

**CHAPTER 1295**  
**Signs**

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**CROSS REFERENCES**

Unlawful traffic signs - see TRAF. 313.07  
Sign definitions - see P. & Z. Ch. 1203  
Sign measurements - see P. & Z. 1205.05

**1295.01 PURPOSE.**

Signs have a clear impact on the character and quality of the City. As a prominent part of the community, signs may attract or repel the viewing public, affect the safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and help set the character and legibility of neighborhoods in the City.

This chapter regulates signs which are visible from streets or which are visible from one site to another.

The regulations for signs have the following specific objectives:

- A. To ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right of free speech is protected.
  - 1. These standards shall be content neutral, and regulate on the basis of location, number, size and manner of display.
- B. To encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication;
  - 1. To provide for adequate identification, communication and advertising for businesses and services.
  - 2. To enable customers and other persons to locate businesses and services.
  - 3. To encourage the orderly placement of signs so that information is clearly visible and legible.
  - 4. To provide that no person is arbitrarily denied the use of sight lines from the public right-of-way for communication purposes.
  - 5. To provide that the number of messages are not presented in such overwhelming volume that information is actually obscured, or that observers are unable to observe or ignore messages according to the observer's own purpose.
  - 6. To protect the aesthetic environment that has contributed to the City's growth, and to enhance its ability to attract new sources of economic security and health by providing that signs:

- a. Do not interfere with scenic views.
  - b. Do not create a nuisance to persons using public rights of way.
  - c. Do not constitute a nuisance to occupancy of adjacent and contiguous property by their brightness, size, height, or movement.
  - d. Are not detrimental to land or property values.
  - e. Contribute to the special character of particular places or districts within the city, helping the observer to understand the city and orient within it.
  - f. Use creativity and craftsmanship in design to avoid monotonous uniformity.
  - g. To ensure that signs in any district reflect the expressed purpose of the adopted Comprehensive Plan.
- C. To protect the public safety and welfare, by providing that signs:
- 1. Are designed, constructed, installed, and maintained to prevent hazard due to collapse, fire, collision, decay or abandonment.
  - 2. Do not obstruct fire fighting or police surveillance.
  - 3. Do not create traffic hazards by confusing or distracting motorists, or by impairing the driver's ability to see pedestrians, obstacles, or other vehicles, or to read traffic control signs.
- D. To minimize adverse impacts and avoid nuisances to nearby public and private properties.
- E. To provide for an orderly, well maintained and attractive community
- F. To enable the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations.
- G. To establish a permit system that allows a variety of types of signs in commercial, office and industrial zones, and a limited variety of signs in other zones, subject to the standards and the permit procedures of this ordinance.
- H. To allow certain signs that are small, unobtrusive, and incidental to the principal use of the respective lots on which they are located, subject to the substantive requirements of this ordinance, but without a requirement for permit.
- I. To prohibit all signs not expressly permitted by this ordinance.

### **1295.02 SIGN DEFINITIONS.**

Sign related definitions are stated in Chapter 1203, Definitions, and are listed under "Signs".

### **1295.03 SCOPE**

The regulations do not restrict the content of signs. This chapter applies to all zoning districts in the City. The issuance of a permit shall not excuse the applicant from conforming to the other laws and ordinances of the City or from the provisions of approved sign master-plans.

**A. Permits Required.** Except as otherwise provided, no person shall erect, alter, or relocate any sign without first obtaining a permit from the Zoning Inspector. Subsequent to this initial application, no permit shall be required for a sign to be repainted or repaired provided that the sign is returned to its

original design, condition, placement or presentation.

1. If a sign requiring a permit under the provision of this Code is to be placed, constructed, erected, or modified on a zone lot, the owner of the lot shall secure a sign permit prior to the construction, placement, erection, or modification of such a sign in accordance with Section 1295.05, below.
2. Furthermore, the property owner shall maintain in force, at all times, a sign permit for such sign in accordance with subsection C, below.
3. No signs shall be erected in the public right-of-way except in accordance with exceptions noted in Section 1295.07.
4. No sign permit of any kind shall be issued for an existing or proposed sign unless such sign is consistent with the requirements of this Code (including protecting existing signs) in every respect and with the Master Sign Plan in effect for the property.

#### **1295.04 PROHIBITED SIGNS**

These prohibitions shall apply to all signs erected in the City of Pataskala, whether exempted from permits or regulated under this section.

1. All off-premise signs are prohibited except as otherwise provided herein. In these cases, a permit shall be issued only after the applicant has furnished the Zoning Inspector with written permission from the owner of the property.
2. No sign shall be illuminated by or contain flashing, intermittent, rotating or moving lights except to show time and temperature. See also Section 1295.10 Illuminated Signs.
3. Internally illuminated cabinet signs of translucent material in which the whole face glows are not permitted. See Subsection 1295.10, B,1.
4. No sign shall impair or cause confusion of vehicular or pedestrian traffic in its design, color, placement or display characteristics. No sign shall impair visibility for the motorist at a street corner or intersection by placement and location within thirty-five (35) feet of the intersection of the street or highway lines.
5. No business shall for the purpose of attracting attention display balloons, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners or similar moving, fluttering, inflatable, or revolving devices, except "OPEN" flags as described in subsection 1295.09 or American flags. The exemption for American flags shall not include devices that use red, white and blue or stars and stripes motifs.
6. No advertising message shall be extended over more than one sign placed along a street or highway unless included as an integral part of a sign master plan.
7. No two permitted signs may be combined to create a larger sign, except as provided in Part 1295.09,B,2,d, iii.
8. No private sign shall be placed within the road, street or intersection right of-way of the City or State, except for approved directional signs as described in Section 1295.13, D.
9. No sign consisting of the message "sold", "under Contract" or a similar message, denoting a closed completed transaction, shall be permitted for more than thirty (30) days.
10. No signs shall be attached to trees or utility poles. Signs attached to fences, rocks or other

parts of a natural landscape shall not be positioned where they obstruct or impair traffic or in any manner create a hazard or disturbance to the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

11. No sign shall be attached to, painted on, or placed on a motor vehicle, trailer, or other licensed or unlicensed vehicle or conveyance, self-propelled or otherwise, parked or used upon any lot, and which is visible from a public right-of-way, excepting a company identification sign which is affixed to a vehicle regularly operated in the pursuance of day-to-day business or activity of an enterprise.

**1295.05 Sign Permit Process (To Modify or Erect New Signs).**

Signs allowed in a specific zoning district shall be erected, installed, or created only in accordance with a duly issued and valid zoning sign permit from the Zoning Inspector. Such permits shall be issued only in accordance with the following requirements and procedures:

1. Applications shall be made in writing to the Zoning Inspector on forms prescribed and provided by the City and shall contain the applicable information requested on that form and accompanying sign specification sheet. An application for construction, creation, or installation of a new sign or for modification of an existing sign shall be accompanied by detailed drawings to show the dimensions, design, structure, and location of each particular sign, to the extent that such details are not contained on a Master Sign Plan then in effect for the zone lot. One application and permit may include multiple signs on the same zone lot.
  2. Application Processing. Upon the filing of a completed application for a sign permit and the payment of the required fee, the Zoning Inspector shall examine the plans, specifications and other data submitted and the premises on which the sign is to be erected. If it shall appear that the sign will be in compliance with all the requirements of this Code, the Zoning Inspector shall then, within thirty (30) days, issue a permit for the erection of the proposed sign. The issuance of a permit shall not excuse the applicant from conforming to the other laws and ordinances of the City or sign master-planning provisions.
  3. Post Installation Inspection. The Zoning Inspector shall cause an inspection for the zone lot for which each permit for a new sign or for modification of an existing sign is issued during the sixth month after the issuance of such permit or at such earlier date as the owner may request. If the construction is not substantially complete at the time of inspection, the permit shall lapse and become void. If the construction is complete and in full compliance with this Code and with the Building and Electrical Codes, the Zoning Inspector shall document completion in the permit file. If the construction is substantially complete but not in full compliance with this Code and other applicable codes, the Zoning Inspector shall give the owner or applicant notice of the deficiencies and shall allow an additional 30 days from the date of inspection for the deficiencies to be corrected. If the deficiencies are not corrected by such date, the permit shall lapse. If the construction is then complete, the Zoning Inspector shall document completion in the permit file.
- C. **Sign Permits - Continuing.** Duration and Assignment. The owner of a zone lot containing signs requiring a permit under this Code shall at all times maintain in force a sign permit for such property. Sign permits shall be issued for individual zone lots, notwithstanding the fact that a particular zone lot may be included with other zone lots in a Master Sign Plan.
1. A sign permit shall be automatically issued by the Zoning Inspector covering the period from the date of the inspection of the completed sign installation, construction, or modification and shall continue in force unless otherwise limited or specified in this Code.
  2. Assignment of Sign Permits. A current and valid sign permit shall be freely

assignable to a successor as owner of the property or holder of a business license for the same premises, subject only to filing such application as the Zoning Inspector may require and paying any applicable fee. The assignment shall be accomplished by filing and shall not require approval.

#### **1295.06 EXEMPT SIGNS (NO PERMIT REQUIRED).**

The following types of signs may be erected and maintained without permits, providing such signs comply with the general requirements of this Code and other conditions specifically imposed by all other regulations.

1. Exempt wall mounted signs; those that are exempt from requirements to have a permit none-the-less, if wall mounted, shall be limited to 4 such signs per buildings and regardless of the street on which they face, shall be limited to six (6) square feet per sign.
2. Exempt window signs; Signs that are exempt from requirements to have a permit, if displayed in a window, shall none-the-less be limited in the aggregate of all signs (exempt and non-exempt), displayed in windows shall be no more than 25% of the surface of the window unit where displayed. In the R-residential districts, illuminated signs in windows are not exempt from permits.
3. Signs which are not oriented to or intended to be legible from a street or other private property. For example, menu boards, fuel pump instructions, accepted payment insignias, etc.
4. Signs inside a building. However, strobe lights visible beyond a property line are not exempt.
5. Any political sign, sign expressing a personal viewpoint, work of art or religious symbol and that does not display a commercial message.
6. Historical markers, tablets and statues, memorial signs and plaques; names of buildings and dates of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze, stainless steel or similar material; and emblems installed by governmental agencies, religious or nonprofit organizations. Signs of these types shall not exceed six (6) square feet.
7. Flags and insignia of U.S., Ohio, or local government; These flags may be grouped with up to two non-governmental flags displaying purely ornamental or name of business information.
8. Non-illuminated "For Sale", "For Rent"; and real estate signs and signs of similar nature, concerning the premises upon which the sign is located, Up to two (2) such signs, spaced at least 100 feet apart, are allowed per lot, each not exceeding ten (10) square feet, set back at least ten (10) feet from all property and public right-of-way lines or less than half the distance between the primary structure and the public right-of-way line, whichever is less restrictive. (see Prohibitions, subsection 1295.04, 9.)
9. On-premise directional signs; for the convenience of the general public, identifying public parking areas, fire zones, entrances and exits and similar signs, not exceeding two (2) square feet per face and three (3) feet in height for a development or complex. Business names, logos, and personal names shall be allowed, excluding advertising messages. Variations to the size and height requirements for on-premise directional signs may be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission as part of a Sign Master Plan or if approved as part of the site development plan.

10. Non-illuminated warning signs; also announcing private drive, posted or no trespassing signs, not exceeding two (2) square feet per face.
11. Address numbers: Number and name plates identifying residents or businesses, when mounted on house, window or door transoms, apartment or mailbox, not exceeding two (2) square feet in area. Address numbers are recommended to be at least 4 inches in height or greater if required by the Ohio Fire Code. Address numbers of less than 2 SF in area will not count toward the maximum building wall or window sign standards. All locations are encouraged (new builds must comply with Chapter 11: Subdivision Regulations) to prominently display address numbers. See also Section 1205.15 Sign Measurements for address numbers on other signs.
12. Lawn signs identifying residents; with no more than two faces and not exceeding two (2) square feet per face. Such signs are to be non-illuminated except by a light which is an integral part of a lamp post if used as a support, with no advertising message thereon.
13. Farm signs, free-standing and permanently affixed; denoting the name and address of occupants, denoting advertising for produce or merchandise grown on such farms, and denoting membership or organizations not to exceed 25 square feet of sign face area per farm. The exemption also includes graphics of historic vernacular, such as name of owner or builder or year constructed painted onto sides of barns or set into roof tiles.
14. Signs for a roadside stands; i.e. selling agricultural produce in season, providing that such signs do not exceed a total of thirty two (32) square feet and are set back beyond at least 10 feet from the edge of the public right-of-way and limited to two (2) temporary signs.
15. Window signs and posters; the combined area of all window signs and posters not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet or twenty-five (25) percent of the window surface of a single wall opening on which the sign(s) is displayed, whichever is less. These shall be temporary and non-illuminated. This shall include notices required to be on premises, such as “no smoking” or “no firearms permitted”.
16. Lighted “Open/Closed” signs in windows shall be limited to a single such sign per establishment and shall not exceed two (2) square feet in size. This shall count as part of the total window graphics size limit.
17. Holiday decorations; including lighting, customarily associated with any national, local, or religious holiday are exempt from the provisions of this Code and may be displayed in any zoning district without a permit for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days for each holiday in any one year. The time restriction does not apply to any establishment whose primary product is holiday merchandise.
18. Integral graphics; or attached price signs on gasoline pumps at gasoline stations.
19. Decals; used to reference available financial services (e.g. credit or bank cards) when not exceeding 1 square foot in total display area per business.
20. Political posters, banners, promotional devices and similar yard signs; not exceeding six (6) square feet per side, except along routes where the posted legal speed is 45 miles per hour, or greater which shall be permitted to have a maximum of sixteen (16) square feet per side, providing:
  - a. Placement shall not exceed thirty (30) days at one time. New or reconditioned signs with the same or similar political message may be reinstalled for sequential 30 day periods.

- b. The names and addresses of the sponsor and the person responsible for the sign are identified on the sign.
- c. No signs may be attached to any trees, shrubs, bushes, traffic control devices, utility poles, historical markers or placed on private property without the consent of the property owner, or the consent of the applicable utility company or City or agency owning and operating the traffic control devices, bushes, etc.
- d. No signs are located in the right-of-way, except for the provisions in Section 1295.07.

21. Architectural features; such as those that are part of the building or part of a freestanding structure are not considered signs and are thus exempt from these regulations. Architectural features include any construction attending to, but not an integral part of a sign, and which may consist of landscape or building or structural forms that enhance the site or building in general.

**1295.07 SIGNS FOR PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC PURPOSES** No signs shall be allowed in the public right-of-way, except for the following:

- A. Public signs erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post legal notices, identify public property, convey public information, and direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
- B. Bus stop signs erected by a public transit company or public school transportation department;
- C. Informational signs of a public utility regarding its poles, lines, pipes, or facilities; and
- D. Awning, projecting, and suspended signs projecting over a public right-of way in conformity with other provisions of this chapter.
- E. Emergency Signs. Emergency warning signs erected by a governmental agency, a public utility company, or a contractor doing authorized or permitted work within the public right-of-way.
- F. Other Signs Forfeited. Any sign installed or placed on public property, except in conformance with the requirements of this section, shall be forfeited to the public and subject to confiscation. In addition to other remedies hereunder, the City shall have the right to recover from the owner or person placing such sign the full costs of removal and disposal of such sign.

**1295.08 TEMPORARY SIGNS.**

- A. **Temporary Signs (Private Property).** Temporary signs on private property shall be allowed only upon the issuance of a Temporary Sign Permit, which shall be subject to the following requirements:
  - 1. Temporary Signs- General Provisions.  
Temporary signs are permitted for display for a period not to exceed 30 days, and not more than six (6) times per year and/or a period not to exceed 14 days and not more than thirteen (13) times per year per separate business, but not to exceed more than 182 days in any given calendar year.
    - a. New Business –Temporary Signs and Banners.
      - 1). A new business, or a business in a new location, awaiting

installation of a permanent sign, may utilize a temporary sign for a period of not more than thirty (30) days or until installation of a permanent sign, whichever occurs first. Such sign must meet all appropriate construction standards and sign regulations of the City. A separate temporary sign permit for such new business sign shall be required.

2). A new business, or a business in a new location, may utilize up to three banners with a total cumulative area not to exceed sixty (60) square feet. Such banners may not be displayed more than thirty (30) days prior to opening, nor more than thirty (30) days after opening of the business.

- b. Such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet per side in Business Sign Districts (DB, LB, GB, PRO, M-1 or PM) nor six (6) square feet per side in the General Sign District (all R-residential and AG zones).
- c. For each separate temporary sign permit the applicant will be permitted to utilize up to four (4) signs total within the City, both on-premise (limited to one sign) and off-premise with the permission of the property owner.
- d. Temporary signs shall not be attached to trees or utility poles, nor be placed in a position that will obstruct or impair traffic or in any manner create a hazard or disturbance to the health, safety and welfare of the general public.
- e. Temporary signs shall be located at least five (5) feet outside of the right of way.
- f. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated, shall be constructed of a durable material and if with commercial messages shall be professional in appearance. As used in this section, professional appearance means a sign which is designed/manufactured by a graphic artist, sign company or recognized art department/organization or conformity to City's pre-approved sign examples
- g. Sandwich Board Signs. Sandwich boards associated with a legal business, limited to one per business, may be allowed provided each of the two panels is limited to three feet in height and three feet in width. They shall be placed only on the lot of the business establishment to which they refer, or have written permission from adjoining lot owners and must be removed and secured within each business during non-business hours. No illumination of the signage shall be permitted. (Ord. 2005-3600. Passed 3-21-05.)
- h. Community Activity Signs- Temporary:
  - i. Public, private, nonprofit and religious organizations that are educational, charitable, cultural, or recreational in their functions may display signs announcing community activities that are open to the general public.
  - ii. Such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in the Business Sign District (DB, LB, GB, PRO, M-1 or PM zones) nor six (6) square feet in the General Sign District (R-residential zones and AG).
  - iii. Such signs shall not be placed in the street right of way or easements.

- iv. Such signs shall not be posted more than thirty (30) days prior to such activities and must be removed within twenty-four hours after activities are completed as advertised. Community activity signs are permitted for display for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days and not more than four (4) times per year per organization.
- v. No permit fee is required but permits must be obtained from the Zoning Inspector.
- i. Real Estate Development Signs: A non-illuminated, single- or double-sided real estate development sign, including industrial and commercial development, residential subdivision or construction sign denoting the architect, engineer and/or contractor, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet per side in the Business Sign District (**DB, LB, GB, PRO, M-1 or PM zones**) nor sixteen (16) square feet per side in the General Sign District (**R-residential zones and AG**), may be erected on property being sold, leased or developed. Such sign shall be set back a minimum of thirty-five (35) feet from the right of way or attached to the building face. Such sign shall be removed upon completion of the project and shall be in place for a period not exceeding two (2) years, renewable for an additional two years, upon filing of a subsequent completed application, re-inspection by the Zoning Inspector, and payment of the appropriate fee.

#### **1295.09 GENERAL SIGN STANDARDS .**

- A. Banners Over the Public Right-Of-Way. Banners shall not be permitted to extend over the public right-of-way, except for those installed on special brackets for special community events or promotions, as approved by the City Administrator. Banners must be at a height to not interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and must not obscure traffic control devices. See also requirements for temporary signs and whether separate temporary sign permits are required.
- B. Permanent signs. Within any zoning district, unless otherwise specified, the following permanent signs may be erected, provided however, that this subsection shall not serve to expand the number or area of signs otherwise allowed, and pursuant to the following.
  - 1. **Areas of Special Character.** The process for Planning and Zoning Commission Design Review is in Subsection 1295.14.
    - a. Non -Commercially Zoned Districts with Commercial Signs. Unless otherwise specified, the following permanent sign provisions shall apply to non-residential uses in non- commercial zoning districts (i.e. R-residential, or AG-agricultural) whether by existing non-conformity or permitted non-residential use (See also Historic Old Village Center special regulations)
      - i. The total number of signs requiring permits on a single lot shall not exceed one (1) which may be free-standing, excepting sign master-planned development.
      - ii. The total cumulative area of all signs requiring permits on such lot shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet, excepting wall signs for multiple tenants/units.
      - iii. One wall or projecting sign, not to exceed ten (10) square feet per sign, shall be permitted for each separate business unit in the development or building.

iv. One (1) on-premise sign, either free-standing or attached, in connection with any residentially used building in any district also zoned or used for permitted professional offices or home occupations, (see below for additional requirements for Historic Old Village Center ) not exceeding two (2) square feet total area if located less than 15 feet from the public right of way, or six (6) square feet total area if located 15 feet or more feet from the public right-of-way. Such signs shall be limited to name, street address and/or vocation. Illumination shall not produce a direct glare beyond the limits of the property line and shall be mounted on the sign and directed downward.

- b. **Historic Old Village Center.** See also Subsection 1295.14, 9. In the Designated Historic Old Village Center (Old Pataskala) such professional office or home occupations in buildings originally designed as residential, signs shall be limited to ground signs or wall signs not exceeding 16 square feet per side, or hanging (cantilever) signs of not more than 4 feet in height, and not more than 10 square feet per side, and shall be at least 2 feet from the public right-of-way.

In the Historic Old Village Center new signs and their respective support structures (if free standing) shall be constructed of durable natural materials, or materials natural in appearance, such as, real or simulated carved Redwood or Redwood panels, or masonry such as brick, granite, stone, stucco, decorative block or cementitious products which may include inlay sign panels of non-reflective backgrounds. The acceptability of the proposed material in meeting this standard will be determined by the Zoning Inspector. Such signs may be illuminated by exterior source lighting projected onto the sign face.

- c. **Pataskala Corporate Park.** See also Subsection 1295.14,10.
- i. The Corporate Park should have a unified image at the entrances (gateways) to the Park at Broad Street and Refugee Road, the theme of which shall be carried through at all new street signs and other such public signs along the road now known as Etna Parkway. The Corporate Park gateway signs shall be exempt from underlying size requirements, however, should conform to recommended lighting as per Business Sign District standards, unless otherwise approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The gateway signs are expected to be large scale, highly professional, and greatly enhanced by landscaping and structural features.
- ii. Each development unit (i.e. any tract developed by a single developer, but which may include multiple buildings and multiple tenants) may have its own Master Sign Plan that governs all signage within that development unit and which will be submitted for review by the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- d. **Public Cultural Institutions.** Signs or bulletin boards customarily incident to places of worship, libraries, museums, social clubs or societies, may be erected on the premises of such institutions. One (1) such sign or bulletin board not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet may be erected if in any R (Residential,) AG, or DB zoning district. If located in any other Business zoning district ( LB, GB, M-1, PM, PRO, PCD and PID) the same size, location and manner requirements for all signs in that zone shall apply.

2. **Business Sign District.** (Business Sign District includes GB, LB, PRO, M-1,

PM, PCD and PIDs) ( *DB districts are governed in Historic Old Village Center in Section B 1. a and B 1. b.*  ) Unless otherwise specified, the following permanent sign provisions shall apply:

- a. The total cumulative area of all signs permitted on any lot shall be two (2) square feet of sign area per lineal foot of building front. A total sign area of thirty-two (32) square feet shall be permitted on any lot regardless of building frontage.
- b. One sign of the following type: wall sign, awning or canopy sign, shall be permitted for each separated business unit, not to exceed 32 square feet. Projected signs are permitted but limited to 10 square feet and at a minimum of 7 feet 6 inches above the walkway.
- c. Freestanding ground signs or cantilever signs shall be no greater than 32 square feet as measured according to 1205.15 and no greater than 10 feet in height, subject to the total cumulative area limits in part a above, or the bonuses described in part c. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) and located at least 10 feet from the road right of way.
- d. The total number of permitted signs on a single business lot shall not exceed two (2) of which only one (1) may be free-standing, excepting sign master-planned developments or the following special circumstances:
  - i. **Sign Bonuses for Large Building Setbacks.** The maximum allowable area for a building sign may be increased by 25% for each 100 feet or fraction thereof of building setback when the principal building is located more than 100 feet from the principal street on which the building is located and the building is visible from the street, not to exceed 200% of the maximum allowable area.
  - ii. **Signs for Side and Rear Entrances.** The maximum allowable number and area for building signs shall be increased beyond the allowable area set forth in Section B. 2(a) in compliance with the following:
    - a. One additional sign and additional sign area shall be permitted when a building has a second entrance on the building side or rear. The increased sign area for each side or rear building frontage with an entrance shall be fifty percent (50%) of the sign area permitted for the primary frontage, provided that the additional sign area is utilized only on the secondary building side or rear entrances.
  - iii. **Signs On Lots with Multiple Public Street Frontages.** For lots that have frontage on multiple public streets, each street frontage shall be calculated separately. The allowable sign area permitted by this Section may be distributed to one or more freestanding sign(s) for each full increment of 250 feet of lot frontage. The total area of all freestanding signs shall comply with subsection 2-a, above. Two signs may be aggregated into a single sign provided that the area of any freestanding sign face shall not exceed 175 percent (175%) of the maximum area permitted for a single sign.
  - iv. **Multi-Occupant (Non-Residential) Complexes.** When a freestanding 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) complex name, the anchor occupant, all occupants, or some combination thereof. If individual sign panels are used for each tenant, the design of the sign as a total unit shall be harmonious, through the use of identical or complementary color schemes, fonts or graphics. The separate sign panels shall be framed in a material and color that coordinates or

enhances the overall sign structure. The street address shall be prominently displayed as part of the overall design.

v. **Additional Freestanding Signs for Large Lots.**

a. The number of freestanding signs on large lots may be increased as follows. The allowable sign area permitted by this Section may be distributed to one or more freestanding sign(s) for each full increment of 250 feet of lot frontage. (For example, a lot with 500 feet of frontage would be permitted to have two (2) freestanding signs- a maximum size of 32 SF each.

b. **Minimum Separation of Freestanding Signs.** Freestanding signs on the same lot shall be separated by a minimum of 250 feet, as measured along the street right-of-way line. For corner lots, both sides of the intersection shall be measured continuously in measuring spacing.

vi. **Additional Wall Sign Area for Multiple Story Buildings.**

Additional building wall sign area is permitted on each of the building's primary and secondary frontages according to the following:

a. For a building with two (2) floors the permitted sign area may increase by 32 square feet for each eligible wall.

b. This additional permitted sign area may be increased by 15 square feet for each additional building floor in height.

c. The sign must be placed at the height for which the bonus has been granted. *For example a three story building that is 50 feet wide at its front would qualify for a sign of 147 square feet if mounted at the third story level (47 square foot sign bonus plus the 100 square foot base).*

3. **Wall Signs.**

a. Wall signs shall not extend beyond the ends or over the top of the walls to which they are attached. They shall not obscure architectural details of the building and may fill the area designed for signage such as lintel bands, friezes or spandrels over windows, entrances or across the retail facade. Mounting a sign behind an historic transom window so that it shows through the window, and avoids obscuring the window with an external mount, will be counted as a wall sign.

b. Wall signs shall not extend more than fifteen (15) inches from the face of the buildings to which they are attached.

c. Any part of a sign extending over pedestrian traffic areas shall have a vertical minimum clearance of seven (7) feet, six (6) inches.

4. **Free-standing Signs.**

a. All free-standing signs shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the right of way, except for temporary signs.

b. If for any reason the right of way is changed at some future date, any free-standing sign made nonconforming thereby should be encouraged to conform with the minimum setback requirements to the extent possible upon changes to the sign. Modification of the sign so that it conforms with the currently applicable code, requires a permit, but the fee will be waived.

c. No free-standing sign shall be more than ten (10) feet in height above road level.

d. No free-standing sign shall extend over or into the public right-of-way, public pedestrian walkway or public driveway, nor shall it overhang the property lines.

e. No sign shall impede visibility in the sight triangle.

5. **Awning Signs.**
    - a. No sign shall project from an awning.
    - b. Awning graphics may be painted or affixed flat to the surface of the front or sides of the awning.
    - c. No awning sign shall be internally illuminated.
  6. **Identification Signs at Entrances to Town.** Free-standing group identification signs announcing the names of churches, social organizations, and the time and place of meetings of civic clubs shall be permitted at the major entrances of the City. Additionally, free-standing identification signs announcing the name of the City, or governmental purpose, may also be permitted at the major entrances of the town. Such free-standing monument signs shall not exceed twenty feet in height or fifty square feet in area. Any such sign shall require a sign permit. Groupings of signs along the major entrance routes to the town shall be designed as an integrated unit, where possible, and shall be landscaped. These signs may be located within a public right-of-way provided approval is granted by the Council and the Street Department.
  7. **"OPEN" Flags.**
    - a. In any Business Sign Districts (i.e; DB, GB, LB, PRO, M-1, PM), and in AG zoning, one non-illuminated "OPEN" flag may be displayed for each separate business unit, in connection with commercial promotion. No name, logo or lettering other than the word "OPEN" may be displayed on such signs. OPEN flags may be displayed at the building during business hours and must be displayed at the building entrance. OPEN flags shall be no more than three (3) feet in height and six (6) feet in length. Flag colors are limited to non-fluorescent colors.
    - b. Surface area of OPEN flags in temporary use shall not be deducted from the total cumulative area permitted on the lot.
    - c. No permit shall be required for an OPEN flag.
  8. **Permanent Subdivision Identification Signs.** No more than one such sign shall be permitted at each entry to each subdivision. Such signs shall be limited to a maximum height of 6'-0" feet, and the combined area of the signs shall not exceed a total of thirty-two (32) square feet and shall be set back at least ten (10) feet outside of the right-of-way, or as necessary to meet sight distance requirements, of all streets. Such signs shall be limited to monument style signs or graphics only, including by placement on walls, fences, entrance columns or similar architectural or landscaping features used to denote the entrance to the subdivision. Subdivision Identification signs may be illuminated by either exterior lighting projected onto the sign face, or by use of LED backlit but opaque, raised or reverse cut, dimensional letters against an unlit background.
  9. **Multiple-dwelling or Apartment Developments.** One (1) ground sign identifying the name of the development, located at each entrance of the development, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet and 6 feet in height. Such signs shall be located at least ten (10) feet outside of the right-of-way. Such identification sign shall be illuminated only by exterior lighting projected onto the sign face or by use of LED backlit but opaque, raised or reverse cut, dimensional letters against an unlit background.
- 10. Window Signs.**
- a. **Ground Floor Occupants.** Notwithstanding the permitted area set

forth in Subsection 1295.06, 2 and 1295.06, 15, a window sign shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total glass area of the ground floor windows.

- b. Upper Story Occupants. For a multi-story building, each occupant above the ground floor shall be permitted one permanent sign to be placed in a window of the occupant's space, not to exceed 25 percent of the area of the window in which the sign is placed, however, for all upper story occupants, at least six (6) square feet of window sign will be permitted. These signs shall be in addition to the maximum allowable area for building signs.
11. **Alleys and intra-block areas.**
- a. Alleyways, pedestrian paseos, and intra-block areas without direct access to thoroughfares, as might occur in an historic village center. Detailed, smaller scale signs are more appropriate. Store entryways are appropriate locations for signs in these areas. Windows along the alleyway also provide locations for signs, especially neon, which would draw attention to the business at night. Hand-carved wooden signs or sign cut out of metal are examples of encouraged styles because of the ability to incorporate a high degree of detail. The "hand-crafted" look for signs in alleys and intra-block areas is encouraged.
  - b. Tenant directory signs are allowed as wall mounted or freestanding signs for businesses located off of alleys, courtyards, arcades, and walls that do not have street frontage. These would locate on or near the building opening or passageway, so long as they do not interfere with pedestrian travel on the adjacent sidewalks.

#### **1295.10 ILLUMINATED SIGNS.**

A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to permit the installation and operation of illuminated signs within the City, to provide information to the general public in a legible format, to aid in the effective advertising of businesses, and to prevent the opportunity for nuisance effects in areas of land use transitions from business to residential or institutional.

B. General Provisions. Illuminated signs shall be permitted only in the Business Sign District (i.e. areas zoned DB, LB, GB, PRO, M-1 or PM), subject to any additional provisions of designated Areas of Special Character or Overlay Districts.

1. **Cabinet Signs:** Internally illuminated cabinet signs of translucent materials in which the entire sign face glows are not permitted. When cabinet signs are proposed, the permitted forms of illumination are as follows: the background field is required to be opaque so that only the lettering appears illuminated (e.g., routed or push-through lettering/graphics).
2. Permitted forms of illumination include; indirect spot lights showing onto the sign face, such as "goose neck" lamps or ground mounted spot lights, LED or neon back-lighted signs with opaque, reverse channel letters, neon back-lighted signs with dimensional translucent letters, and signs with illuminated open-face, channel letters.
3. Exposed neon/LED tube-script, or outlines of building or sign features are permitted if approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.  
Illuminated signs shall conform to all other applicable provisions of the City sign regulations with respect to design, placement, presentation and other regulated features.
4. Only one internally illuminated sign shall be permitted per physically separate business unit within a common building, excluding an additional development directory board sign if approved as part of a master sign plan.
5. One monument style internally-illuminated sign per establishment of free standing

businesses shall be permitted per lot, not exceeding 32 square feet per face on a double-faced sign and a maximum height of 10 feet above the centerline grade of the road. Establishments that are part of a larger retail or commerce center shall conform to the master sign plan for the development.

6. No internally illuminated sign may be erected within one hundred (100) feet of any residential zone (R- residential and AG zones) within the City. This does not apply to planned or intentionally mixed use developments in which residential units are located on upper floors over commercial establishments.

## 7. Changeable Copy Signs.

### a. General Standards.

- i. Changeable copy signs may be installed only on wall or monument style signs and must be completely framed by the wall or monument structure and colors must coordinate with the overall sign design.
- ii. Changeable copy signs are not permitted to be placed upon non-conforming pole signs.
- iii. The changeable copy sign face is limited to 30% of the sign face, or 24 square feet, whichever is less.

### b. Electronic Message Center Signs (EMC).

- i. Only one (1) EMC sign is permitted per business or zoning lot/ whichever is fewer.
- ii. The applicant for an EMC sign must warrant that the sign will not interfere with emergency vehicle transponders that regulate traffic signals. Any sign found to interfere with these signals constitute a nuisance and shall be ordered to be disabled immediately.
- iii. The Planning and Zoning Commission may approve additional EMCs or deviations from other regulations of EMC's as part of a master sign plan if deemed appropriate according to the scale and character of the development and if there will be no creation of a nuisance.
- iv. EMC copy may not change more than once in a three (3) minute period, except for time and temperature only displays (which are limited to 1 change in a 20 second period) and gasoline price displays.
- v. EMCs displays are to be static and are not permitted to flash, roll, scroll, employ other motion or animation techniques during display or changing of copy (in the three (3) minute permitted time).
- vi. All EMCs are limited to dark backgrounds with a single color employed at any one time for any message or image. The color text should coordinate with the overall color scheme of the entire sign structure.
- vii. All EMCs are required to have automatic dimming capability that adjusts the brightness to the ambient light at all times of day and night. Light emitted shall not be unreasonably bright, shall not create confusion with traffic signals, nor create a hazard to drivers, pedestrians, should be shielded to prevent noticeable glow around the sign structure. Any light determined by the City to be unreasonably bright or that creates confusion for traffic shall constitute a nuisance and shall be ordered to be

disabled immediately until corrected and approved by the Zoning Inspector.

### 1295.11 EXISTING SIGNS- Non-Conforming or Alterations To.

#### A. Non-Conforming Signs

All pre-existing legal signs that become non-conforming as a result of this Code shall be allowed to remain, subject to the following conditions:

1. Rebuilding, enlargement, relocation, extension, replacement or reconstruction of a nonconforming sign is prohibited unless such sign is brought to conformance to within 20% of the standards of this Chapter.
2. In the event the use of a nonconforming sign is discontinued for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days, the nonconforming sign shall thereafter conform to the provisions of the zoning district in which it is located or be removed. For the purposes of this Section, the term “discontinued” shall apply to uses which customarily operate on a continuous basis versus a seasonal basis. Seasonal uses shall be subject to a twelve month period of non-use prior to requiring full compliance with these regulations. Additionally any establishment temporarily closed for repairs or remodeling but intended to reopen shall be permitted the continuing use of a non-conforming sign so long as there is no change to the sign itself as outlined in part 1 above. Intent will be judged by the Zoning Inspector and Planning Director on such evidence as a signed lease or option, building permits applied for, or other such documents indicating a firm commitment to the project.
3. A nonconforming sign that is destroyed or damaged more than fifty (50) percent of its net worth may not be reconstructed except in accordance with the provisions of this Section; Within two (2) months of the destruction, such sign may be rebuilt to within 20% of the current standards of height and size of this Chapter, and must still meet the applicable set-back and lighting provisions. Such sign not replaced within two (2) months must be reconstructed in conformance with this Section. The owner may appeal to the Zoning Inspector for an extension if evidence is provided that either an insurance settlement cannot be attained within that period, or if the sign builder cannot construct the sign within that period; but not if the delay is a result of failure to act in a timely manner by the sign owner.
4. A non-conforming sign must be brought up to conformance with this code upon any change in the use of the property (uses as according to the first three (3) digits of the NAICS Matrix, established in Section 1265 of the Pataskala Zoning Code) for which such property was intended at the time this Ordinance was enacted.
5. Upon alterations to the existing non-conforming sign, the following regulations shall apply:
  - a. **Structural.** No display sign shall hereafter be structurally altered, rebuilt, enlarged, extended, or relocated except in conformity with the Sign Ordinance, except as provided above.
  - b. **Normal Maintenance.** Normal Maintenance such as repainting or message replacement for the same enterprise as the original within thirty (30) days of prior use, which does not require modification of the support structures for free-standing signs shall be allowed.
  - c. **Historic Signs.** The Planning and Zoning Commission may, as it deems appropriate, grant exceptions to these standards whenever a sign, or the sign together with its supporting structure, has been designated as a historic landmark either by provision by City Council, the West Licking Historical

Society, the State Historic Preservation Officer or by listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Removal of Signs. Any sign existing on or after the effective date of this Code, whether in conformance with this Code or not, which advertises a business no longer conducted or product no longer sold on the premises upon which such sign is located, shall be removed or obscured within thirty (30) days. This does not include those businesses temporarily closed for repairs or remodeling. Any nonconforming sign that is not reused to advertise a subsequent business of the same use, established within sixty (60) days shall be removed or brought into full compliance with this Code; but subject to the limitations of Sub-section 1295.11. 2 through 5, above.

1. Removal of dangerous signs;
  - a. If the Zoning Inspector shall find that any sign regulated in this Code is abandoned, unsafe or insecure, the Inspector shall give written notice to the named owner of the land upon which it is located. The owner shall remove or repair the sign within thirty (30) days from the date of the violation notice. Failure to remove or repair such sign shall be considered a violation of this provision. The permit issued for such sign found to be in violation shall be revoked.
  - b. All signs prohibited in this section relating to obstruction of view at street intersections; all illuminated signs that are erected in such a location that a traffic signal light is in a direct line between the sign and oncoming traffic; and any other signs that are unsafe or dilapidated shall conform to the provisions of this Code either by removal or reconstruction, whichever applies, within thirty (30) days after the owner of such sign is notified for the violation.
  - c. All signs that employ a lighting or control mechanism which causes radio, radar or television interference; any sign so erected, constructed or maintained as to obstruct or be attached to any fire escape, window, door or opening used as a means of egress or ingress or for firefighting purposes or so placed as to interfere with any opening required for light or ventilation shall constitute a nuisance and shall be ordered to be removed immediately.
2. NOTE: In order to provide an incentive for removal of nonconforming signs, there will be no fees for sign permit where a non-conforming sign is removed and replaced by a sign fully conforming with these regulations.

#### **1295.12 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.**

This section provides guidance and standards for construction of signs requiring permits and shall serve as guidance for the construction of exempt signs. It identifies the specifications needed so that signs are constructed to ensure the community's safety.

- A. All permanent signs installed after the effective date of this Code shall have legible identification attached to the sign giving the sign permit number.
- B. The design of all sign structure members and foundation shall conform to the requirements of the Ohio Commercial Building Code relative to allowable stresses, materials and engineering standards. Loads, both vertical and horizontal, shall not produce stresses exceeding those specified in the building code, and material construction shall be of the quality and grade required by this section and or by the building code.
- C. All signs, including wall-mounted and projecting signs, shall be securely anchored and shall not be designed to spin or move by mechanical means (this does not apply to movement caused by wind (for example of a cantilever or projecting wall sign), so long as there is no danger of detachment of the sign.
- D. All signs, sign finishes, supports and electric work shall be kept clean, neatly painted, and

free from all hazards, such as, but not limited to, faulty wiring and loose supports, braces, guys, and/or anchors.

- E. All projecting, free-standing or wall signs shall employ acceptable safety material and shall not constitute a hazard to pedestrian travel or the general public.
- F. All signs shall not conflict with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (USDOT/FHWA) as applicable. All electrical wiring of signs shall conform to the National Electrical Code.
- G. The base of all permanent ground signs shall be effectively landscaped with living plant material and maintained in good condition at all times. The minimum landscaped area must extend at least two feet beyond all faces or supporting structures in all directions.
- H. Sign bases or exposed foundations must be constructed with a finished material. Example include, but are not limited to brick, stone, faux brick, stone, stucco, flat finish metals, decay resistant wood, or can consist of composites and synthetics that achieve the appearance similar to natural materials as listed above.
- I. Any lettering smaller than one-half (1/2) inch in size shall be exempt from these requirements.

#### **1295.13 SIGN MASTER PLANS DESIGN REVIEW.**

- A. The Planning and Zoning Commission may approve a master sign plan for planned unit developments of any size and for any existing or proposed business center, industrial center, office complex or mixed used developments which are under unified control either by ownership, legal association or leasehold.
- B. The intent and purpose is to encourage well planned and designed signage within multiple building or multiple use complexes which expresses unification and integration by elements of architectural style, size, color, placement and lighting, while at the same time allowing for reasonable individual business identification. An additional purpose is to encourage the elimination of existing nonconforming signs. The Planning and Zoning Commission may grant a bonus for exceptionally well designed plans of up to one hundred percent (100%) increase in the number of signs and or / fifty percent (50%) increase in the maximum square footage, and / or may permit signs in locations other than normally permitted, based upon a finding that the proposed master sign plan substantially meets the intent and purpose of this Subsection relating to unification and integration of signage, without hindering vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- C. Once approved at a public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission, all master sign plans shall be recorded with the Licking County recorder's office and shall constitute a covenant and must be complied with by all owners, proprietors, lessees or assigns, whether current or future. No substantial variation from the plan shall be permitted without the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval.
- D. Directional signs for the convenience of the general public and for the purpose of directing persons to a business, activity, service, parking or community facility operating within the City of Pataskala may be erected with the permission of the City Services Director, and as part of the Sign Master Plan, providing such signs do not exceed four (4) square feet per face for a double-faced sign nor total more than two (2) such signs per development. Messages shall be limited to name or identification, arrow or direction, and distance. Advertising messages shall be prohibited. Off-premise directional signs shall be classified as free-standing signs and shall not be placed within 100 feet of another free-standing sign. Illumination is prohibited. Clustering of several directional signs on a single support is encouraged.
  - 1. Such signs shall be limited to Major Arterial and Minor Arterial roads as defined in the City

Major Thoroughfare Plan. Such signs may be permitted on Collector streets, as defined in the same classification system, within the Business Sign District.

2. Such Sign panels may be made of any conventional weather resistant and rigid sign material acceptable to the City Services Director. They shall be fully reflectorized and shall be similar to "Engineering Grade" reflective sheeting with respect to color (day and night), brightness, reflectivity and durability as specified in the latest edition of the Manual on Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.
3. The panel shall have white legend on a blue background with a 1/2 inch white border. The legend shall be white "Highway Type" letters, except that nationally, regionally or locally known commercial symbols or trademarks, in their customary colors, may be used when applicable.
4. When in an Area of Special Character, or used internally in a master planned development, the sign colors may be coordinated with the Special Area or development's master plan color scheme provided that such a display does not conflict with standardized traffic control devices and is specifically approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Services Director. International symbols for services may be incorporated as alternates to word messages. All off-premise sign legends are subject to approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Sign placement and installation shall be subject to approval by the City Services Director.

#### 1295.14 . AREAS OF SPECIAL CHARACTER AND CREATIVE SIGNS PERMIT- DESIGN REVIEW. (See Subsection 1295.09, B, 1, Standards)

- A. Purpose. It is difficult to adequately regulate all street graphics in a City as diverse as Pataskala. The designation of an area as an Area of Special Character is an incentive to stimulate greater creativity, artistic interest and aesthetic appeal, to integrate the design of street graphics with the architecture, culture, identity and function of the Area of Special Interest. Initially designated Areas of Special Interest include the Historic Old Village Center (below) and the Pataskala Corporate Park. The Council of the City of Pataskala by ordinance and following notice and public hearing, may therefore designate additional Areas of Special Character and outlining their specific design guidelines and themes.
  1. Zoning Map. The Planning and Zoning Department shall maintain and continually revise a zoning map of the City of Pataskala on which the boundaries of all designated Areas of Special Character shall be noted.
  2. Special Regulations. The Planning and Zoning Commission may approve after notice and public hearing, and forward to Council for adoption, a plan of special regulations signage and graphics for any designated or proposed Area of Special Character. The Council of the City of Pataskala, through normal proceedings to amend the Zoning Code, may adopt or modify special regulations for signs and street graphics in Areas of Special Character. Such regulations, if adopted, shall complement, enhance and be consistent with the character of the Area of Special Character.
  3. Effect of Special Regulations. Special regulations for Areas of Special Character shall supersede the general regulations for signs and street graphics regardless of whether they are more or less restrictive.
  4. Scope of Regulation for Areas of Special Character. The special regulations for signs and graphics shall contain visual representations of the lettering, illumination, color, area and height of street graphics and may indicate the areas and buildings where they may be placed and located. The special regulations may incorporate by reference a document containing the visual representation of street graphics in the street graphics plan.
  5. The Planning and Zoning Commission may approve special regulations for signage and

graphics if they are consistent with the purposes of this ordinance and the stated theme, vision or character of the Area of Special Character. These regulations shall supersede the general signs standards of this ordinance regardless of whether they are more or less restrictive.

6. Any owner of a property, or multiple-owners of adjacent premises, or one or more occupants of a shopping center or multi-use building, not located in an Area of Special Character, may submit a Creative Sign proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission that need not comply with some or all the requirements of this ordinance if the Planning and Zoning Commission approves of the proposal. This Creative Sign proposal must contain a visual representation of the lettering styles, illumination, colors, size, height, materials, placement, and location of any street graphics proposed for display.
7. Standards for Approval. The Planning and Zoning Commission may approve Creative Signs Proposal (or Master Sign Plan or graphics for an Area of Special Character) if the signs and street graphics visually represented are:
  - a. Consistent with the purpose of this ordinance
  - b. Compatible with the theme, visual quality, and overall character of the surrounding area or an Area of Special Character, if the street graphics are to be located in such an area
  - c. Appropriately related in size, shape, materials, lettering, color, illumination, height, location, and character to the function and architectural character of the building, or premises on which they will be displayed, and are compatible with existing adjacent activities. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall base its compatibility determination on the following criteria:
    - i. The relationship of the scale and placement of the street graphic to the building or premises on which it is to be displayed.
    - ii. The relationship of the colors of the street graphic to the colors of adjacent buildings and nearby street graphics
    - iii. The similarity or dissimilarity of the street graphic's size and shape to the size and shape of other street graphics in the area.
    - iv. The similarity or dissimilarity of the style of lettering on the street graphic to the style of lettering of nearby street graphics.
    - v. The compatibility of the type of illuminations, if any, with the type of illumination in the area.
    - vi. The compatibility of the materials used in the construction of the graphic with the materials used in the construction of other street graphics in the area.
  - d. Authorized variances. The Planning and Zoning Commission may grant minor variances from the regulations contained in the ordinance, including:
    - i. To permit a setback for a sign that is up to 25% less than the required setback, and
    - ii. To permit the area or height of a sign to be increased by up to 25% more than the maximum height or area allowed.
    - iii. These minor variance may be authorized if the Planning and Zoning Commission finds that a special or unique hardship prevents compliance

because of :

- a) Exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of the premises on which a sign is located, or
  - b) Exceptional topographic conditions or physical features uniquely affect the premises.
  - c) Allegations that the display of a particular sign would be more profitable or that the graphic would be more valuable is not a special or unique hardship as required by this section.
  - d) The variance is consistent with the goals of the comprehensive plan and there are no other reasonable alternatives for displaying a sign that would be permitted per the standards of this code.
8. Display of Specially Approved Signs. A premises or occupancy for which a set of special sign regulations has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council ,such as, those for an Area of Special Character, a creative sign permit or a Master Sign Plan, may only display signs and graphics that comply with the approved plan, which shall supersede and replace the general sign regulations of this ordinance.
  9. The Historic Old Village Center Sign District is bounded by SR 16 (south side of street only) from Vine Street east to Township Road, south to Mill Street, west to Licking Street, north across Granville east to Spring Street, north to Cedar, east to Vine , and north ending at the south side of SR 16. These boundaries shall include all properties on either side of all street boundaries other than SR 16 (Broad Street). See Figure I Attached.
  10. The Pataskala Corporate Park Sign District shall include all land zoned PM and located south of State Route 16 and East of Mink Street, including both sides of Etna Parkway, except that no signs shall be oriented toward Columbia Road. See Figure II Attached.

#### **1295.15 ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES.**

- A. Review and Appeals. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Zoning Inspector relative to the provisions of this Code may appeal such decision as provided in Chapter 1211. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission relative to the provisions of this Code may appeal such decision as provided in Chapter 1211.
- B. Violations and Penalties. Any person, firm or corporation, whether as owner, lessee, agent or employee, who proceeds to erect, re-erect, construct or structurally alter any sign without first applying for and obtaining the necessary permit, or who, in any other way, violates any provision of this Code shall be guilty of an offense and receive punishment as established in Section 1209.99. Each day's continuous violation shall constitute a separate additional violation.
  1. In case of a violation of this Code, the City and its officers may, in addition to any other remedies specifically conferred by ordinance, institute any appropriate proceedings to prevent unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration or use of any sign not in compliance with this Code.
  2. Any sign, permitted or not, placed within any public right-of-way or placed so as to impede public access, may be considered to be a threat to public safety and may be removed at the direction of the public safety officers or Zoning Inspector.

**Table 1295-1: Examples of Sign Characteristics Permitted by Zoning/ Special District**

	Historic Village Centers Special Area	Corporate Park Special Area	GB/LB/DB	PRO	M-1/PM	All residential "R—" zones	AG/ or AG uses
Animation or Mechanical or Electronic Induced Motion/ Pennants/ Inflatable	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Sandwich Board Signs	P	P	P	N	P	N	P
Changeable copy	P	P	P	N	P	N	N
Internal Illumination	N	P	P	P	P	N	N
External Illumination	P	P	P	P	P	N	N
Bent "Neon" Tube	P	P	P	P	P	N	N
Electronic Message or Graphic Signs	N	P	P	P	P	N	N

N = Not allowed

P = Allowed with Permit

**Table 1295-2: Sign Sizes – These standards are subject to change by special provisions of a Master Sign Plan, Creative Sign Plan or Overlay District**

SIGN TYPE	SIZE PERMITTED
Apartment Community Marker	Max. 6 ft in height
In Business Developments	Total signage = 2 sf/ linear ft of building front
*each business unit/ wall/canopy or awning	Max. 32 sf
Corporate Park	By P&Z approval
Cultural Facilities & Institutions	24 sf in R zones; Other according to zones
Electronic Message Centers	Lesser of 24 sf or 30% of total sign face
Farm ID Signs	25 sf
For Sale /Rent Sign	10 sf
Historic Markers	6 sf
*House in office zoning or used for home occupation	2 sf if < 15 ft from ROW 6 sf if > 15 ft from ROW
Monument Sign	32 sf/ 10' tall
Open Banners	Up to 3 allowed-up to a total 60 sf
*Old Village Historic- commercial signs	Wall- 16 sf Cantilever – 10 sf /side and 4 ft tall
Political Sign	6 sf; 16 sf if posted speed = or > 45 mph
Real Estate Development	16 sf in an R zone 32 sf all others
Roadside Markets	32 sf
Sandwich Boards	9 sf / side
Special Character Districts	24 sf per lot
Subdivision (Residential) Markers	Max. 6 ft in height
Temporary Sign & Community Activity Sign	6 sf in an R zone 16 sf (up to 4 allowed)
Wall Sign-when permit required	6 sf
Wall Sign-exempt from permit	6 sf –up to 4 allowed
Wall-Projecting Sign	10 sf/ 7.5 ft from ground
Warning/ private drive/ lawn signs	2 sf
Window Signs	25% of window / Upper story business 25% up , but at least 6 sf Up to 16 sf for Temporary Community Activity Poster