

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

ORDINANCE NO. 285

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS AMENDING TITLE 18 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SECTION 18.13.010 RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE REGULATION OF SIGNS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

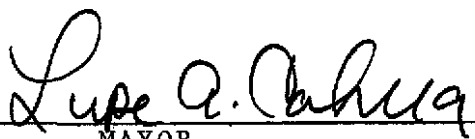
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Title 18 of the Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Section 18.13.010, Sign Regulations, which is attached hereto and is labeled Exhibit "A"

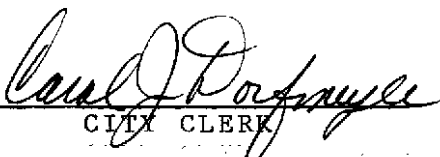
SECTION 2. The City Clerk is instructed to certify to the adoption of this ordinance and to cause the same to be posted or advertised in the manner required by law.

SECTION 3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute this ordinance on behalf of the City Council, and the City Clerk or her duly appointed Deputy, is directed to attest thereto.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED OF THIS 27TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1985, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS.


MAYOR


ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

I, Carol J. Dorfmeier, City Clerk of the City of Hawaiian Gardens do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 285 was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens on the 27th day of August, 1985, by the following roll call vote, and as the same appears on file and of record in the office of the City Clerk.

AYES: Vineyard, Myers, Ferguson,
Sher, Cabrera

NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


CITY CLERK

58

EXHIBIT "A"; SIGN REGULATIONS

- A. Purpose. Signs have definite impact on the character and quality of the City. As a permanent part of the commercial-industrial scenery, signs can either attract or repel the viewing public and affect the safety of vehicular traffic in the City. Additionally, attractive signs can help set the tone of the residential urban environment and diminish some of the conditions which lead to urban blight.

In keeping with the goals of the City of Hawaiian Gardens General Plan, to beautify the City and to protect and preserve the property values, visual character, public health, safety and welfare, and economic prosperity of the community, it is the intent of this Ordinance to control all signs and advertising structures erected within the City boundaries.

- B. Intent. In adopting this ordinance the City of Hawaiian Gardens intends to implement the following concepts.
1. All signs shall be compatible with the visual character and architectural design of surrounding buildings and landscaping.
 2. Signing of individual businesses or property owners should not conflict or interfere or compete with other signing.
 3. Sign design shall be consistent with the highest established graphic standards.
 4. Sign owners are strongly encouraged to replace those signs which do not conform to the purposes and policies set forth in this Chapter.

C. Definitions:

Definitions that apply particularly to this Sign Ordinance are defined as follows:

1. Administrative Conditional Use Permit. An administrative approval subject to any conditions staff may impose in the interest of public health, safety or general welfare. Any applicant aggrieved by the conditions as required by staff may appeal the Administrative Conditional Use Permit by applying for a conditional use permit, paying the appropriate fees and by submitting all requirements of such permit. The matter will then be set for a public hearing before the Planning Commission and the final decision shall be made by the City Council.
2. Advertising Sign. Any sign with writing, printing, picture, painting, display, emblem, symbol, drawing or similar device intended to solicit patronage or support of the public or to invite or draw attention to any goods, merchandise, real property, commercial business, services, entertainment, or amusement, manufactured, produced, conducted, furnished or dealt in by any person, or for any political purpose.
3. Aerial Sign. Any sign attached to, painted on, or suspended from a balloon, kite, or similar device secured to any real property within the City of Hawaiian Gardens.
4. Area of a Sign. The entire area within a single continuous perimeter that enclose the extreme limits of writing, representation, logo, or any figure of similar character, together with any frame, background area, structural trim, or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such sign from the background against which it is placed. For purposes of this Ordinance the supports or uprights on which any such sign is supported shall not be included in determining the sign area unless such supports are designed in such a manner as to form an integral background of the display.

5. Awnings and Canopy Fascia. Awnings shall include any structure made of cloth or metal or a frame attached to a building and which projects from the same so as to cover a sidewalk or other public accessway. Canopy shall include any structure, other than an awning, with frames attached to a building, projecting therefrom and or carried by frames supported at grade level. Whenever such awning or canopy fascia is affixed with any lettering, design, symbol or made from any special material which is intended to be or by its nature is a special identification, the applicable measurable area of the awning or canopy fascia is a sign.
6. Changeable Copy Sign. A sign on which copy or advertisement display is either changed manually or electrically, such as readerboards and electronic message boards.
7. Civic Event Sign. Any sign posted to advertise or provide direction to a civic event sponsored by the City, a school, church, fraternal organization or similar noncommercial organization.
8. Common Lot Line. Any lot line that is held in common between two or more adjoining lots.
9. Construction Sign. Any temporary sign identifying the architect, developer, engineer, financier, contractor or other individual or firm involved with construction including announcements, of the character of the building, enterprise, or purpose for which the building is intended.
10. Curb Line. The established line at the face of the nearest curb of the abutting public street.
11. Directional Sign. A sign erected for the purpose of facilitating or controlling the efficient and safe movement of pedestrians or vehicles on private property. Such signs shall not include the name of any person, firm, company, organization or any product or service.
12. Electronic Message Board. A changeable copy sign with a lettered message that is changed electronically.

13. Facing. The plane upon, against or through which an advertisement is displayed or illustrated.
14. Free-Standing Signs. Any sign which is not attached or supported by any portion of a structure.
15. Grade Level. The average or natural topographical elevation established either by artificial earth movement or hard-surfacing at which the major portion of the adjacent site area lies; except that no specially constructed or graded area, ornamental or protective earthwork or raised landscape areas shall be used in determining grade level.
16. Height of Sign. The height of a sign shall be the overall height of the sign above grade levels, including all support structures.
17. High Free-Standing Sign. Any sign that is not physically attached to the building itself and exceeds seven (7) feet in height.
18. Identification Sign. A sign containing the name of the business, the use, or the residents located on the lot or in the building where the sign is placed and/or containing the address of the lot or building.
19. Identification Hardship. Any situation in which a business, enterprise or establishment is denied adequate sign visibility due to the location of property in question in relationship to adjacent buildings, structures and/or signs.
20. Illegal Sign. Any sign and/or advertising structure erected in the absence of a permit as required by this ordinance, or requirements of this ordinance.
21. Illuminated Sign. Any sign in which an artificial source of light is used in order to make the message readable.
22. Incidental Sign. Information sign that includes, but is not limited to, hours of operation, delivery information, credit cards accepts, and open/closed signs.

23. Logo. A design of letters, symbols, or syllables, used as a trademark or for identification in lieu of or in conjunction with other signs.
24. Lawful-Non Conforming. Any sign which was constructed in accordance with the prevailing building and planning requirements in existence at the time of initial construction, but does not conform with the requirements of the sign ordinance as adopted herein.
25. Low-Free-Standing Sign. Any sign that is not physically attached to a building and does not exceed seven (7) feet in height.
26. Non-Free-Standing Sign. Any sign that is attached to and supported by a building.
27. Off-Premise Sign. Any sign, including billboard, bus bench or shelter, poster panel, or other structure that advertises a product, service, business activity use, and/or location that is not located on the site where the sign is located.
28. Parapet. Any protective wall or barrier projecting above any canopy, balcony, or roof.
29. Permanent Sign. A sign constructed entirely of weather-resistant material and intended for permanent use.
30. Political Sign. Any sign designed to support or to oppose a candidate or proposition in a public election.
31. Projecting Sign. Any sign that is attached to a building and extends perpendicular from a vertical surface of a building.
32. Readerboard. A changeable copy sign with a lettered message that is changed manually.
33. Real Estate Sign. Any on-premises temporary sign pertaining to the sale, lease, or rental of land and/or buildings.

34. Roof Sign. Any sign that is supported by or attached to or projecting through the roof of a building or higher than the eave line or parapet wall of a building.
35. Sign. Any letters, figures, designs, symbols, trademarks, logos, or illuminated device, intended to attract attention to any place, subject, person, firm, business, product, article, or merchandise. A sign includes all parts, materials, frames, and backgrounds.
36. Temporary Sign. Any sign constructed of paper, cloth, canvas, wood, plastic, or similar material intended to be displayed for a limited period of time.
37. Under-Canopy Sign. Any sign that is suspended below a canopy perpendicular to the nearest elevation.
38. Unshielded Lighting. Illumination whose source is exposed to view and is not arranged so that the direct rays of light are only shining on the sign face.
39. Wall Sign. Any sign which is either attached to or painted on or otherwise inscribed on an exterior wall or parapet wall of any building or structure. A wall sign projecting above the top of the wall to which it is attached shall be considered a roof sign.
40. Width of Sign. The width of a sign shall be the over-all width of the sign, including all structures.
41. Window Area. Any clear or translucent glass area which has not been permanently covered by an opaque covering such as paint or wood. If an opaque covering serves as a sign, including the background for a sign, the opaque area will be considered window area and the sign, a window sign.
42. Window Sign. Any sign that is attached inside or outside of or is intended to be seen through a window.

D. Prohibited Signs

No sign, advertising structure, or display, except as otherwise provided by this sub-section, shall be erected, maintained, approved, or permitted which:

1. Create a safety hazard by encroaching into any public right-of-way or by obstructing clear view of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
2. By reason of color, size, design, content, location, or illumination may be confused with any traffic control sign or device.
3. Is erected upon any property or structure without the express or implied consent of the property owner or his authorized agent.
4. Uses live animals or human beings.
5. Bears or contains statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, pornographic, or immoral character.

E. Exempted Signs

The following signs may be displayed without a sign permit subject to any specific limitations listed herein and the other provisions of this Chapter.

1. Civic event and public service signs.
2. Governmental or other legally required posted notices or signs.
3. Political signs to be displayed not earlier than forty-five (45) days prior to a scheduled election date and to be removed within five (5) days after such election.
4. Construction signs shall be limited to one unlighted sign per project site not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area, eight (8) feet in height, or be located closer than ten (10) feet from the property line.

5. Signs Required by Law. Directional, warning, or information signs or structures required by or authorized by Federal or State law or regulation, or by a City Ordinance, Resolution, or Minute Order.
6. Real Estate Signs subject to the following conditions:
 - a. One unlighted real estate sign per frontage not to exceed six (6) square feet in area per face, six (6) feet in height pertaining only to the sale, lease, or rental of the particular building or property in any R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, MHP or A-1 zone.
 - b. One unlighted real estate sign per frontage, not to exceed fifteen (15) square feet in area per face, eight feet in height, pertaining to the sale, lease or rental of the particular building or property in a commercial or manufacturing zone.
7. One information sign identifying the business, owner, or occupant and the address, not to exceed two (2) square feet in area per elevation may be permitted in a commercial or manufacturing zone when attached flush to a door, wall, or window.
8. An approved advertising structure with changeable copy shall be exempt from permit and review requirements when the copy is changed.
9. Church signs shall be limited to one per street frontage, not to exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area per face, six (6) feet in height including architectural features.

F. Temporary Signs

1. Temporary sign permits may be issued by the Planning Director for banners, flags, aerial signs, and other non-exempted temporary signs for a non-renewable period not to exceed thirty (30) days. A minimum of thirty (30) days must elapse between the expiration

of one temporary sign permit and the granting of a second permit, provided that not more than four (4) such permits may be issued per applicant in any one calendar year.

2. Application for a temporary sign permit must contain the location and dimensions of all temporary signs, except for window and political signs, and any other pertinent information which the Planning Director determines to be essential in ensuring compliance with the ordinance.
3. No temporary sign permit shall be issued for any temporary sign until a fee of twenty five Dollars (\$25) is deposited with the City to guarantee the removal of all signs after the permitted period of time.

The deposit shall be returned to the applicant only after removal of the signs within the time specified. Any violation of the above mentioned provisions may be grounds for forfeiture of the deposit in its entirety and the deposit shall be applied to any costs incurred by the City in the removal or modification of any such temporary sign.

G. Limitations on Permanent Signs.

Signs which are not exempted shall be subject to the following conditions and limitations, in addition to the general prohibitions covered in this Ordinance.

General Provisions

1. Illumination

- a. Any sign over two square feet in area which is wholly or partially illuminated by unshielded lighting of any type, including exposed incandescent bulbs or neon tubes shall be permitted by administrative conditional use permit only.

2. Signs for Advertising

On or off premise reader boards, electronic message boards, or changeable copy signs may be erected subject to conditional use permit and other restrictions specified herein. No other sign shall be permitted for advertising purposes of any kind except to identify a business.

3. Materials

- a. All signs shall meet all applicable requirements of Chapter 62 of the Los Angeles County Building Code.
- b. All signs and/or their supporting structures shall be constructed of metal, wood, plastic or comparable weather resistant materials.
- c. All signs, together with all of their supports, braces, guy anchors, and electrical equipment, shall be kept in good repair or maintained in safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.

4. Miscellaneous

- a. All signs and their supporting structures shall be so enclosed as to provide against their infestation by birds and vermin, shall be structurally safe, and shall be maintained in good condition.
- b. Logos or identifications symbols shall be considered signs and shall conform to all provisions of this Ordinance.

H. Signs in Commercial and Manufacturing Zones

Any sign not prohibited or exempt shall be permitted in the Commercial and manufacturing zones, subject to the general provisions of subsection G and the following conditions:

1. Free-Standing Signs

a. The number of free-standing signs permitted per lot shall be one sign single or multi-faced per lot or one sign for the first 100 feet or more of frontage plus one sign for each additional 100 feet of frontage.

b. Location

A minimum 100 foot separation shall be maintained between high freestanding signs on any lot containing more than one (1) high freestanding sign.

c. Height of Signs

No high freestanding sign shall exceed forty-two (42) feet in height as measured from the existing grade of the property.

2. Non-Free-Standing Signs

a. Allowable Sign Area

Allowable sign area per business or user shall be calculated as a percentage of the area of that elevation occupied by the business or user. However, no wall area more than twenty-five (25) feet above average ground level shall be used in calculating allowable sign area.

Additionally, all permanent signs on any elevation of any building shall be included in determining actual sign area.

I. The allowable sign area for any elevation of a structure shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the first twenty five (25) in height of the structure.

- II. The allowable area for permanent window signs shall not exceed twenty five (25) percent of the total window area of that elevation.
- III. Under canopy signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet per face.
- IV. Service Station Signs. In addition to the main identification sign(s) permitted by this ordinance, service stations will be permitted two (2) double faced, low freestanding signs not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per face (sixty-four (64) square feet total, per sign), for the purposes of displaying gas, oil, credit card sales and other ancillary information necessary for the operation of a service station.

Service stations providing automotive services and/or non automotive retail sales which consume in excess of twenty (20) percent of the gross floor area of the main structure, shall be permitted an additional two (2) double faced, low freestanding signs, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per face sixty-four (64) square feet total per sign for the purpose of advertising such sales and/or services.

b. Location of Signs

- I. Wall signs adjacent to alleys, pedestrian walkways, public right of ways or any other location where the Planning Department determines such location could cause a public safety hazard, shall not project horizontally more than eighteen (18) inches from their attachment to the building.
- II. Under canopy signs shall have a minimum clearance above grade of eight (8) feet over walkways and twelve (12) feet over driveways or alleys.

- c. Dimensions of Signs. Sign dimensions shall be consistent with the limitations on sign area and location; however, no under canopy sign shall be larger than one foot thick.

I. Signs in R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, MHP and A-1 Zones

Signs which are not prohibited or exempted by other subsections in this section shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:

1. Two (2) unlighted signs at the main entrance to any subdivision not exceeding twenty four (24) square feet in area or six (6) feet in height, provided such sign is attached to a masonry wall and does not extend above or project out from the wall and contains only the name of the sub-division.
2. One unlighted sign for each multiple unit development of five units or more, not to exceed 24 square feet in area or six (6) feet in height unless an architectural feature provided for such a sign is attached on a masonry wall or building wall and contains only the name of the development and street address.

J. Sign Permits and Sign Review

1. For all signs other than those that are prohibited and those that are exempt, a sign permit shall be obtained from the Planning Department prior to installation.
2. Applications for sign permits shall be submitted to the Planning Department and shall be accompanied by the following information:
 - a. The appropriate number of copies of the sign plan as determined by the Planning Director indicating:
 - I. Location of property on which sign is to be located;
 - II. Position of each sign and its relation to adjacent buildings and structures;
 - III. The proposed height, size, shape, color, construction materials, and design of each sign and supporting structure;

- IV. The names and addresses of the applicant and property owner;
 - V. The endorsement of either the property owner, applicant, or an authorized representative;
 - VI. Such other information as the Planning Director may determine is necessary to evaluate the sign application.
3. All signs requiring a permit shall be reviewed by the Planning Department to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Sign Ordinance.

K. Lawful Non-Conforming Signs

Every sign or other advertising structure lawfully in existence prior to the date of adoption of this Ordinance which violates or does not conform to any of the provisions listed herein shall be allowed to continue, and become a "lawful, non-conforming" signs in accordance with the provisions of the original authorization. However, increases or decreases in such sign area or total reconstruction to such signs, shall require a sign permit, in accordance with the current provisions of this ordinance.

L. Illegal Signs

1. If the Planning Department finds that any sign regulated herein is found to be unsafe, or otherwise a public nuisance, has no permit or has an expired permit, or has been constructed, erected, or maintained in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, it shall give thirty (30) days written notice of such violation to the sign owner and/or property owner. If the sign has not been removed or made to comply with the provisions of this ordinance on or within the thirty (30) days of original notification, such sign shall be declared a violation of this ordinance and a misdemeanor as provided in Section 1.12.010 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code and may be abated in the manner provided therein as a public nuisance.

2. A sign that no longer identifies a business, service, or use conducted on the premises and such sign is maintained to induce entry to said premises for a purpose which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should have been known, to be untrue or misleading shall be removed within ten (10) days after notice to the owner of the sign and/or property owner by the Planning Department. Any such sign not so removed is declared a violation of this ordinance and is declared a misdemeanor as provided in Section 1.12.010 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code and may be abated in the manner provided therein as a public nuisance.

M. Hazardous Signs

The L. A. County Sheriff Department shall summarily require the immediate correction of any condition of a sign which they may deem to constitute an immediate danger or a traffic hazard; and if the condition cannot be corrected so that said sign does not constitute a danger or a traffic hazard, the Sheriffs Department shall cause the sign to be removed.

N. Modification Procedure

The Sign Ordinance recognizes that under certain circumstances, the strict application of the standards contained herein could result in a business identification hardship due to the location of a permitted sign in respect to surrounding obstructions. The purpose of the modification procedure is to offer relief from the standards of this Ordinance.

The following outlines the process and the findings that need to be made prior to the issuance of a modification.

1. Administrative Relief - Any applicant who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Director that the strict application of the standards of the Sign Ordinance will create an "identification hardship" may submit the prescribed filing fees modification. The applicant shall include information, including but not limited to, drawings, exhibits and photographs and satisfying the fact that the applications of the provisions of this Ordinance will result in inadequate identification of said use due to:

- (a) Adverse locational characteristics; and/or
- (b) Obstructions on adjacent properties.

Any applicant aggrieved by the determination of the Planning Department relative to the results of the Administrative modification may appeal the determination to the Planning Commission, or on upon final appeal, to the City Council. A written appeal shall be filed within twenty (20) days of said determination, addressing the required findings, accompanied by the appropriate filing fee in effect at that time, and any information determined by the Planning Director to be necessary for a proper evaluation to the Planning Commission, including but not limited to maps, photographs and exhibits.

In granting or denying the requested modification, the Planning Commission, or upon final appeal the City Council, shall make the beforementioned findings as to locational characteristics and/or surrounding obstructions.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
County of Los Angeles,

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the Long Beach Press-Telegram, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published 5 times each week in the City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, under the date of March 21, 1934.

Case Number 370512; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

September 11,

all in the year 1985

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Long Beach, California, this 11th

_____ day of

September, 1985

D. Martinez
Signature

PRESS-TELEGRAM

Legal Advertising Department
604 Pine Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90844
435-1161 Extension 208

Proof of Publication of

ORDINANCE NO. 285

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

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ORDINANCE NO. 285

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS AMENDING TITLE 18 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SECTION 18.13.010 RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE REGULATION OF SIGNS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

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SECTION 3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute this ordinance on behalf of the City Council, and the City Clerk or her duly appointed Deputy, is directed to attest thereto.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 1985, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS.

LUPE A. CABRERA
Mayor

ATTEST:
CAROL J. DORFMEYER
City Clerk

I, Carol J. Dorfmeier, City Clerk of the City of Hawaiian Gardens, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 285 was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens on the 27th day of August, 1985, by the following roll call vote, and as the same appears on file and of record in the office of the City Clerk.

AYES: VINEYARD, MYERS, FURGESON, SHER, CABRERA
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CAROL J. DORFMEYER
City Clerk

EXHIBIT "A": SIGN REGULATIONS

A. Purpose. Signs have definite impact on the character and quality of the City. As a permanent part of the commercial-industrial scenery, signs can either attract or repel the viewing public and affect the safety of vehicular traffic in the City. Additionally, attractive signs can help set the tone of the residential urban environment and diminish some of the conditions which lead to urban blight.

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1. All signs shall be compatible with the visual character and architectural design of surrounding buildings and landscaping.
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3. **Aerial Sign.** Any sign attached to, painted on, or suspended from a balloon, kite, or similar device secured to any real property within the City of Hawaiian Gardens.
4. **Area of a Sign.** The entire area within a single continuous perimeter that encloses the extreme limits of writing, representation, logo, or any figure of similar character, together with any frame, background area, structural trim, or any other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such sign from the background against which it is placed. For purposes of this Ordinance the supports or uprights on which any such sign is supported shall not be included in determining the sign area unless such supports are designed in such a manner as to form an integral background of the display.
5. **Awnings and Canopy Facia.** Awnings shall include any structure made of cloth or metal or a frame attached to a building and which projects from the same so as to cover a sidewalk or other public accessway. Canopy shall include any structure, other than an awning, with frames attached to a building, projecting therefrom and/or carried by frames supported at grade level. Whenever such awning or canopy fascia is affixed with any lettering, design, symbol or made from any special material which is intended to be or by its nature is a special identification, the applicable measurable area of the awning or canopy is a sign.
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18. **Identification Sign.** A sign containing the name of the business, the use, or the residents located on the lot or in the building where the sign is placed and/or containing the address of the lot or building.
19. **Identification Hardship.** Any situation in which a business, enterprise or establishment is denied adequate sign visibility due to the location of property in question in relationship to adjacent buildings, structures and/or signs.
20. **Illegal Sign.** Any sign and/or advertising structure erected in the absence of a permit as required by this ordinance, or requirements of this ordinance.
21. **Illuminated Sign.** Any sign in which an artificial source of light is used in order to make the message readable.
22. **Incidental Sign.** Information sign that includes, but is not limited to, hours of operation, delivery information, credit cards receipts, and open/closed signs.
23. **Logo.** A design of letters, symbols, or syllables, used as a trademark or for identification in lieu of or in conjunction with other signs.
24. **Lawful - Non-conforming.** Any sign which was constructed in accordance with the prevailing building and planning requirements in existence at the time of initial construction, but does not conform with the requirements of the sign ordinance as adopted herein.
25. **Low-Free-Standing Sign.** Any sign that is not physically attached to a building and does not exceed seven (7) feet in height.

26. **Non-Free-Standing Sign.** Any sign that is attached to and supported by a building.
27. **Off-Premise Sign.** Any sign, including billboard, bus bench or shelter, poster panel, or other structure, that advertises a product, service, business activity use, and/or location that is not located on the site where the sign is located.
28. **Parapet.** Any protective wall or barrier projection above any canopy, balcony, or roof.
29. **Permanent Sign.** A sign constructed entirely of weather-resistant material and intended for permanent use.
30. **Political Sign.** Any sign designed to support or to oppose a candidate or proposition in a public election.
31. **Projecting Sign.** Any sign that is attached to a building and extends perpendicular from a vertical surface of a building.
32. **Readerboard.** A changeable copy sign with a lettered message that is changed manually.
33. **Real Estate Sign.** Any on-premises temporary sign pertaining to the sale, lease, or rental of land and/or buildings.
34. **Roof Sign.** Any sign that is supported by or attached to or projecting through the roof of a building or higher than the eave line or parapet wall of a building.
35. **Sign.** Any letters, figures, designs, symbols, trademarks, logos, or illuminated device, intended to attract attention to any place, subject, person, firm, business, product, article, or merchandise. A sign includes all parts, materials, frames, and backgrounds.
36. **Temporary Sign.** Any sign constructed of paper, cloth, canvas, wood, plastic, or similar material intended to be displayed for a limited period of time.
37. **Under-Canopy Sign.** Any sign that is suspended below a canopy perpendicular to the nearest elevation.
38. **Unshielded Lighting.** Illumination whose source is exposed to view and is not arranged so that the direct rays of light are only shining on the sign face.
39. **Wall Sign.** Any sign which is either attached to or painted on or otherwise inscribed on an exterior wall or parapet wall of any building or structure. A wall sign projecting above the top of the wall to which it is attached shall be considered a roof sign.
40. **Width of Sign.** The width of a sign shall be the over-all width of the sign, including all structures.
41. **Window Area.** Any clear or translucent glass area which has not been permanently covered by an opaque covering such as paint or wood. If an opaque covering serves as a sign, including the background for a sign, the opaque area will be considered window area and the sign, a window sign.
42. **Window Sign.** Any sign that is attached inside or outside of or is intended to be seen through a window.

D. Prohibited Signs

No sign, advertising structure, or display, except as otherwise provided by this sub-section, shall be erected, maintained, approved, or permitted which:

1. Create a safety hazard by encroaching into any public right-of-way or by obstructing clear view of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
2. By reason of color, size, design, content, location or illumination may be confused with any traffic control sign or device.
3. Is erected upon any property or structure without the express or implied consent of the property owner or his authorized agent.
4. Uses live animals or human beings.
5. Bears or contains statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, pornographic or immoral character.

E. Exempted Signs

The following signs may be displayed without a sign permit subject to any specific limitations listed herein and the other provisions of this Chapter:

1. Civic event and public service signs.
2. Governmental or other legally required posted notices or signs.
3. Political signs to be displayed not earlier than forty-five (45) days prior to a scheduled election date and to be removed within five (5) days after such election.
4. Construction signs shall be limited to one unlighted sign per project site not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area, eight (8) feet in height, or be located closer than ten (10) feet from the property line.
5. Signs Required by Law. Directional, warning, or information signs or structures required by or authorized by Federal or State law or regulation, or by a City Ordinance Resolution or Minute Order.
6. Real Estate Signs subject to the following conditions:
 - a. One unlighted real estate sign per frontage, not to exceed six (6) square feet in area per face, six (6) feet in height pertaining only to the sale, lease, or rental of the particular building or property in any R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, MHP or A-1 zone.
 - b. One unlighted real estate sign per frontage, not to exceed fifteen (15) square feet in area per face, eight feet in height, pertaining to the sale, lease or rental of the particular building or property in a commercial or manufacturing zone.
7. One information sign identifying the business owner, or occupant and the address, not to exceed two (2) square feet in area per elevation may be permitted in a commercial or manufacturing zone when attached flush to a door, wall, or window.
8. An approved advertising structure with changeable copy shall be exempt from permit and review requirements when the copy is changed.
9. Church signs shall be limited to one per street frontage not to exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area per face, six (6) feet in height including architectural features.

7. Temporary Signs

1. Temporary sign permits may be issued by the Planning Director for banners, flags, aerial signs, and other non-empted temporary signs for a non-renewable period not to exceed thirty (30) days. A minimum of thirty (30) days must elapse between the expiration of one temporary sign permit and the granting of a second permit, provided that not more than four (4) such permits may be issued per applicant in any one calendar year.
2. Application for a temporary sign permit must contain the location and dimensions of all temporary signs, except for window and political signs, and any other pertinent information which the Planning Director determines to be essential in ensuring compliance with the ordinance.
3. No temporary sign permit shall be issued for any temporary sign until a fee of twenty five Dollars (\$25) is deposited with the City to guarantee the removal of all signs after the permitted period of time.
The deposit shall be returned to the applicant only after removal of the signs within the time specified. Any violation of the above mentioned provisions may be grounds for forfeiture of the deposit in its entirety and the deposit shall be applied to any costs incurred by the City in the removal or modification of any such temporary sign.

G. Limitations on Permanent Signs.

Signs which are not exempted shall be subject to the following conditions and limitations, in addition to the general prohibitions covered in this Ordinance.

General Provisions

1. Illumination
 - a. Any sign over two square feet in area which is wholly or partially illuminated by unshielded lighting of any type, including exposed incandescent bulbs or neon tubes, shall be permitted by administrative conditional use permit only.
2. Signs for Advertising
On or off premise reader boards, electronic message boards, or changeable copy signs may be erected subject to conditional use permit and other restrictions specified herein. No other sign shall be permitted for advertising purposes of any kind except to identify a business.
3. Materials
 - a. All signs shall meet all applicable requirements of Chapter 62 of the Los Angeles County Building Code.
 - b. All signs and/or their supporting structures shall be constructed of metal, wood, plastic or comparable weather resistant materials.
 - c. All signs, together with all their supports, braces, guy anchors, and electrical equipment, shall be kept in good repair or maintained in safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.
4. Miscellaneous
 - a. All signs and their supporting structures shall be so enclosed as to provide against their infestation by birds and vermin, shall be structurally safe, and shall be maintained in good condition.
 - b. Logos or identification symbols shall be considered signs and shall conform to all provisions of this Ordinance.

H. Signs in Commercial and Manufacturing Zones.

Any sign not prohibited or exempt shall be permitted in the Commercial and Manufacturing zones subject to the general provisions of subsection G and the following conditions:

1. Free-Standing Signs

- a. The number of free-standing signs permitted per lot shall be one sign single or multi-faced per lot or one sign for the first 100 feet or more of frontage plus one sign for each additional 100 feet of frontage.
- b. Location
A minimum 100 feet separation shall be maintained between high freestanding signs on any lot containing more than one (1) high freestanding sign.
- c. Height of Signs
No high freestanding sign shall exceed forty-two (42) feet in height as measured from the existing grade of the property.

2. Non-Free-Standing Signs

- a. Allowable Sign Area
Allowable sign area per business or user shall be calculated as a percentage of the area of that elevation occupied by the business or user. However, no wall area more than twenty-five (25) feet above average ground level shall be used in calculating allowable sign area. Additionally, all permanent signs on any elevation of any building shall be included in determining actual sign area.
 - I. The allowable sign area for any elevation of a structure shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the first twenty five (25) feet in height of the structure.
 - II. The allowable area for permanent window signs shall not exceed twenty five (25) percent of the total window area of that elevation.
 - III. Under canopy signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet per face.
 - IV. Service Station Signs. In addition to the main identification sign(s) permitted by this ordinance, service stations will be permitted two (2) double faced, low freestanding signs not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per face (sixty-four (64) square feet total, per sign), for the purposes of displaying gas, oil, credit card sales and other ancillary information necessary for the operation of a service station. Service stations providing automotive services and/or non automotive retail sales which consume in excess of twenty (20) percent of gross floor area of the main structure, shall be permitted an additional two (2) double face, low freestanding signs, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per face, sixty-four (64) square feet total per sign for the purpose of advertising such sales and/or services.

b. Location of Signs

- I. Wall signs adjacent to alleys, pedestrian walkways, public right of ways or any other location where the Planning Department determines such location could cause a public safety hazard, shall not project horizontally more than eighteen (18) inches from their attachment to the building.
 - II. Under canopy signs shall have a minimum clearance above grade of eight (8) feet over walkways and twelve (12) feet over driveways or alleys.
- c. Dimensions of Signs. Sign dimensions shall be consistent with the limitations on sign area and location; however no under canopy sign shall be larger than one foot thick.

I. Signs in R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, MHP and A-1 Zones

Signs which are not prohibited or exempted by other subsections in this section shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:

1. Two (2) unlighted signs at the main entrance of any subdivision not exceeding twenty four (24) square feet in area or six (6) feet in height, provided such sign is attached to a masonry wall and does not extend above or project out from the wall and contains only the name of the subdivision.
2. One unlighted sign for each multiple unit development of five units or more, not to exceed 24 square feet in area or six (6) feet in height unless an architectural feature provided for such a sign is attached on a masonry wall or building and contains only the name of the development and street address.

J. Sign Permits and Sign Review

1. For all signs other than those that are prohibited and those that are exempt, a sign permit shall be obtained from the Planning Department prior to installation.
2. Applications for sign permits shall be submitted to the Planning Department and shall be accompanied by the following information:

- a. The appropriate number of copies of the sign plan as determined by the Planning Director indicating:
 - I. Location of property on which sign is to be located;
 - II. Position of each sign and its relation to adjacent buildings and structures;
 - III. The proposed height, size, shape, color, construction materials, and design of each sign and supporting structure;
 - IV. The names and addresses of the applicant and property owner;
 - V. The endorsement of either the property owner, applicant, or an authorized representative;
 - VI. Such other information as the Planning Director may determine is necessary to evaluate the sign application.
3. All signs requiring a permit shall be reviewed by the Planning Department to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Sign Ordinance.

K. Lawful Non-Conforming Signs

Every sign or other advertising structure lawfully in existence prior to the date of adoption of this Ordinance which violates or does not conform to any provisions listed herein shall be allowed to continue, and become "lawful, non-conforming" signs in accordance with the provisions of the original authorization. However, increases or decreases in such sign area or total reconstruction to such signs, shall require a sign permit, in accordance with the current provisions of this ordinance.

L. Illegal Signs

1. If the Planning Department finds that any sign regulated herein is found to be unsafe, or otherwise a public nuisance, has no permit or has an expired permit, or has been constructed, erected, or maintained in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, it shall give thirty (30) days written notice of such violation to the sign owner and/or property owner. If the sign has not been removed or made to comply with the provisions of this ordinance on or within the thirty (30) days of original notification, such sign shall be declared a violation of this ordinance and a misdemeanor as provided in Section 1.12.010 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code and may be abated in the manner provided therein as a public nuisance.
2. A sign that no longer identifies a business, service, or use conducted on the premises and such sign is maintained to induce entry to said premises for a purpose which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should have been known, to be untrue or misleading, shall be removed within ten (10) days after notice to the owner of the sign and/or property owner by the Planning Department. Any such sign not so removed is declared a violation of this ordinance and is declared a misdemeanor as provided in Section 1.12.010 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code and may be abated in the manner provided therein as a public nuisance.

M. Hazardous Signs

The L. A. County Sheriff Department shall summarily require the immediate correction of any condition of a sign which they may deem to constitute an immediate danger or traffic hazard; and if the condition cannot be corrected so that said sign does not constitute a danger or a traffic hazard, the Sheriff's Department shall cause the sign to be removed.

N. Modification Procedure

The Sign Ordinance recognizes that under certain circumstances, the strict application of the standards contained herein could result in a business identification hardship due to the location of a permitted sign in respect to surrounding obstructions. The purpose of the modification procedure is to offer relief from the standards of this Ordinance.

The following outlines the process and the findings that need to be made prior to the issuance of a modification.

1. Administrative Relief — Any applicant who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Director that the strict application of the standards of the Sign Ordinance will create an "identification hardship" may submit the prescribed filing fees modification. The applicant shall include information, including but not limited to, drawings, exhibits and photographs and satisfying the fact that the applications of the provisions of this Ordinance will result in inadequate identification of said use due to:

- (a) Adverse locational characteristics; and/or
- (b) Obstructions on adjacent properties.

Any applicant aggrieved by the determination of the Planning Department relative to the results of the Administrative modification may appeal the determination to the Planning Commission, or on upon final appeal, to the City Council. A written appeal shall be filed within twenty (20) days of said determination, addressing the required findings, accompanied by the appropriate filing fee in effect at that time, and any information determined by the Planning Director to be necessary for a proper evaluation to the Planning Commission, including but not limited to maps, photographs and exhibits.

In granting or denying the requested modification, the Planning Commission, or upon final appeal the City Council, shall make the beforementioned findings as to locational characteristics and/or surrounding obstructions.