

ORDINANCE NO. 179416

An ordinance amending Chapter I of the Los Angeles Municipal Code by adding a new Article 4.4 and amending Section 91.6201.2 in order to transfer the sign regulations from the building code to the zoning code.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Chapter I of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding a new Article 4.4 to read:

**ARTICLE 4.4
SIGN REGULATIONS**

Section

- 14.4.1 Purpose
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- 14.4.3 Application
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SEC. 14.4.1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this article is to promote public safety and welfare by regulating signs in keeping with the following objectives:

- A. That the design, construction, installation, repair and maintenance of signs will not interfere with traffic safety or otherwise endanger public safety.

B. That the regulations will provide reasonable protection to the visual environment by controlling the size, height, spacing and location of signs.

C. That both the public and sign users will benefit from signs having improved legibility, readability and visibility.

D. That consideration will be given to equalizing the opportunity for messages to be displayed.

E. That adequacy of message opportunity will be available to sign users without dominating the visual appearance of the area.

SEC. 14.4.2. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms shall apply to this article. Other terms used in this article shall have the meanings set forth in Section 12.03 of this Code, if defined in that section.

Bisecting Line. A line that equally divides the angle created by the projection of intersecting lot lines of a lot adjoining the street of a corner lot as illustrated in Diagram C of this article.

Building Frontage. The projection of the building walls upon the street used for street frontage.

Face of Building. The general outer surface, not including cornices, bay windows or architectural projections, of any exterior wall of a building.

Freeway. A highway in respect to which the owners or those in possession of abutting lands have no right or easement of access to or from their abutting lands or in respect to which the owners have only limited or restricted right or easement of access, and which is declared to be a freeway, in compliance with the Streets and Highways Code of the State of California.

Identification Sign. A wall sign that is limited to a company logo, generic type of business, or the name of a business or building.

Illuminated Architectural Canopy Sign. An enclosed illuminated structure that is attached to the wall of a building with the face of the sign approximately parallel to the wall and with the message integrated into its surface.

Inflatable Device. A sign that is a cold air inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or structure and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Inflatable devices are restrained, attached, or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method. The term inflatable device shall not include any object that contains helium, hot air or a lighter-than-air substance.

Information Sign. A sign that is limited to a message giving directions, instructions, menus, selections or address numerals.

Main Traveled Roadway of a Freeway. The portion of a freeway, including interchange roadways connecting one freeway with another, which is designed for the movement of large volumes of vehicular traffic, efficiently and safely at high speed, but not including service roadways, landscape areas, or ingress or egress ramps connecting the freeway with other streets.

Monument Sign. A sign that is erected directly upon the existing or artificially created grade, or that is raised no more than 12 inches from the existing or artificially created grade to the bottom of the sign, and that has a horizontal dimension equal to or greater than its vertical dimension.

Mural Sign. A sign that is painted on or applied to and made integral with a wall, the written message of which does not exceed three percent of the total area of the sign.

Off-Site Sign. A sign that displays any message directing attention to a business, product, service, profession, commodity, activity, event, person, institution or any other commercial message, which is generally conducted, sold, manufactured, produced, offered or occurs elsewhere than on the premises where the sign is located.

Off-Site Sign Structure. A structure of any kind or character, erected, used or maintained for an off-site sign or signs, upon which any poster, bill, printing, painting, projected image or other advertisement may be placed.

On-Site Sign. A sign that is other than an off-site sign.

Perpendicular Line. A straight line between the point on a sign face that is closest to the street and the point where the line intersects the street lot line at a 90 degree angle, as illustrated in Diagram C of this article.

Pole Sign. A freestanding sign that is erected or affixed to one or more poles or posts and that does not meet the requirements of a monument sign.

Projecting Sign. A sign, other than a wall sign, that is attached to a building and projects outward from the building with one or more sign faces approximately perpendicular to the face of the building.

Projection. The distance by which a sign extends beyond the building line.

Roof Sign. A sign erected upon a roof of a building.

Sign. Any whole or part of a display board, wall, screen or object, used to announce, declare, demonstrate, display or otherwise present a message and attract the attention of the public.

Sign Area. An area circumscribed by the smallest geometric shape created with a maximum of eight straight lines, which will enclose all words, letters, figures, symbols, designs and pictures, together with all framing, background material, colored or illuminated areas and attention-attracting devices, forming an integral part of an individual message except that:

1. Wall signs having no discernible boundary shall have the areas between letters, words intended to be read together and any device intended to draw attention to the sign message included in any computation of surface area.
2. For spherical, cylindrical or other three-dimensional signs the area of the sign shall be computed from the smallest two-dimensional geometrical shape or shapes, which will best approximate the greatest actual surface area visible from any one direction.
3. Sign support structures are excluded if neutral in color.
4. **"Time and Temperature"** sign copy is excluded from computation of sign area if the copy is less than 56 square feet in area.

Sign Face. The surface upon which the sign message is placed.

Street Frontage. The length of a line separating a lot from one street.

Supergraphic Sign. A sign, consisting of an image projected onto a wall or printed on vinyl, mesh or other material with or without written text, supported and attached to a wall by an adhesive and/or by using stranded cable and eye-bolts and/or other materials or methods, and which does not comply with the following provisions of this Code: Sections 14.4.10; 14.4.16, 14.4.17; 14.4.18; and/or 14.4.20.

Temporary Construction Wall. A wooden fence or wooden barrier that provides protection for pedestrians and is erected and maintained on the perimeter of a construction or demolition site pursuant to Section 3303 of the California Building Code (CBC).

Temporary Sign. Any sign that is to be maintained for a limited duration, not to exceed 30 days, including paper signs and other signs that are not permanently affixed to the ground or building.

Wall Sign. Any sign attached to, painted on or erected against the wall of a building or structure, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane approximately parallel to the plane of the wall.

Window Sign. Any sign, except for a supergraphic sign, that is attached to, affixed to, leaning against, or otherwise placed within six feet of a window or door in a manner so that the sign is visible from outside the building.

SEC. 14.4.3. APPLICATION.

A. **Scope.** All exterior signs and sign support structures shall conform to the requirements of this article and all other applicable provisions of this Code, except that the provisions of Sections 14.4.4 E and G; 14.4.4 I; 14.4.5; 14.4.6; 14.4.12; 14.4.18; 91.6205.2 ; and 91.6216 of this Code shall not apply to the relocation of signs or sign support structures that existed on January 17, 1993, that were erected or are maintained by the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission (Commission) on property owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by the Commission.

B. **On-Site Signs.** The following provisions of this Code, as applicable, shall apply to on-site signs: Sections 14.4.4 A; 14.4.5; 14.4.6; 14.4.7; 14.4.9; 14.4.10; 14.4.11; 14.4.12; 14.4.13; 14.4.14; 14.4.15; 14.4.19, 91.6205; 91.6207; and 91.6216.

C. **Off-Site Signs.** The following provisions of this Code, as applicable, shall apply to off-site signs: Sections 14.4.4 A; 14.4.5; 14.4.6, 14.4.18; 91.6205; and 91.6207.

D. **Temporary Signs.** The following provisions of this Code, as applicable, shall apply to temporary on-site and off-site signs: Sections 14.4.4 A; 14.4.5; 14.4.6; 14.4.16; 14.4.17; 91.6205; and 91.6207.

E. **Mural Signs.** The following provisions of this Code, as applicable, shall apply to mural signs: Section 14.4.4 A; 14.4.5; 14.4.6; 14.4.20; 91.6205; and 91.6207.

SEC. 14.4.4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

A. **Ideological and Political Signs.** No provision of this article shall prohibit an ideological, political or other noncommercial message on a sign otherwise permitted by this article.

B. **Prohibited Signs.** Signs are prohibited if they:

1. Contain obscene matters, as defined in Section 311 of the Penal Code of the State of California.

2. Contain or consist of posters, pennants, banners, ribbons, streamers or spinners, except as permitted by Sections 14.4.16 and 14.4.17 of this Code.

3. Contain flashing, mechanical and strobe lights in conflict with the provisions of Sections 80.08.4 and 93.0107 of this Code.

4. Are revolving and where all or any portion rotate at greater than six revolutions per minute.

5. Are tacked, pasted or otherwise temporarily affixed on the walls of buildings, barns, sheds, trees, poles, posts or fences, except as permitted by Sections 14.4.16 and 14.4.17 of this Code.

6. Are affixed to any vehicle or trailer on private property if the vehicle or trailer is not intended to be otherwise used in the business and the sole purpose of attaching the sign to the vehicle or trailer is to attract people to a place of business.

7. Emit audible sounds, odor or visible matter.

8. Use human beings, live animals, animated figures, motion pictures or slide projectors in connection with any sign.

9. Are supergraphic signs, except when supergraphic signs are specifically permitted pursuant to a legally adopted specific plan, supplemental use district or an approved development agreement.

10. Are mural signs, except when mural signs are specifically permitted pursuant to a legally adopted specific plan, supplemental use district or an approved development agreement.

11. Are off-site signs, except when off-site signs are specifically permitted pursuant to a legally adopted specific plan, supplemental use district, an approved development agreement, or a relocation agreement entered into pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Section 5412. This prohibition shall also apply to alterations or enlargements of legally existing off-site signs.

12. Are inflatable devices, except when inflatable devices are specifically permitted pursuant to a legally adopted specific plan, supplemental use district or an approved development agreement.

C. Prohibited Locations.

1. No sign or sign support structure shall project into any public alley, except that a sign or sign support structure above a height of 14 feet may project no more than six inches into a public alley.

2. No sign or sign support structure shall be located less than six feet horizontally or 12 feet vertically from overhead electrical conductors, which are energized in excess of 750 volts. The term “**overhead electrical conductors**” as

used here shall mean any electrical conductor, either bare or insulated, installed above ground, except electrical conductors that are enclosed in iron pipe or other material covering of equal strength. Arcs of six foot radius may be used to define corners of prohibition area.

3. No sign or sign support structure shall be erected in a visibility triangle as defined by Sections 12.21 C 7 and 62.200 of this Code.

4. No sign or sign support structure shall be located within two feet of the curb or edge of any roadway.

D. Maintenance.

1. **Appearance.** Every sign shall be maintained in a clean, safe and good working condition, including the replacement of defective parts, defaced or broken faces, lighting and other acts required for the maintenance of the sign. The display surfaces shall be kept neatly painted or posted at all times.

2. **Debris Removal.** The base of any sign erected on the ground shall be kept clear of weeds, rubbish or other combustible material at all times.

3. **Abandoned Signage.** Ninety days after the cessation of a business activity, service or product, the related signs shall be removed, or the face of the signs shall be removed and replaced with blank panels or shall be painted out.

E. **Sign Illumination Limitations.** No sign shall be arranged and illuminated in a manner that will produce a light intensity of greater than three foot candles above ambient lighting, as measured at the property line of the nearest residentially zoned property.

F. **Combination Signs.** A sign, which is subject to more than one classification, shall meet the requirements for the classification to which each portion is subject.

G. **Flag Lots.** For purposes of this article, flag lots containing less than 50 feet of street frontage shall be allotted 50 feet of street frontage for the purpose of determining the type of sign permitted and for the allowable sign area.

H. **Street Address Numbers.** No sign shall be maintained on any property unless the street address of the property is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 63.113 of this Code.

I. Sign Permit Priority Status.

1. To maintain location, area, frontage, or spacing status, signs must be installed within six months of issuance of a building permit or prior to expiration of any permit extension granted by the Department of Building and Safety.

2. Where more than one permit has been issued and the effect of those permits when considered together results in a violation of this article, all permits except the permit with the earlier date and time of issuance shall be invalid.

SEC. 14.4.5. HAZARD TO TRAFFIC.

A. **Prohibition.** No sign or sign support structure shall be erected, constructed, painted or maintained, and no permit shall be issued, if the sign or sign support structure, because of its location, size, nature or type, constitutes a hazard to the safe and efficient operation of vehicles upon a street or a freeway, or which creates a condition that endangers the safety of persons or property.

B. **Hazard Referral.** The Department of Building and Safety shall refer the following to the Department of Transportation for hazard evaluation and determination prior to the issuance of a building permit:

1. All permit applications for signs that will be visible from and are located within 500 feet of the main traveled roadway of a freeway; and

2. All other permit applications and any signs that are determined by the Department of Building and Safety to have a potential for hazard.

C. **Hazard Determination.** The Department of Transportation shall return to the Department of Building and Safety each application so referred to it together with a statement of its determination. If the Department of Transportation determines that the sign or sign support structure will constitute a hazard, the Department of Building and Safety shall deny the application for permit.

SEC. 14.4.6. FREEWAY EXPOSURE.

A. **New Signs.** No person shall erect, construct, install, paint, maintain, and no building or electrical permit shall be issued for, any sign or sign support structure within 2,000 feet of a freeway unless the Department of Building and Safety has first determined that the sign will not be viewed primarily from a main traveled roadway of a freeway or an on-ramp/off-ramp. However, at the termination of an off-ramp, any wall sign located along the front line may be viewed primarily from the off-ramp.

The phrase “**viewed primarily from**” shall mean that the message may be seen with reasonable clarity for a greater distance by a person traveling on the main traveled roadway of a freeway or on-ramp/off-ramp than by a person traveling on the street adjacent to the sign.

B. **Exemption.** The wall signs specified in Subdivisions 1 and 2 below are exempt from the limitation of Subsection A above. These signs shall not have moving parts or any arrangement of lights that create the illusion of movement.

1. Identification signs identifying the building where the sign is located, providing the area of the sign is not more than 50 square feet or is not larger than five percent of the area of the side of the building, which faces primarily to the freeway, whichever is greater;

2. Wall signs on which the advertising is limited to the name of any person, firm or corporation occupying the building, or the type of business, services rendered, or the name of any product manufactured or sold on the premises. The total area of all wall signs on a building permitted in this subdivision shall not exceed 100 square feet. Any one sign shall not exceed 50 square feet in area.

C. Existing Signs. Within three years of the opening of a freeway to public travel, all signs that existed prior to the opening of the freeway and that are in conflict with the provisions of this section and/or Section 14.4.5 of this Code shall be removed, or shall be rearranged or relocated so as to eliminate any conflict with the provisions of this section and/or Section 14.4.5 of this Code.

The Department of Building and Safety and the Department of Transportation shall determine whether or not the sign or sign support structure is in conflict with the provisions of this section and/or Section 14.4.5 of this Code. If it is determined that any sign or sign support structure is in conflict with any of the provisions of this section and/or Section 14.4.5 of this Code, then the permittee and/or other responsible person shall be advised and shall remove, rearrange or relocate the sign or sign support structure within this three-year period.

SEC. 14.4.7. INFORMATION SIGNS.

A. Area. Information signs shall not exceed 25 square feet in area.

B. Height. Information signs shall be limited to a maximum overall height of six feet six inches above the sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign.

SEC. 14.4.8. MONUMENT SIGNS.

A. Area.

1. The sign area of monument signs shall not exceed 1.5 square feet per foot of street frontage nor a maximum of 75 square feet for the sign face visible to the same direction of traffic.

2. The combined sign area of monument signs, projecting signs, wall signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs, pole signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

B. Height. Monument signs shall be limited to a maximum overall height of eight feet above sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign.

C. **Location.** Monument signs shall be located at least 7.5 feet from interior lot lines and at least 15 feet from any other monument sign, projecting sign or pole sign. The location of monument signs shall not interfere or present a hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

D. **Shape.** Monument signs shall have a horizontal dimension equal to or greater than their vertical dimension.

E. **Projection.** Monument signs shall not project over the roof of a building or over the building line.

SEC. 14.4.9. PROJECTING SIGNS.

A. **Permitted.** Projecting signs shall not be permitted on that portion of a lot having less than 50 feet of street frontage. Lots having a street frontage of at least 50 feet may have a projecting sign for each 200 feet or fraction of that area of street frontage, if the street frontage does not contain an existing projecting sign or a pole sign.

B. Area.

1. The sign area of projecting signs visible to the same direction of traffic shall not exceed 25 square feet plus 1.5 square feet for each foot of street frontage up to a maximum sign area of 300 square feet. Any projecting sign located at the street corner of a corner lot may use the greater street frontage in computing area limitations.

2. The combined sign area of projecting signs, wall signs, monument signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs, pole signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

C. **Height.** A projecting sign shall not be located lower than eight feet above sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign and shall not extend above the top of the wall.

D. Location.

1. A projecting sign shall be located at least 7.5 feet from any interior lot line.

2. A projecting sign shall be located at least 15 feet from any other projecting sign, monument sign or pole sign.

3. The plane of the sign face of a projecting sign shall be within 15 degrees of being perpendicular to the face of the building, except at the corner of the building.

E. Projections. A projecting sign may project over the building line, but shall not extend beyond the limits shown in Diagram A of this article. Sign projections shall fall within an area that is perpendicular to the building line and has a width of three feet as measured parallel with the building line. In no event, may a projecting sign project more than eight feet from the face of a building.

EXCEPTION: For projecting signs located above a 16-foot height and on a lot having a street frontage greater than 50 feet, projections over the building line may vary linearly from five feet at 50 feet to eight feet at 100 feet of street frontage.

SEC. 14.4.10. WALL SIGNS.

A. Area.

1. The total sign area of wall signs facing a street shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage for a single-story building.

2. For buildings more than one story in height, the combined wall sign area shall not exceed that permitted for a single story by more than ten percent for each additional story. In no event, shall the combined wall sign area exceed by 50 percent that area permitted for a single-story building.

3. For wall signs that are made up of individual letters that use the wall of the building as background, the allowable sign area may be increased by 20 percent, provided there is no change in color between the background and the surrounding wall area.

4. The combined sign area of illuminated architectural canopy signs, roof signs and wall signs facing the same direction shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage.

5. The combined sign area of wall signs, projecting signs, monument signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs, pole signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

B. Height. A wall sign shall not extend above the top of the wall of the building.

EXCEPTION: Where there is less than three feet between the top of the wall and the top of a window, the wall sign may extend above the top of the wall by a maximum of three feet.

C. Location.

1. No wall sign shall be located on a wall that faces and is within five feet of an interior lot line.

2. Wall signs installed on a wall that faces the rear lot line and that is located within 30 feet of property that is zoned R-3 or more restrictive shall not be illuminated.

D. Projection.

1. No wall sign shall have a projection over any public street, other public property or building line greater than that permitted in Diagram A of this article.

2. No wall sign shall project more than 24 inches from the face of the building. If any message is placed on the edge of a wall sign, then that portion of the wall sign shall be regulated as a projecting sign.

E. High Rise Signs. Any wall signs located over 100 feet above grade shall be used as identification signs only. Identification signs shall comprise no more than 80 percent of the width of that portion of the building where the signs are attached. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A above, the area of these signs may constitute up to five percent of the area of the wall where the signs are attached and may be in addition to the area permitted in Subsection A above.

F. Parking Lots. Where a parking lot exists between a wall sign and the street, and there is a wall between the parking lot and the street, a portion of the total sign area permitted by this section may be used on the wall located between the parking lot and the street so long as the sign does not project beyond the lot line. The sign shall be restricted to that portion of the wall between two feet six inches and three feet six inches in height above the finished grade at the base of the wall generally facing the street.

SEC. 14.4.11. ILLUMINATED ARCHITECTURAL CANOPY SIGNS.

A. Area.

1. The area of illuminated architectural canopy signs shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage.

2. In applying sign area limits, only the area occupied by the message of the illuminated architectural canopy signs will be used.

3. The combined sign area of illuminated architectural canopy signs, roof signs and wall signs facing the same direction shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage.

4. The combined sign area of illuminated architectural canopy signs, projecting signs, monument signs, wall signs, pole signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

B. **Height.** An illuminated architectural canopy sign shall not extend above the top of the wall of a building.

C. **Clearance.** Illuminated architectural canopy signs shall have a minimum clearance of eight feet above the sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign and shall not be located closer than two feet from the curb of any roadway.

D. **Emergency Personnel Access.** Illuminated architectural canopy signs shall not occupy a four-foot distance along the exterior wall at one corner of the building's street frontage and an additional four-foot distance along every 50 feet of the building frontage.

E. **Illumination.** The sign shall be internally illuminated so as to illuminate the canopy and the exterior wall below. The illuminated architectural canopy sign shall bear the electric sign label of an approved testing agency with a re-inspection service.

F. **Projections.** Illuminated architectural canopy signs may project over a building line. However, in no event may an illuminated architectural canopy sign project more than three feet from the face of the building.

SEC. 14.4.12. POLE SIGNS.

A. **Permitted.** Pole signs shall not be permitted on that portion of a lot having less than 50 feet of street frontage. Lots having a street frontage of at least 50 feet may have a pole sign for each 200 feet or fraction of that area of street frontage, if the street frontage does not contain an existing pole sign or projecting sign.

B. Area.

1. Sign area visible to the same direction of traffic shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage.

2. The maximum area of any one pole sign shall not exceed 400 square feet.

3. Any pole sign that is located at the street corner of a corner lot may use the greater street frontage for area limitations.

4. The combined sign area of pole signs, projecting signs, monument signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs, wall signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

C. **Height.** Height shall be measured from the nearest sidewalk or edge of roadway grade to the top of the sign. The overall height limitation shall be determined by street frontage as follows:

1. 25 feet for lots having 50 feet of street frontage;
2. 35 feet for lots having more than 50 feet and less than 100 feet of street frontage; and
3. 42 feet for lots having at least 100 feet of street frontage.

Any pole sign that is located at the street corner of a corner lot may use the greater street frontage for determining height limitations. In no event shall a sign exceed the height specified for the height district in which the sign is located.

D. Location.

1. Pole signs shall be located at least ten feet from interior lot lines; however, on corner lots and flag lots, pole signs may be located five feet from interior lot lines.
2. A pole sign shall be located at least 15 feet from any other pole sign, projecting sign or monument sign.
3. Pole signs shall be located so as not to interfere or present a hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
4. Where the lower part of a pole sign is less than eight feet above sidewalk grade or the edge of roadway grade nearest the sign, the sign shall extend to grade or shall be installed in a planter that extends beyond the edges of the sign and sign support structure and that is a minimum of 18 inches in height.

E. Projections. A pole sign may project over a building line, but shall not extend beyond the limits shown in Diagram A of this article. Sign projections shall fall within an area that is perpendicular to the building line and has a width of three feet as measured parallel to the building line.

F. Other Requirements. A maximum of two poles shall be permitted for any pole sign. The maximum cross-sectional dimension of a pole shall not exceed ten percent of the overall height of the sign.

SEC. 14.4.13. ROOF SIGNS.

A. Permitted. Roof signs shall be permitted only when placed directly upon a roof that slopes downward toward and extends to or over the top of an exterior wall.

B. Area.

1. Sign area shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage.

2. The maximum area of any one roof sign shall not exceed 300 square feet.

3. The combined area of roof signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs and wall signs facing the same direction shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage, plus one square foot for each foot of building frontage.

4. The combined sign area of wall signs, projecting signs, monument signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs, pole signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

C. **Height.** The top of the roof sign shall be located at least two feet below the ridge of the roof.

D. **Location.**

1. Roof signs shall be located at least ten feet from interior lot lines.

2. Roof signs shall be located at least two feet from the edge of the roof.

3. The plane of the sign face of a roof sign shall be approximately parallel to the face of the building.

SEC. 14.4.13. WINDOW SIGNS.

A. **Area.** The total area of all window signs shall not exceed ten percent of the area of the window.

B. **Combined Area.** The combined sign area of wall signs, projecting signs, monument signs, illuminated architectural canopy signs, pole signs, roof signs and window signs shall not exceed four square feet for each foot of street frontage.

SEC. 14.4.15. MARQUEE SIGNS.

A. **General Requirements.** Marquee signs shall comply with the requirements set forth in Section 3102 of the CBC and the following provisions of this Code: Sections 14.4.3 A; 14.4.4 A; 14.4.5; 14.4.6; 91.6205; and 91.6207.

B. **Location.** Signs shall not be attached to any portion of the marquee except on the periphery. Wall signs on the periphery shall not extend above or below the periphery. Cloth or banner signs or drop-roll curtains may be suspended below the exterior periphery and extend within seven feet of the grade.

SEC. 14.4.16. TEMPORARY SIGNS.

A. Permit Required. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a building permit shall be required for a temporary sign, pennant, banner, ribbon, streamer or spinner, other than one that contains a political, ideological or other noncommercial message. The permit application shall specify the dates being requested for authorized installation and the proposed location.

B. Area.

1. The combined sign area of temporary signs shall not exceed two square feet for each foot of street frontage.

2. The combined sign area of temporary signs, when placed upon a window and any other window signs shall not exceed a maximum of ten percent of the window area.

C. Time Limit.

1. Temporary signs that require a permit shall be removed within 30 days of installation and shall not be reinstalled for a period of 30 days of the date of removal of the previous sign. The installation of temporary signs shall not exceed a total of 90 days in any calendar year.

2. Temporary signs that do not require a permit shall be removed within 30 days of the date of installation of the sign.

D. Location. Temporary signs, including those that do not require a building permit, may be tacked, pasted or otherwise temporarily affixed to windows and/or on the walls of buildings, barns, sheds or fences.

E. Construction. Temporary signs may contain or consist of posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers or spinners. Temporary signs may be made of paper or any other material. If the temporary sign is made of cloth, it shall be flameproofed when the aggregate area exceeds 100 square feet. Every temporary cloth sign shall be supported and attached with stranded cable of 1/16-inch minimum diameter or by other methods as approved by the Department of Building and Safety.

SEC. 14.4.17. TEMPORARY SIGNS ON TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION WALLS.

A. Permit Required. A building permit shall be required for a temporary sign on a temporary construction wall. Temporary signs on temporary construction walls shall comply with the construction requirements of Section 14.4.16 E.

For purposes of this section, the term “applicant” shall mean the owner of the sign company or, if there is no sign company, the owner of the property.

B. Area. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 14.4.16 B 1 and 2 of this Code, signs placed on temporary construction walls, and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots pursuant to the terms of this section shall not extend above the top of the wall or fence and shall comply with the following:

1. The combined sign area of temporary signs shall not exceed eight square feet for each foot of street frontage.
2. Individual signs shall not exceed a sign area of 250 square feet.
3. Signs may be grouped to form a maximum sign area of 250 square feet.
4. Signs or groups of signs having an area of 250 square feet shall be separated from any other sign on the temporary construction walls and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots by at least ten feet measured horizontally.

C. Time Limit. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 14.4.16 C 1 and 2 of this Code, signs placed on temporary construction walls, and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots pursuant to the terms of this section shall be allowed to remain for as long as the building permits associated with the construction site remain in effect or for a period of two years, whichever is less. Building permits for signs on solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots, which are not construction sites, shall be issued for a time period not to exceed one year. The Department of Building and Safety shall grant a new building permit for a period equal to the original building permit term upon the receipt of (i) an application for a new building permit, (ii) the payment of the building permit fee and (iii) a written statement from the Director of the Office of Community Beautification consenting to the new building permit.

D. Height. Signs may only be placed to a maximum height of eight feet.

E. Location. Temporary signs placed on the exterior surfaces of any temporary construction walls, and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots are limited to lots located in a commercial or industrial zone.

F. Special Requirements for Signs on Temporary Construction Walls, and/or Solid Wood Fences Surrounding Vacant Lots.

1. **Review by the Office of Community Beautification.** At any time after the issuance of a building permit under this section and upon request of the Council district office of the Council district in which the site or lot is located, the Office of Community Beautification of the Department of Public Works (Office of Community Beautification) shall investigate an area consisting of a 500-foot

radius around the permitted site or lot to determine whether there exists a public nuisance due to the presence of graffiti and/or posters/handbills on light poles, utility poles, bus stops, and any other illegal postings on public property.

If the Office of Community Beautification cannot establish that the area constitutes a public nuisance because of the presence of graffiti, posters/handbills and any other illegal postings on public property within a 500-foot radius around the permitted site or lot, then the Office of Community Beautification shall expand the radius around the site or lot in 250-foot increments, up to a maximum radius of 1500-feet. If the Office of Community Beautification finds the existence of a public nuisance on public property within the expanded radius area beyond the original 500 foot radius, then it shall require the applicant to abate the public nuisance in the expanded radius area in accordance with Subdivision 3, below.

2. Notification of Locations for Placement of Signs. Within ten days after the issuance of the building permit, the applicant shall provide written notification to the Office of Community Beautification and the Council district office of the Council district in which the construction site or vacant lot is located. The notification shall contain the name and address of the applicant and the property address where the signs will be placed. The notification to the Office of Community Beautification shall include a copy of the applicant's contract with the property owner to post signs at the specified location.

3. Nuisance Abatement. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to clean and maintain free from graffiti public property and rights-of-way within an area consisting of a 500-foot radius or any expanded radius required by the Office of Community Beautification around the permitted site or lot. The applicant shall patrol the abatement area every 24 hours to search for graffiti and remove any graffiti within 24 hours of its discovery. The removal of graffiti shall include, but not be limited to, spray paint on walls, poles, and fences on public property. In addition, the applicant shall also be responsible for removing any posters/handbills on light poles, utility poles, bus stops, and any other illegal postings on public property. At the time of graffiti removal, the applicant shall also remove any trash, debris or rubbish from the public sidewalks within the abatement area around the permitted site. The Office of Community Beautification shall enforce the provisions of this subsection.

4. Permit Revocation. Any building permit issued pursuant to this section may be revoked by the Department of Building and Safety for any of the following reasons, provided a written and signed notification of the applicant's failure to comply with Paragraphs (a), (d), (e) or (f) of this subsection is sent to the Department of Building and Safety by the Director of the Office of Community Beautification:

(a) Failure by the applicant to maintain the temporary construction wall and/or solid wood fence surrounding a vacant lot free from graffiti.

(b) Failure by the applicant to comply with the terms of the permit.

(c) Failure by the applicant to maintain the bond required in Subsection A of this section.

(d) Failure by the applicant to eradicate graffiti within a 500-foot radius or any expanded radius required by the Office of Community Beautification of the temporary construction wall, and/or solid wood fence surrounding a vacant lot within 24 hours of receiving notification of the presence of graffiti from the Office of Community Beautification or the Council staff in the Council district in which the construction site or vacant lot is located.

(e) Failure by the applicant to remove posters/handbills placed on light poles, utility poles, bus stops and any other illegal postings on public property within a 500-foot radius or any expanded radius required by the Office of Community Beautification of the temporary construction wall, and/or solid wood fence surrounding a vacant lot, within 24 hours of receiving notification of the presence of posters/handbills or other illegal postings from the Office of Community Beautification or the Council staff in the Council district in which the construction site or vacant lot is located.

(f) Failure by the applicant, at the time of graffiti removal, to remove trash, debris or rubbish from the public sidewalks within the abatement area around the permitted site.

5. Removal of Signs. If the Department of Building and Safety revokes the building permit allowing signs on temporary construction walls, and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots, then any signs placed on the temporary construction walls and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots shall be removed by the applicant within 72 hours after receipt of written notification.

6. Public Nuisance. Any signs remaining on temporary construction walls, and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots after the building permit is revoked are deemed to be a public nuisance that can be abated by utilizing the procedure contained in Section 91.8904, *et seq.*, of the Code.

7. Office of Community Beautification. The Office of Community Beautification is hereby designated the authorized representative of the City for the purpose of enforcing and implementing the provisions of Sections 91.8904.1.2 and 91.8307 of this Code to remove the nuisances described in this section.

SEC. 14.4.18. OFF-SITE SIGNS.

A. **Area.** The sign area of a single face shall not exceed 800 square feet.

B. Height.

1. The height to the top of the off-site sign shall be limited to a maximum of 42 feet above the sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign, except that a sign that is more than 80 percent above a roof of a building may extend to the top of the sign a maximum of 30 feet above the surface of the roof under the sign.

2. In no event shall the height to the top of the off-site sign exceed a height greater than that height specified for the height district in which the sign is located, or a height of 60 feet above the sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign, whichever is more restrictive.

3. The bottom of the off-site sign shall be at least eight feet above the sidewalk grade or edge of roadway grade nearest the sign.

C. Location.

1. No portion of an off-site sign with a sign area greater than 80 square feet shall be placed within 200 feet of a residentially zoned lot, which is located on the same side of the same street as the lot on which the sign is placed. However, where a lot has two or more street frontages, a sign may be located on that street frontage, which is not on the same street as the residentially zoned lot; provided the sign and sign support structure are placed in that half of the lot that is the farthest from the street frontage on which the residentially zoned lot is located.

2. No portion of an off-site sign or sign support structure shall be located in that half of a lot located farthest from the street frontage when residentially zoned property is located to the rear of that street frontage.

3. Off-site signs are not permitted along that portion of a lot having a street frontage of less than 50 feet.

4. No more than four off-site signs shall be located at the intersection of two or more streets when the off-site signs are located within 150 feet of the intersection of two street frontages.

5. An off-site sign face shall not be located within one foot of an interior lot line.

D. Frontage Determination on Lots with Lot Lines Adjoining More Than One Street.

1. An off-site sign shall be considered to be on a single street for purposes of Sections 14.14.18 A and 14.14.18 D of this Code if the sign and its support structure are located entirely on the side of the bisecting line closest to that street and the sign face is placed at the same angle as the perpendicular line or at an angle not to exceed 20 degrees from either side of the perpendicular line as shown on Diagram C of this article.

2. An off-site sign located on a through lot shall be located on a single street if the sign and its support structure are located entirely on that half of the lot closest to the lot line adjoining that street.

Any off-site sign not in conformance with either Subdivision 1 or 2 above shall be considered to be located on more than one street frontage.

E. Spacing.

1. An off-site sign, which is either single-faced or parallel double-faced, shall be spaced as specified in Table No. B of this article from any other existing or previously permitted off-site sign, which is single-faced or parallel double-faced.

2. For any double-faced off-site sign, the spacing requirements shall be based on the area of the largest sign face.

3. For double-faced off-site signs whose faces are not parallel, the spacing between any proposed, permitted or existing off-site sign shall be determined by the following formula:

$$D = S \left[1 + \frac{(B - 5)}{90} \right]$$

WHERE:

D = required spacing between signs, in feet.

S = sign spacing determined from Table No. B below in feet.

B = widest edge separation of sign faces in feet.

4. Spacing shall be measured between off-site signs that are located on the same side of the same street. Spacing shall be measured from a line that is perpendicular to the building line and that passes through a point on the building

line that is closest to the nearest sign face edge. Spacing shall be measured along the center line of the street.

F. Double-faced Off-Site Signs.

1. Off-site signs may be either single or double-faced.
2. For double-faced off-site signs whose faces are parallel, the distance between sign faces shall not exceed six feet.
3. For double-faced off-site signs whose faces are not parallel, the distance between sign faces at their widest point shall not exceed 35 feet. The separation of sign faces at their closest point shall not exceed six feet. In no event shall the angle between sign faces exceed 37 degrees.

G. Projection. Off-site signs shall not project beyond the building line.

H. Covering. The backs of off-site signs exposed to public view shall be covered with a finished surface or material and shall be properly maintained.

I. Other Requirements.

1. A maximum of two poles shall be permitted for any off-site sign. The maximum cross-sectional dimension of a pole shall not exceed ten percent of the overall height of the sign.
2. Off-site sign supports shall be structurally independent of a building.
3. Sign support structures must be located directly under the sign face as viewed from the front of the sign. The maximum horizontal distance between the center of the sign support structure and the sign face shall not exceed ten feet.

SEC. 14.4.19. AWNING SIGNS.

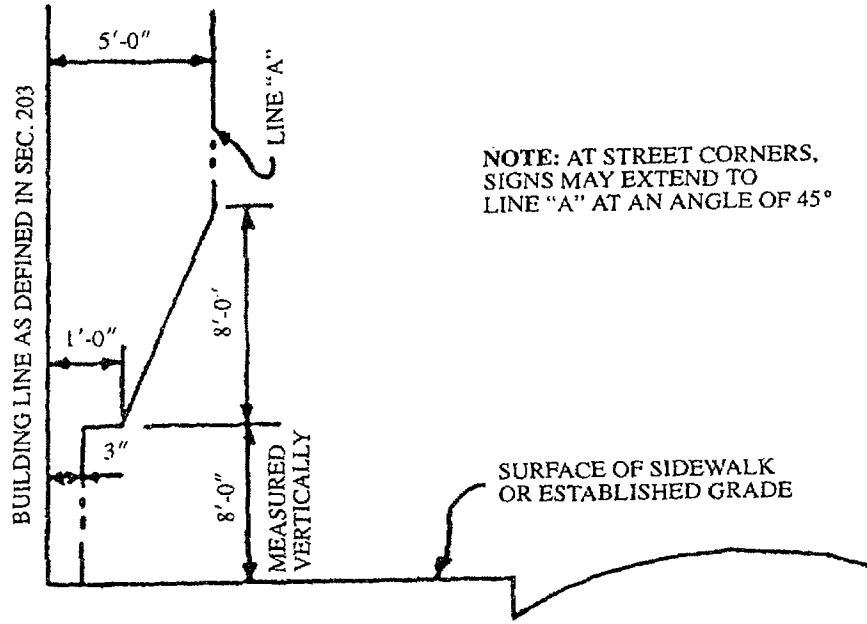
No sign shall be placed on any portion of an awning except the valance. The sign area is limited to a maximum of 12 inches in height on the portion of the valance that is parallel to the building face, and only when the awning complies with all applicable provisions of Sections 91.3202 and 91.3202.3.1 of this Code. Signs are not permitted on awnings with a valance above a height of 14 feet as measured from the nearest sidewalk or edge of roadway grade to the top of the valance.

SEC. 14.4.20. MURAL SIGNS.

Approval for mural signs shall be obtained from the Cultural Heritage Commission. The placement, height, and overall area of a mural sign shall be as approved by the Cultural Heritage Commission. In making its determination, the Cultural Heritage

Commission shall find that the proposed sign does not conflict with the purposes and objectives set forth in Section 14.4.1 of this Code.

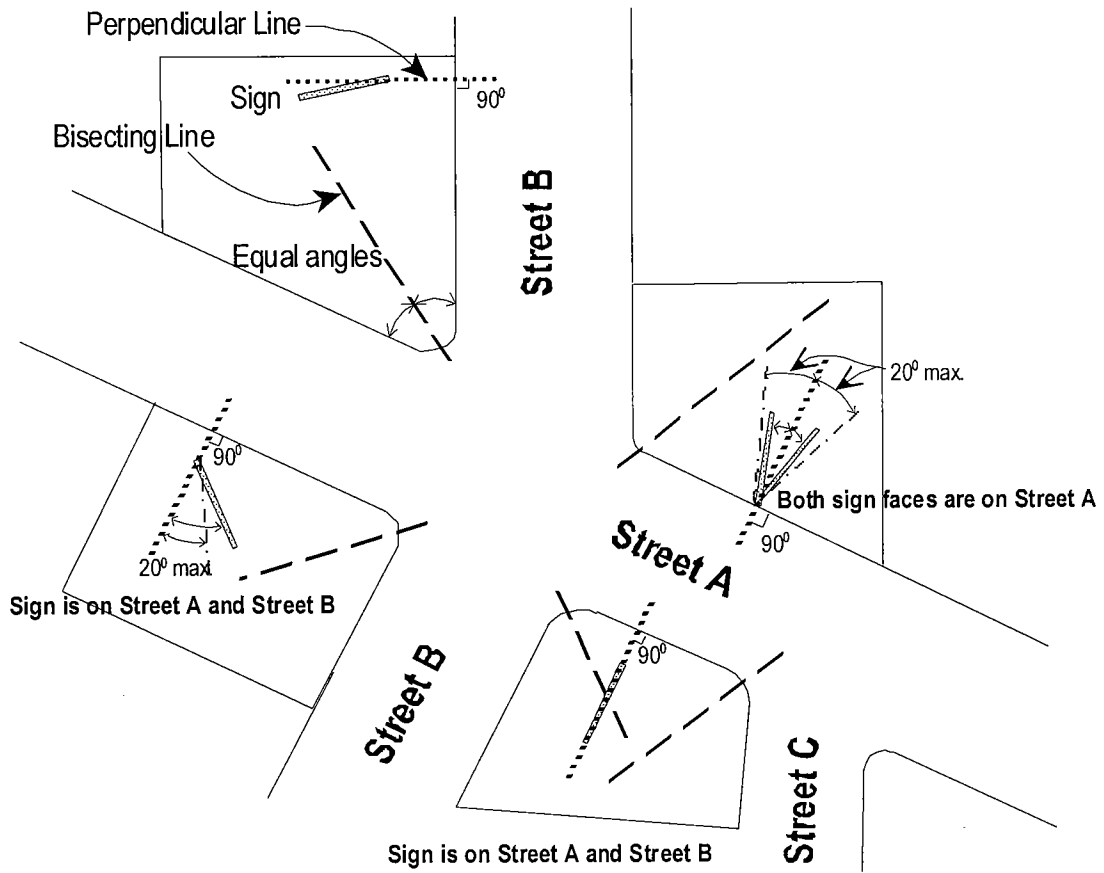
DIAGRAM A



**TABLE NO. B
SPACING REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN OFF-SITE SIGNS**

	Sign Area	PROPOSED SIGN		
		Less than 80 sq. ft.	80 sq. ft. to 300 sq. ft.	Greater than 300 sq. ft.
Existing or Permitted Sign	Less than 80 sq. ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	200 ft.
	80 sq. ft. to 300 sq. ft.	100 ft.	300 ft.	300 ft.
	Greater than 300 sq. ft.	200 ft.	300 ft.	600 ft.

DIAGRAM C



Sec. 2. Section 91.6201.2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read:

91.6201.2. Sign Permits.

1. A building permit shall be obtained from the Department in accordance with the provisions of Section 91.106 of this Code for any sign (including a temporary sign) and/or sign alteration, other than changes or replacement of copy, that are regulated by this division or by Chapter I of the LAMC. Where signs are illuminated by electric lighting, an electrical permit shall also be obtained as required by the Electrical Code.

EXCEPTION: The following signs are exempt from the requirements to obtain a permit before erection:

a. Signs not exceeding 20 square feet in area, placed upon the surface of the ground, no part of which extends more than six feet six inches above the underlying ground, which have no mechanical or moving parts or to which no electricity or other source of illumination or power are attached to or made a part of the sign. Signs that fit within this category shall be separated from each other a minimum distance of 15 feet.

b. Boards and signs used exclusively to display official notices issued by any court or public officer in the performance of a public duty or by a private person in giving legal notice.

c. Temporary signs containing political, ideological, or other noncommercial messages.

2. Prior to the issuance of a building permit(s) for temporary signs on temporary construction walls, and/or solid wood fences surrounding vacant lots pursuant to Section 14.4.17 of this Code, the applicant shall post with the Department of Building and Safety a bond in the amount of \$10,000.00, guaranteeing compliance with all conditions of the permit and the provisions of this ordinance. The applicant may post a surety bond, cash bond or negotiable United States Treasury Certificates of the kind approved by law for securing deposits of public money in accordance with the provisions of Section 91.8305, *et seq.*, of this Code. Only one bond shall be required of each applicant regardless of the number of locations for which the applicant has requested a building permit for a temporary sign on temporary construction fences or fences surrounding vacant lots.

For purposes of this subsection, the term "applicant" shall mean the owner of the sign company or, if there is no sign company, the owner of the property.

3. The Department may revoke any sign permit as provided in LAMC Section 98.0601(a).

Sec. 3. **Operative Date.** The provisions of this ordinance shall become operative on January 1, 2008.

Sec. 4. **Urgency Clause.** The City Council finds and declares that this ordinance is required for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety for the following reasons:

For many years, the City has enjoyed the protections provided by comprehensive sign regulations. These regulations have contributed to the betterment of the community by preventing visual clutter and providing for the community's orderly and attractive appearance. In addition, these regulations have prevented hazards to traffic and provided for the safe construction, location and maintenance of signs.

On May 20, 1986, two ordinances, one regulating on-site signs and the other regulating off-site signs, went into effect. Both ordinances established these sign regulations in the Building Code. On January 1, 2008, a new Building Code will take effect based on the International Building Code (IBC). The IBC does not provide the same level of benefit as the sign regulations currently in the City's Building Code. Regulations that differ from those in the IBC cannot be retained unless justified on the basis of climate, geology or topography.

The existing sign provisions in the Building Code and proposed to be transferred into the Planning and Zoning Code regulate the size, location, type and appearance of signs they cannot be justified on the basis of climate, geology or topography. Accordingly, unless immediately transferred into the Planning and Zoning Code, these sign regulations will cease to exist on January 1, 2008.

In order to continue benefitting from its comprehensive sign regulations the City must ensure there is no interruption in their enforcement. As such, in order to preserve the orderly appearance of the community and prevent the proliferation of signs and sign clutter, this ordinance shall therefore become effective upon publication pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 253.

Sec. 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, **by a vote of not less than three-fourths** of all of its members, at its meeting of DEC 04 2007.

FRANK T. MARTINEZ, City Clerk


By  Deputy

Approved _____

Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By 
SHARON SIEDORF CARDENAS
Assistant City Attorney

Date NOV 16 2007

Pursuant to Charter Section 559, I **disapprove** this ordinance on behalf of the City Planning Commission and recommend that it **not** be adopted

November 16, 2007

See attached report.

 For GG
S. Gail Goldberg
Director of Planning

Said ordinance was presented to the Mayor on December 4, 2007; the Mayor returned said ordinance to the City Clerk on December 18, 2007 without his approval or his objections in writing, being more than ten days after the same was presented to the Mayor.

Said ordinance shall become effective and be as valid as if the Mayor had approved and signed it. (Section 250(b), City Charter)

C.F. 07-2664-S1