

**AN ORDINANCE
OF THE
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

By Schiff

Amending Title 20, Chapter 543 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Zoning Code: On-Premise Signs.

The City Council of the City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 543 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances be amended by including Sections 543.70 – 543.80 under the title of ARTICLE II. COMPUTATIONS.

Section 2. That Section 543.100 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

543.100. Permits required. (a) *In general.* No person shall paint or install any sign without first obtaining a permit from the zoning administrator. An application for a sign permit shall be filed on a form approved by the zoning administrator along with all supporting documentation including the permit fee. The fee for such permit shall be as set forth in Chapter 91, Permit Fees, of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances.

(b) *Exceptions.* No sign permit shall be required for the installation of the following signs:

- (1) Any sign that is less than three (3) square feet in area and which merely announces the name of the proprietor or the nature of the business conducted at that location.
- (2) Portable sign less than twelve (12) square feet in area.
- (3) Real estate or project information sign less than eight (8) square feet in area and six (6) feet in height.
- (4) Signs placed on the inside of any building that are not visible or intended to be visible from the exterior of the building.
- (5) Window sign, except a dynamic sign.
- (6) Replacement of the changeable copy portion of a sign having a stationary framework or structure. ~~(7) Approved signs loosened from their supports and taken down, painted and replaced without any~~

change having been made in their size, form, or illumination, or in the ownership thereof.

(7) Approved signs loosened from their supports and taken down, painted and replaced without any change having been made in their size, form, or illumination, or in the ownership thereof.

(8) Repainting any legal, existing sign when there is no change in copy or size for which previous permits had been issued.

Section 3. That Table 543-2 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

Table 543-2 Specific Standards for Signs in the OR2, OR3 and Commercial Districts

		Zoning District Sign Standards					
		OR2, OR3	C1	C2	C3A	C3S	C4
Signs Attached to Buildings							
Size Allocation	For all districts except C3S, one (1) sq. ft. of signage per one (1) ft. of primary building wall if a freestanding sign is on the same zoning lot. If there is no freestanding sign on the same zoning lot, one and one-half (1.5) sq. ft. of signage for each one (1) ft. of primary building wall. For the C3S District, two (2) sq. ft. of signage per <u>one (1) ft. of</u> primary building wall. Sign area based upon one (1) primary building wall shall not be placed on any other building wall.						
Minimum sign area guaranteed for a ground floor nonresidential use that comprises a portion of a building wall	30 sq. ft						
Maximum number of signs	No limit within size allocation						
Maximum area per sign, except projecting signs	180 sq. ft. except neighbor-hood serving	45 sq. ft.	180 sq. ft	180 sq. ft.	300 sq. ft.	180 sq. ft.	

	retail and services shall not exceed 30 sq. ft.					
Maximum area per projecting sign	12 sq. ft.	16 sq. ft.	20 sq. ft.	48 sq. ft.	24 sq. ft.	20 sq. ft.
Lighting of signs	Yes, but no backlit signs.					
Maximum height of signs	14 ft ¹	14 ft ¹	28 ft.	No limit	No limit	28 ft.
Types of signs attached to buildings allowed						
Wall signs	Yes					
Projecting signs	Yes, but a projecting sign shall not extend outward from the building more than four (4) ft.					
Awning, canopy and marquee signs	Yes, but no backlit awning or canopy signs.					
Dynamic Changeable Copy Signs	Yes, see Section 543.330.					
Dynamic signs	No	No	Yes, see Section 543.340			
Window signs	Yes					
Freestanding Signs						
Size allocation	One (1) sq. ft. of signage per one (1) ft. of frontage, subject to the zoning district sign area limitations. Where there is more than one (1) frontage, sign area shall be based upon the frontage toward which the sign is oriented. Sign area based upon one (1) frontage shall not be placed on another frontage except as otherwise provided in the C3S District.					
Maximum number of signs (See also Section 543. 360)	1 per zoning lot	1 per zoning lot	1 per zoning lot	1 per zoning lot	1 per 600 ft. of primary frontage or fraction thereof, but not more than two	1 per zoning lot

					(2), and 1 per secondary frontage of 600 ft. or more	
Maximum area per sign	32 sq. ft.	54 sq. ft.	80 sq. ft.	80 sq. ft.	One (1) sign up to 250 sq. ft. on the primary frontage . All other signs 80 sq. ft.	80 sq. ft.
Lighting of signs	Yes, but no backlit signs.					
Maximum height of signs	8 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft. except pole signs shall not exceed 16 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft. except pole signs shall not exceed 24 feet	8 ft. except pole signs shall not exceed 16 ft.
When not allowed	For all districts except C3S, a freestanding sign shall not be allowed if existing signs attached to buildings on the same zoning lot exceed one (1) sq. ft. of signage for each one (1) ft. of primary building wall. For the C3S District, a freestanding sign shall not be allowed if existing signs attached to buildings on the same zoning lot exceed two (2) sq. ft. of signage for each one (1) ft. or of primary building wall.					
Location restriction	A freestanding sign may be located in a required front or corner side yard not exceeding eight (8) ft. and shall be no closer than ten (10) ft. from the nearest residence or office residence district boundary.					
Types of freestanding signs allowed						
Monument Signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pole Signs	No	No	No	No	No	No
Dynamic Changeable Copy Signs	Yes, see Section 543.330.					

Service Area Canopy Signs	Yes, see Section 543.430.
Auxiliary Signs	Yes, see Section 543.300.

¹ Where a building contains a nonresidential use above the ground floor, one (1) sign for such use not higher than twenty-eight (28) ft. shall be allowed.

Section 4. That Section 543.280 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

543.280. Regional sports arena. *(a) In General.* Signs accessory to regional sports arenas shall be regulated by the sign standards for the Downtown Entertainment Area as specified in Table 543-3, Specific Standards for Signs in the Downtown Districts, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(b) Roof signs. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, signs attached to the wall or roof of a regional sports arena are allowed, provided they shall not extend higher than twenty (20) feet above the top of the building wall. Signs applied flat on the roof and which are intended to be primarily viewed from above are allowed.

(c) Maximum area per signs attached to buildings. There shall be no limit to the maximum area per sign within the size allocation allowed pursuant to Table 543-3 for signs attached to buildings.

(d) Sign placement. Sign area allowed based upon the length of a primary building wall pursuant to Table 543-3 shall not be limited in placement to the primary building wall upon which it is based but may be placed upon any primary building wall.

(e) Freestanding signs. One (1) freestanding sign shall be allowed. The maximum height of a freestanding sign shall be thirty-five (35) feet. The sign may be a back-to-back sign with a maximum of one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet of signage on each side. If the sign includes both on-premise and off-premise advertising, the total amount of signage shall not exceed one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet on each side.

Section 5. That Section 543.390 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

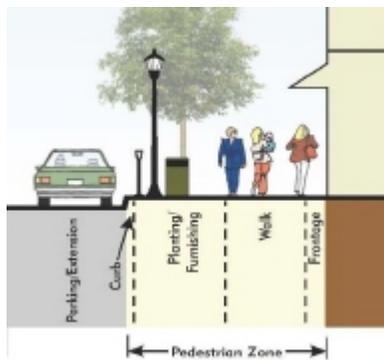
543.390. Portable signs. *(a) In general.* Portable signs shall be prohibited on the public right-of-way in the downtown area bounded by Interstate 35W, Interstate 94, Plymouth Avenue, and the Mississippi River, except as required or permitted in connection with an approved valet parking license or sidewalk café permit.

(b) *Limits.* Portable signs shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area, shall not be illuminated, and shall be of sufficient weight to prevent movement by wind.

(c) *On the public right-of-way.* Portable signs may be allowed on the public right-of-way outside of the downtown area, as defined in 543.390(a) section (a) above. Portable signs shall be placed in the Planting/Furnishing Zone or Frontage Zone, and shall ~~not be placed in the Through Walk Zone~~ be prohibited in the Walk Zone, as indicated in Figure 543-1. Portable signs shall ~~not obstruct the public sidewalk~~ and shall not be attached to public infrastructure.

(d) *Exemption from regulations on number of freestanding signs.* Portable signs shall be exempt from the restrictions on the number of freestanding signs allowed on a zoning lot, provided such portable signs shall not exceed four (4) feet in height and there shall be not more than one (1) such portable sign per street frontage.

Figure 543-1:



Section 6. That Section 543.490 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed.

~~**543.490. Procedure.** An application for a sign adjustment shall be considered an application for a conditional use permit or a variance, as specified in Chapter 525, Administration and Enforcement. In addition to the conditional use permit or variance standards, the approval criteria of this article shall be met before a sign adjustment may be approved.~~

Section 7. That Section 543.500 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed.

~~**543.500. Approval criteria.** Adjustment to the number, type, height, area or location of allowed signs on property located in an OR2 or OR3 District or a commercial, downtown or industrial district may be approved if the following criteria are met:~~

~~(1) The sign adjustment will not significantly increase or lead to sign clutter in the area or result in a sign that is inconsistent with the purpose of the zoning district in which the property is located.~~

~~(2) The sign adjustment will allow a sign that relates in size, shape, materials, color, illumination and character to the function and architectural character of the building or property on which the sign will be located.~~

Section 8. That Section 543.410 of the above-entitled ordinance be renumbered as follows:

543.400490. Purpose. Sign adjustments are intended to allow flexibility in the application of the sign regulations for properties located in a OR2, OR3, commercial, downtown or industrial district by allowing sign adjustments that recognize unusual site conditions and that are consistent with the character of the area and the design of the site

Section 9. That Section 543.410 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended as follows:

543.410500. Procedure. An application for a sign adjustment shall be considered an application for a conditional use permit or a variance, as specified in Chapter 525, Administration and Enforcement. In addition to the conditional use permit or variance standards, the approval criteria of this article shall be met before a sign adjustment may be approved.

Section 10. That Section 543.420 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

543.420510. Approval criteria. Adjustment to the number, type, height, area or location of allowed signs on property located in an OR2 or OR3 District or a commercial, downtown or industrial district may be approved if the following criteria are met:

(1) The sign adjustment will not significantly increase or lead to sign clutter in the area or result in a sign that is inconsistent with the purpose of the zoning district in which the property is located.

(2) The sign adjustment will allow a sign that relates in size, shape, materials, color, illumination and character to the function and architectural character of the building or property on which the sign will be located.