator, or the Zoning Inspector.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.08 SIGN ILLUMINATION, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the numerical standards of these regulations, the approval process shall consider the proposed sign according to the following standards:

(a) Illumination. Signs shall be permitted to be illuminated in compliance with the following:

(1) External Illumination: All signs that are permitted to be illuminated as enumerated in Section [1165.05](#) and [1165.06](#) above shall be externally illuminated, except as otherwise permitted in subsection (2) below and the external illumination shall comply with the following:

A. Only direct lighting from an external source shall be used to illuminate the sign.

B. The source of light shall not be visible from the street or adjacent property.

C. No variances to this Section [1165.08\(a\)\(1\)](#) shall be sought or granted.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

(2) Internal Illumination:

A. Internal illumination of signs is permitted for uses in all nonresidential districts provided that only reverse pan channel, or halo lighted letters, characters or graphics are permitted, except for Electronic Reader Boards, which will be limited to messages changed by glow cubes, light emitting diodes, cathode ray tubes, fluorescent discharge, or other similar technology approved by the Zoning Inspector.

B. Internally illuminated cabinets are permitted provided such cabinets shall consist of a solid opaque background with “knock-out” areas for copy, graphics and embellishments.

(3) Except for Electronic Reader Boards, signs shall not include animated, flashing, moving, or intermittent illumination in which any part of the message changes at a rate of more than once per day.

(4) Electronic Reader Boards shall not be illuminated by flashing, intermittent, or moving lights and no Electronic Reader Board may include any illumination which is flashing or intermittent.

(5) Light shall not be from a colored light source.

(6) No temporary sign shall be illuminated or have the potential to be illuminated.

(Ord. 13-103. Passed 4-4-13.)

(b) Construction Standards.

(1) The construction, erection, safety and maintenance of signs shall comply with Part Thirteen - the Building Code.

(2) Signs shall be structurally sound and located so as to pose no threat to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

(3) Permanent signs shall be constructed and erected to withstand wind pressures of at least (30) pounds per square foot of surface, and shall be fastened, suspended or supported so that they will not be a menace to persons or property.

(4) Permanent signs shall be fabricated on and of materials that are of good quality and good durability.

(5) No sign shall be erected so as to project over and obstruct any window, door, fire escape, balcony, platform, stairway, ladder, vent or other means of ingress of any building.

(6) No sign shall be attached to a utility pole, tree, trash receptacle, bench or other structure not intended or approved as a sign support.

(7) Temporary signs shall be durable and weather-resistant and fastened or anchored sufficiently, whether attached to the building or positioned in the ground.

(8) No sign regulated by any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be erected in the right-of-way, in proximity to railroad crossings, or at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape, or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with, any authorized traffic sign or device as defined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices; or which makes use of the words "STOP," "LOOK," "DANGER," or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic.

(9) No temporary sign shall have moveable lettering or lettering capable of being moved or replaced.

(c) Maintenance. All signs shall be maintained in accordance with the following:

(1) The property owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the sign shall maintain the sign in a condition fit for the intended use and he or she shall have a continuing obligation to comply with all building code requirements and the requirements of this Chapter.

(2) If the Zoning Inspector finds that any sign is unsafe, insecure, a menace to the public; or constructed, erected, or maintained in violation of the provisions of this Code, notice shall be given in writing by the Zoning Inspector to the property owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the sign. The property owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the sign shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of such notification, correct such unsafe condition or remove the sign. If the correction has not been made within the forty-eight (48) hours, the sign may be removed or altered by the Village to comply with these regulations at the expense of the property owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the sign. The Village Administrator may cause any sign, which, in the Village Administrator's opinion, creates an immediate danger to persons or property to be removed immediately and without prior notice.

(3) Whenever any sign, either conforming or nonconforming to these regulations, is required to be removed for the purpose of repair, refurbishing, or repainting, the same may be done without a Zoning permit or any payment of fees provided that all of the following conditions are met:

A. There shall be no alteration or remodeling to the sign base, sign support(s) or the mounting of the sign itself.

B. There shall be no change in location or in any of the dimensions of the sign or its structure.

C. The sign shall be an accessory to a legally permitted, conditional or nonconforming use.

(4) The Zoning Inspector may order any sign to be painted or refurbished whenever needed to keep the sign in a neat and safe condition. All supports, guys, braces and anchors for such signs shall be maintained in a safe condition, and it shall be unlawful for the owners or person having charge of such sign not to remove the same after notice from the Zoning Inspector.

(5) Any permanent sign which advertises a business no longer conducted on the premises or fails to serve the purposes for which it was intended, or evidences a lack of maintenance, shall be removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure or land upon which such sign is located, within thirty (30) days after written notice by the Zoning Inspector. A party served with such notice shall have the right to appeal the Zoning Inspector's order by filing a notice or appeal with the Zoning Board of Appeals within thirty (30) days of

receipt of the notice. Upon failure to file a timely notice of appeal and failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, the Village Administrator is hereby authorized to cause removal of such sign, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the property on which the sign is located.

(6) If a sign, its letters or its message are designed and approved by a Village issued permit to be internally illuminated and the sign or any of its letters or messages are only partially lit, all illumination of the sign shall be discontinued until the sign is repaired and properly illuminated as it was designed and approved in the permit for the sign.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.09 REGULATIONS FOR NONCONFORMING SIGNS.

(a) Maintenance of Nonconforming Signs. Nonconforming signs shall be maintained in good condition pursuant to this Chapter and may continue until such sign is required to be removed as set forth in this Chapter.

(b) Alteration, Relocation or Replacement of Nonconforming Signs. A nonconforming sign shall not be structurally altered, relocated or replaced unless it is brought into compliance with the provisions of this Chapter, except as otherwise permitted in this Chapter.

(c) Reconstruction of Damaged Sign. If a sign face and/or its support is damaged to the extent where the repair costs exceed 50% of the replacement cost of the sign, the sign shall be removed or brought into compliance with this Chapter. If the repair costs do not exceed 50% of the replacement cost of the sign, the sign may be repaired, subject to approval of consistency in design by the Zoning Inspector and provided all repair work is completed within sixty (60) days of the date the damage was incurred.

(d) Termination. A non-conforming sign shall immediately lose its legal nonconforming status, and shall be brought into conformance with this Chapter or removed, when any of the following occur:

- (1) The size or shape of the sign is changed.
- (2) The sign structure is altered or moved.
- (3) If the property upon which the sign is located ceases to be used for a period of six (6) months or more.

(e) Historic Signs. The Planning Commission may grant exceptions to these standards whenever a sign has been designated as a historic landmark pursuant to applicable law.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

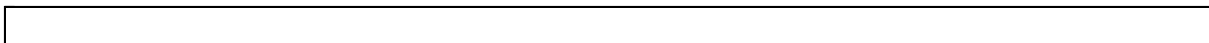
1165.10 DESIGN STANDARDS.

All permanent signs reviewed by the Zoning Inspector shall comply with the following Standards.

(a) Diversity/Cohesiveness of Signs Seen in a Series. Within a commercial area or development where multiple storefronts are situated side by side, the level of variety of cohesiveness in the design of signs that are seen in a series or sequence should be commensurate with the level of variety or cohesiveness presented by the architecture of the building(s):

(1) Variety in the design of signs among different storefronts should be encouraged when the architecture of the building(s) suggests variety.

(2) Storefronts with common architectural element should have signs that share continuity of design so that the placement and design of individual signs contribute to the cohesive appearance created by the common architectural elements. For example, a series of storefronts that, because of their architecture and design, have the appearance of a single building should have occupant signs that share common elements. (See Figure 4.)



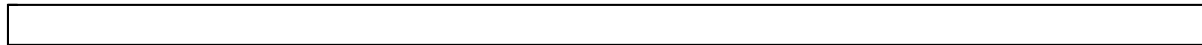
(3) Sign Plans. Owners of multi-occupant building shall develop Sign Plans in conformance with Section [1165.11\(c\)\(4\)](#) for the building and site to aid in determining the level of variety/cohesiveness required for signs.

(b) Placement of Signs on Buildings. Signs should be designed and placed on buildings to be compatible with and complement the appearance of the building.

(1) All signs should be reviewed for their impact on the overall building facade.

(2) The sign and associated lighting fixtures should complement the architecture of the building on which it is placed and should be placed in an appropriate location on the building facade.

(3) If the building design does not clearly identify the appropriate placement for a sign panel (see Figure 5), then individual letters are encouraged unless there is a clear location for adding panels, such as establishing one or more repetitive, common architectural features in order to create a repetitive sequence. (See Figure 6.)



(4) Whenever a new or renovated sign is proposed for an existing building:

A. It may be determined that building alterations are needed in order for the proposed sign to be properly placed on the building facade.

B. Any inappropriate and extraneous elements from past remodeling project(s) should be removed prior to the design of the proposed sign and restore the intended character of the building.

(5) A sign should be confined within the fascia consistent with signs on adjacent buildings and shall not extend beyond the identified signable area on the building or cover edges of the sign panel.

(6) In multi-occupant building, signs for the first floor occupants should not extend above the windowsill of the second story unless the establishment is also located on the second floor.

(7) Colors of the sign and the sign background should be compatible with the building's colors.

(c) Specific Standards for Projecting Signs, and Ground Signs.

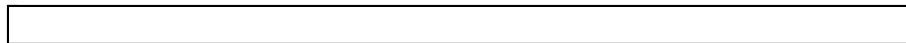
(1) Projecting Signs. The size of the lettering and graphics on a projecting sign should be appropriate for viewing by pedestrians.

(2) Ground Signs. The design and placement of ground signs and associated lighting fixtures should complement the overall visual appearance of the site:

A. Ground signs should be designed to relate to and share common design elements with the building and sign(s) attached to the building.

B. Whenever a building is located thirty (30) feet or more from the street, its ground sign should be placed on a solid base.

C. Approved year-round landscaping shall be used around the base of the sign to screen lighting fixtures and sources in compliance with Section [1165.08 \(a\)\(1\)\(B\)](#). (See Figure 8.)



D. When properly screened, the lower two (2) feet of the solid base of a ground sign may be exempt from the sign area calculation. (See Figure 8.)

E. Ground signs should be spaced or combined along the street frontage in a manner that ensures that one ground sign does not obscure the view of another ground sign.

F. A ground sign that provides a directory of occupants for a multi- occupant building should have simplicity of design to compensate for the additional amount of information provided (i.e. utilize common elements such as the same background color, or other common elements, etc.)

(d) Overall Design of Signs (Wall, Awning, Window, Projecting and Ground Signs).

- (1) The size and shape of the sign shall be in proportion to the space the sign is to occupy:
 - A. A sign (whether comprised of a panel or individual letters) should not exceed approximately 70% of the height and length of the signable area of the building. (See Figures 9,10 and 11.)



Figure 10. Height and width of sign panel should not exceed 70% of the height and width of signable area. Height and width of lettering should not exceed 70% of the height and width of sign panel.

Figure 11. Height and width of sign comprised of individual letters should not exceed 70% of the height and width of signable area.

- B. The lettering within a sign panel should not exceed approximately 70% of the height and length of the sign panel. (See Figure 10.)

(2) Elements of the sign should create an overall cohesive design, reflect simplicity, avoid visual clutter and ensure legibility. Each sign should:

- A. Be consolidated into a minimum number of elements, whether words, symbols, or graphics.
- B. Have a simple shape,
- C. Have appropriate contrast,
- D. Be designed with a limited number of, and harmonious use of, colors,
- E. Be constructed with a minimum number of materials.

(3) The message should be easy to read from the intended vantage point- public street, public sidewalk, or public parking lot - but not be out of scale with the building, site or streetscape.

- A. The ratio of the message to the background should permit easy recognition of the message.

B. Lettering size should be the size needed to ensure the sign can be seen from the intended distance.

C. The number of items of information displayed should be consistent with the amount of information that can be comprehended by the intended viewer.

1. Generally ten (10) items or less of information per sign are a typical amount of information the average person can comprehend while driving. This is based upon the principle that the more readable the type face and the better the contrast between the letter and the background, the more readable and comprehensible the sign.

2. An item of information includes a symbol, geometric shape, logo, word, abbreviation or number, or a grouping of letters and numbers which together convey meaning. For signs combining different shapes, each shape may be considered an item of information. (See Figure 12.)



D. Lettering and numbers less than three (3) inches in height should only be used when intended to be viewed from a vantage point on the interior of the site, such as after the vehicle has entered the site or by pedestrians.

E. For awning signs, the sign graphics should be located on the portion of the awning fabric that hangs perpendicular to the horizontal plane of the ground, below the awning's support structures.

(4) All plaques hanging from the same projecting sign supports should have a compatible size, shape and color so that the entire projecting sign has an overall cohesive design.

(5) All wall signs, projecting signs, ground signs and wall signs mounted on a panel should have a compatible frame or border.

(6) The aggregate exterior lighting used to illuminate any one face in a residential district should not exceed an initial lumen output of 2850 lumens (equivalent to a 150 watt incandescent A lamp).

(e) Sign Construction. All signs shall be framed, constructed, and erected so as to complement the overall appearance of the building and site as well as the overall appearance of the sign.

(1) Sign Graphics. A sign's graphic elements shall be executed in a professional manner.

(2) General Sign Construction.

A. All signs shall be constructed, and erected in a professional and workmanlike manner.

B. Signs shall be structurally sound and located so as to pose no threat to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

(3) Materials.

A. Signs should be fabricated on and of materials that are of permanent quality, good durability and are complimentary to the building of which they become a part.

B. Materials used should be those materials that weather well and reduce maintenance.

C. Signs should have a matte finish, not have a glossy or reflective finish.

(4) Framing And Supports.

A. Visible frames or supports for freestanding or projecting signs should be:

1. In scale with the size and character of the building;

2. Designed either as a key element of the sign or minimized so as not to detract from the

sign.

B. All signs attached to buildings shall be attached in a manner that preserves the historic integrity of the building.

C. No part of any sign shall be revolving, oscillating or otherwise designed to move to attract attention.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

1165.11 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) Compliance with this Chapter. No person shall erect, locate, move, alter, or replace any sign or cause a sign to be located or maintained, unless all provisions of this Chapter have been met.

(b) Signs Requiring a Zoning Permit. To ensure compliance with these regulations, a Zoning permit shall be obtained for all signs including temporary ground signs and banner signs, unless specifically exempted below, and except ideological signs.

(c) Application Requirements.

(1) An application for a Zoning permit shall be made to the Village of Middlefield on the form provided and in the manner required.

(2) When any person other than the owner of the property submits an application, the owner of the property or an authorized agent for the owner shall also sign such application.

(3) Each application shall be accompanied by drawings to scale, showing:

A. The width of the building face which abuts the frontage street and, for a building located on a corner lot, the building depth facing the secondary street.

B. The design and layout proposed including the total area of the sign, the size, character and color of letters, lines and symbols.

C. The method of illumination, if any.

D. The exact location of the sign in relation to the building and property.

E. Details and specifications for construction, erection and attachment as may be required.

(4) Applicants shall, when required pursuant to this Section, submit a Sign Plan for review and approval by the Planning Commission.

A. A Sign Plan shall be required for all multi-occupant buildings and shall be submitted by the owner of a multi-occupant building whenever:

1. A new multi-occupant building is constructed; or
2. An existing building is renovated, or remodeled and after the renovation or remodeling, there is more than one occupant that occupies the remodeled or renovated building; or

3. When a replacement sign is proposed for an existing multi- occupant building.

B. The Sign Plan shall create a set of specific standards for sign design and placement on the proposed building, and on the site.

C. The Sign Plan shall include the following:

1. Building sections and elevations drawn at an appropriate scale.
2. Computation of the maximum total sign area and the maximum area of signs for individual storefronts or building units affected by the Sign Plan.

3. An accurate indication on the elevation/section drawings of the location of each existing and proposed sign.

D. The Sign Plan shall specify one or more standards for consistency among all signs on the multi-occupant building(s) included in the Sign Plan with regard to and in the priority of the elements listed below:

1. Uniform sign placement and/or height;
2. Uniform size and/or shape;
3. Type of sign construction (materials) and letter components (i.e., sign panel vs. raised letters) and framing;
4. Type of lighting, and the type of lighting fixtures, if any;
5. Uniform background colors or harmonious use of a limited range of complementary background colors, and/or harmonious use of a limited range of complementary colors for the sign lettering.

E. The complexity of the Sign Plan shall be based on the level of variety/cohesiveness of the building architecture and the surrounding area. When a building exhibits a high degree of architectural uniformity, the Sign Plan should require a high degree of consistency among sign elements and therefore, should specify standards for most or all of the elements set forth in subsection (D) above.

(d) Sign Review.

(1) The Zoning Inspector shall review and act on applications for permanent signs that exceed two (2) square feet, according to the standards set forth in this Chapter.

(2) The Zoning Inspector shall review all temporary signs, except as otherwise specifically exempted below.

(3) The erection of the following signs shall not require a Zoning permit provided that all applicable regulations of this Chapter are complied with:

- A. Sign plates for residential uses;
- B. Temporary signs in residential districts;
- C. Ideological signs;
- D. Maintenance of existing signs in compliance with Section [1165.07](#).
- E. Signage which is an integral part of the original construction of vending machines, fuel pumps or similar devices;
- F. Holiday decorations displayed for customary periods of time;
- G. Temporary A-Frame signs;
- H. Window signs

(e) Referral of Application to the Planning Commission. The Zoning Inspector, upon receiving an application, shall examine such plans, specifications and other data and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign or other advertising structure.

(1) If upon review it appears that the proposed sign is in compliance with this Chapter and all other ordinances of the Village the Zoning Inspector may issue a Zoning permit; the Zoning Inspector may, at his discretion refer the application to the Planning Commission, and its approval must be obtained before the Zoning permit is issued.

A. The Planning Commission has the discretion to waive the submission of any items as deemed appropriate.

B. When approved by the Planning Commission, the application shall be returned to the Zoning Inspector, who shall issue the Zoning permit. (Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)

C. If the applicant is dissatisfied with a discretionary determination by the Zoning Inspector, or Planning Commission, the applicant may appeal that determination to the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas pursuant to Chapter 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(Ord. 13-150. Passed 1-9-14.)

(f) If construction of the sign has not commenced in one (1) year from the issuance of a Zoning permit the permit shall become null and void, if the construction is not completed in two and a half (2-1/2) years the permit shall become null and void. The applicant may reapply for the sign pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter.

(Ord. 09-111. Passed 4-16-09.)