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## ARTICLE XXI: SIGNS

### SECTION 21.01: SHORT TITLE

The On-Premise Sign Ordinance of the Marquette Charter Township.

### SECTION 21.02: PURPOSE

These regulations balance the need to protect the public safety and welfare, the need for a well maintained and attractive community, and the need for adequate identification, communication and advertising. The regulations for signs have the following specific objectives:

- A. To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed and maintained according to minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare;
- B. To allow and promote positive conditions for sign communication;
- C. To reflect and support the desired ambience and development patterns of the various zoning districts, overlay districts, and plan districts and promote an attractive environment;
- D. To allow for adequate and effective signs whose dimensional characteristics further the interests of public safety and the needs of the motorist, where signs are viewed from a street or roadway;
- E. To ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right of free expression is protected
- F. To ensure that all signs are professionally designed and installed.

### SECTION 21.03: SCOPE

- A. General. The requirements of this Code apply to all signs, sign structures, awnings, and other types of sign devices located within the Charter Township of Marquette, except as specified in Subsection B, below;
- B. Signs and sign structure located in Charter Township of Marquette that cannot be seen from a public roadway are not subject to the size, height, location and number regulations listed herein. These signs must however comply with safety and construction Building Code provisions set by the Marquette County Building Codes Department.

**SECTION 21.04: HIERARCHY OF REGULATIONS**

- A. Where there is a conflict between specific sign regulations and the base or general sign regulations of this Ordinance, the specific sign regulations supersede the base sign regulations.
- B. Other conflicts. Where there is a conflict between a land use regulation and a structural regulation, or other conflicts not otherwise addressed by this section, the most restrictive applies.

**SECTION 21.05: SEVERABILITY**

If any word, sentence, section, chapter or any other provision or portion of this Ordinance or rules adopted hereunder is invalidated by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining words, sentences, sections, chapters, provisions, or portions will not be affected and will continue in full force and effect.

**SECTION 21.06: AUTHORITY**

- A. **Administration and Enforcement.** The Marquette Township Zoning Administrator will administer and enforce the ordinance as set forth herein. The Zoning Administrator may implement procedures, forms, and written policies for administering the provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 21.07: DEFINITIONS**

**Abandoned Sign** – A sign that no longer identifies or advertises an ongoing business, product, location, service, idea or activity conducted on the premises on which the sign is located after a period of six (6) months.

**Alteration** – A change in the size or shape of an existing sign. Copy or color change of an existing sign is not an alteration. Changing or replacing a sign face or panel is not an alteration.

**Animated Sign** – A sign employing actual motion, the illusion of motion, or light and/or color changes achieved through mechanical, electrical or electronic means. Animated signs, which are differentiated from changeable signs as defined and regulated by this Ordinance, include the following types:

- 1) *Environmentally Activated:* Animated signs or devices motivated by wind, thermal changes or other natural environmental input. Includes but not limited to spinners, pinwheels, pennant strings, and/or other devices or displays that respond to naturally occurring external motivation.

- 2) *Mechanically Activated*: Animated signs characterized by repetitive motion and/or rotation activated by mechanical system powered by electric motors or other mechanically induced means.
- 3) *Electrically Activated*: Animated signs producing the illusion of movement by means of electronic, electrical or electromechanical input and/or illumination capable of simulating movement through employment of the characteristics of one or both of the classifications noted below:
  - a. *Flashing*: Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by a repetitive cycle in which the period of illumination is either the same as or less than the period of non-illumination. For the purposes of this ordinance, flashing will not be defined as occurring if the cyclical period between on-off phases of illumination exceeds three (3) seconds.
  - b. *Patterned Illusionary Movement* : Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized of various illuminated elements for the purpose of producing repetitive light patterns designed to appear in some form of constant motion.

**Architectural Projection** – Any projection from a building that is decorative and/or functional and not intended for occupancy and that extends beyond the face or an exterior wall of a building but that does not include signs as defined herein. See also: Awning; Back-lit Awning; and Canopy, Attached and Freestanding.

**Awning** – An architectural projection or shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building and composed of a covering of rigid or non-rigid materials and/or fabric on a supporting framework that may be either permanent or retractable.

**Awning Sign** – A sign displayed on or attached flat against the surface or surfaces or an awning. See also: Wall or Fascia Sign. An awning that contains a “sign” section of copy area shall comply with the applicable sign area requirements for parallel signs (see Table 21.08, Page 13) contained in this Ordinance. Only the sign or copy area displayed on an awning shall be used to determine the permitted sign area – the entire awning shall not be included in a Sign Area calculation. Refer also to Section 21.09 (see Page 15) for visual reference example.

**Back Lit Awning** – An awning comprised of covering material exhibiting the characteristic of luminosity obtained by means of a source of illumination contained within its framework.

**Banner** – A flexible substrate on which copy or graphics may be displayed.

**Banner Sign** – A sign utilizing a banner as its display surface.

**Bench Sign** – A sign applied or affixed to the seat or back of a bench.

**Billboard** – See Off-Premise Sign and Commercial Outdoor Advertising Sign.

**Building Facade** – That portion of any exterior elevation of a building extending vertically from grade to the top of a parapet wall or eaves and horizontally across the entire width of the building elevation

**Building Sign** – A sign that is applied or affixed to a building.

**Candela** – The basic unit of measurement of light in SI (metric) units.

**Candela per square meter (cd/m<sup>2</sup>)** – The SI (metric) unit used to describe the luminance of a light source or of an illuminated surface that reflects light. Also referred to as Nits.

**Candle or Candlepower** – Synonymous with Candela, but in English, not SI, terms.

**Canopy (Attached)** – A multi-sided overhead structure or architectural projection supported by attachment to a building on one or more sides and either cantilevered from such building or also supported by columns at additional points. The surface(s) and/or soffit of an attached canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light. Similar to a Marquee.

**Canopy (Freestanding)** – A multi-sided overhead structure supported by columns, but not enclosed by walls. The surface(s) and/or soffit of a freestanding canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light.

**Canopy Sign** – A sign affixed to the visible surface(s) of an attached or freestanding canopy. May be internally or externally illuminated. Similar to a Marquee Sign. Refer also to Section 21.09 (see Page 15) herein for visual reference example.

**Changeable Sign** – A sign with the capability of content change by means of manual or remote input includes the following types:

- 1) *Manually Activated:* Changeable sign whose message copy or content can be changed manually on a display surface.
- 2) *Electrically Activated:* Changeable sign whose message copy or content can be changed by means of remote electrically energized on-off switching combinations of alphabetic or pictographic components arranged on a display surface. Illumination may be integral to the components, such as characterized by lamps or other light-emitting devices; or it may be from an external light source designed to reflect off the changeable component display. See also Electronic Message Center.

**Channel Letter (open faces)** – A dimensional letter with a back and sides but no face at the front of the letter. Open Faced Channel Letters may be non-lit, externally illuminated, or illuminated by a light source contained inside the open channel of the letter itself, such as a neon tube.

**Channel Letter (internally illuminated)** – A dimensional letter with a back, sides and a translucent front face capable of transmitting light from an internal light source within the letter.

**Channel Letter (reverse)** – A dimensional letter with a face and sides but no back, opposite to an Open Faced Channel Letter. A Reverse Channel Letter has an open channel facing the wall or building to which it is affixed. A Reverse Channel Letter may contain a source of illumination designed to project lighting against the surface behind the letter, commonly referred to as a Backlit Channel Letter; also referenced as a halo or silhouette lighted channel letter. The face of a Reverse Channel Letter does not illuminate.

**Cladding** – A non-structural covering designed to conceal the actual structural supports of a sign. See also pole or pylon cover.

**Clearview Zone** – The area of a corner lot closest to the intersection which is kept free of visual impairment to allow full view of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Clear view zones shall be established in accordance with the requirements set forth in *Article XIX, Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 19.08, Clear Vision Areas, Fences, Walls, and Screens*. No sign in excess of two and one-half (2-1/2) feet above curb grade nor support pole larger than twelve (12) inches in diameter may be installed in this area. Freestanding signs must have at least ten (10) feet clearance to grade.

**Commercial Outdoor Advertising Sign** – A permanent off-premise sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of providing copy area for commercial or noncommercial messages.

**Conforming Sign** – A sign that is legally installed in conformance with all prevailing jurisdictional laws and ordinances.

**Construction Sign** – A temporary sign identifying an architect, contractor, subcontractor, and/or material supplier participating in construction on the property on which the sign is located, erected after site plan approval and removed not later than two (2) business days after issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

**Copy** – The graphic content or message of a sign.

**Copy Area of Sign** – The actual area of the sign copy as applied to any background. Canopy area on any individual background may be expressed as the sum of the geometrically computed shape or shapes encompassing separate individual letters, words or graphic elements on the background. See Section 21.14 (see Pages 20-21) for computational methodology.

**Dimensional Letter, Symbol or Graphic** – A letter, symbol or graphic that is three dimensional in character, containing height, width and depth.

**Directional Sign** – Any sign that is designated and erected for the purpose of providing direction and/or orientation for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

**Display Time** – The amount of time a message and/or graphic is displayed on an Electronic Message Sign.

**Dissolve** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Sign accomplished by varying the light intensity or pattern, in which the first message gradually appears to dissipate and lose legibility with the gradual appearance and legibility of the second message.

**Double-Faced Sign** – A sign with two faces, back-to-back.

**Dynamic Frame Effect** – An Electronic Message Sign frame effect in which the illusion of motion and/or animation is used.

**Electric Awning Sign** – (See also “Back Lit Awning”) An internally illuminated fixed space-frame structure with translucent, flexible reinforced covering designed in awning form and with graphics or copy applied to the visible surface of the awning.

**Electric Sign** – Any sign activated or illuminated by means of electrical energy.

**Electronic Message Center or Sign (EMC)** – An electrically activated changeable sign whose variable message and/or graphic presentation capability can be electronically programmed by computer from a remote location. Also known as an EMC. EMCs typically use light emitting diodes (LEDs) as a lighting source. (See also following terms principally associated with Electronic Message Centers: Display Time, Dissolve, Dynamic Frame Effect, Fade, Frame, Frame Effect, Scroll, Transition, Travel).

**Externally Illuminated Sign** – See Illuminated Sign.

**Exterior Sign** – Any sign placed outside a building.

**Façade** – See Building Façade

**Fade** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Sign accomplished by varying the light intensity, where the first message gradually reduces intensity to the point of not being legible and the subsequent message gradually increases intensity to the point of legibility.

**Fascia Sign** – See Wall Sign

**Flashing Sign** – See Animated Sign, Electrically Activated.

**Font** – A set of letters, numerals, symbol, or shapes conforming to a specific set of design criteria.



**Foot Candle** – An English unit of measurement of the amount of light falling upon a surface (illuminance). One foot candle is equal to one lumen per square foot. Can be measured by means of an illuminance meter.

**Foot Lambert** – An English unit of measurement of the amount of light emitted by or reflecting off a surface (luminance) equivalent to 3.4262591 candelas per square meter.

**Frame** – A complete, static display screen on an Electronic Message Sign.

**Frame Effect** – A visual effect on an Electronic Message Sign applied to a single frame. See also Dynamic frame Effect.

**Freestanding Sign** – A sign principally supported by one or more columns, poles or braces placed in or upon the ground. May also be referenced as a Ground or Monument Sign. Refer also to Section 21.09 (see Page 14) for visual reference examples.

**Frontage (Property)** – The length of the property line(s) of any single premise along either a public way or other properties on which it borders.

**Frontage (Building)** – The length of an exterior building wall or structure of a single premise along either a public way or other properties that it faces.

**Ground Sign** – See Freestanding Sign.

**Illuminance** – The amount of light falling upon a real or imaginary surface, commonly called “light level” or “illumination”. Measured in foot candles (lumens/square foot) in the English system, and lux (lumens/square meter) in the SI (metric) system.

**Illuminated Sign** – A sign characterized by the use of artificial light, either projecting through its surface(s) [Internally or trans-illumination]; or reflecting off its surface(s) [Externally illuminated].

**Internally Illuminated Sign** – See Illuminated Sign.

**Interior Sign** – Any sign placed within a building, but not including window signs as defined by this ordinance. Interior signs, with the exception of window signs as defined, are not regulated by this ordinance.

**Joint Sign** – Any Freestanding Sign as defined in this Ordinance which uses multiple subunits to identify two or more persons, businesses, or organizations operating on one parcel or contiguous parcels (e.g., shopping center, office complex, etc.). Such sign may include the logo and/or name of persons or businesses included but shall carry no other advertising matter.

**Joint Sign Determination** – means an action by the Plan Commission to provide for the combination of multiple Freestanding Signs into one multi-part sign structure. Under a Joint Sign Determination,

existing and future freestanding signage on said parcels shall be subject to the terms of the Determination.

**Joint Sign Subunit** – means that portion of a larger Joint Sign structure dedicated to an individual business or parcel.

**Listed Sign** – A sign manufactured and labeled in accordance with specifications promulgated by a recognized testing laboratory designed to assure compliance with applicable American National Standards (ANSI) and/or the National Electric Code (NEC).

**Luminance** – The light that is emitted by or reflected from a surface. Measured in units of luminous intensity (candelas) per unit area (square meters in SI measurement units or square feet in English measurement units.) Expressed in SI units as  $cd/m^2$ , and in English units as foot lamberts. Sometimes also expressed as “nits”, a colloquial reference to SI units. Can be measured by means of a luminance meter.

**Lux** – The SI (metric) unit for illuminance. One lux equals 0.093 foot candles.

**Mansard** – A roof-like façade comparable to an exterior building wall. See Section 21.09 (see page 17) for visual reference.

**Marquee** – See Canopy (Attached).

**Marquee Sign** – See Canopy Sign.

**Multiple-faced Sign** – A sign containing three (3) or more faces.

**Nit** – A photometric unit of measurement referring to luminance. One nit is equal to one  $cd/m^2$ .

**Non-Conforming Sign** – Any sign lawfully existing on the effective date of an ordinance, which due to an amendment thereto renders such sign nonconforming because it does not conform to all the standards and regulations of the newly adopted or amended ordinance.

**Non-Conforming Use** – A use or activity which was lawful prior to the adoption, revision, or amendment of a zoning ordinance, but which fails, by reason of such adoption, revision, or amendment, to conform to the present requirements of the zoning district. *See Also Article XXII: Nonconformities, Section 22.02, Definitions.*

**Off-Premise Sign** – See Outdoor Advertising Sign. See also, Wayfinding Sign.

**On-Premise Sign** – A sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of messages appurtenant to the use of products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.

**Outdoor Advertising Sign** – A permanent sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of commercial or noncommercial messages not appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed. May also be referenced as an Off-Premise Sign, Billboard, or Commercial Outdoor Advertising Sign.

**Parallel Sign** – See Wall Sign

**Parapet** – The extension of a building façade above the line of the structural roof.

**Perpendicular Sign** – See also Freestanding Sign; see also Projecting Sign.

**Pole Cover or Pylon Cover** – An enclosure designed to conceal poles and/or other structural supports of a sign. See also Cladding.

**Political Sign** – A temporary sign intended to advance a political statement, cause, or candidate for office.

**Portable Sign** – Any cord-connected sign not permanently attached to the ground and can be removed without the use of tools.

**Projecting Sign** – A sign other than a Wall Sign that is attached to or projects more than eighteen (18) inches from a building face or wall or from a structure whose primary purpose is other than support of a sign. Refer also to Section 21.08 (see Page 13) for visual reference example.

**Pylon Sign** – See *Freestanding Sign*

**Real Estate Sign** – A temporary sign advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the property or premises upon which it is located.

**Revolving Sign** – A sign that has the capability to revolve three hundred and sixty degrees (360°) about an axis. See also: Animated Sign, Mechanically Activated.

**Roof Line** – The uppermost line of the roof of a building or, in the case of an extended façade or parapet, the uppermost point of said façade or parapet.

**Roof Sign** – A sign mounted on the main roof portion of a building or on the uppermost edge of a parapet wall of a building and which is wholly or partially supported by such building. Signs mounted on mansard facades, pent eaves and architectural projections such as canopies or marquees shall not be considered to be roof signs. Refer also to Section 21.09 (see Page 16) for visual reference example of roof signs, and comparison of differences between roof and fascia signs.

**Scroll** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Sign in which the message appears to move vertically across the display surface.

**SI (International System of Units)** – The modern metric system of measurement; abbreviated SI for the French term “Le Systeme International d’Unites.”

**Sign** – Any object, device, display, structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors or indoors, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, produce, service, event, or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination, or projected images. Signs do not include the flag or emblem of any nation, organization of nations, state, city, religious, fraternal, or civic organization; also merchandise and pictures or models of products or services incorporated in a window display and works of art or scoreboards located on athletic fields which in no way identify a product.

**Sign Area** – The area of the smallest geometric figure, or the sum of the combination of regular geometric figures, which comprise the sign face. The area of any double-sided or “V” shaped sign shall be the area of the largest single face only. The area of a sphere shall be computed as the area of a circle. The area of all other multiple-sided signs shall be computed as fifty (50) percent of the sum of the area of all faces of the sign. See Section 21.09 (see Pages 14 & 15) for computational methodology for various sign area configurations.

**Sign Copy** – The physical sign message including any words, letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, exclusive of numerals identifying a street address only.

**Sign Face** – The surface upon, against or through which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, not including structural supports, architectural features of a building or sign structure, nonstructural thematic or decorative trim, or any areas that are separated from the background surface upon which the sign copy is displayed by a distinct delineation, such as a reveal or border. Refer to Section 21.14 (see Pages 20 & 21) for sign face computational illustrations.

1. In the case of panel or cabinet type signs, the sign face shall include the entire area of the sign panel, cabinet or face substrate upon which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, but not open space between separate panels or cabinets.
2. In the case of signs painted on a building, or individual letter or graphic elements affixed to a building or structure, the sign face shall comprise the sum of the geometric figures or combination of regular geometric figures drawn closest to the edge of the letters or separate graphic elements comprising the sign copy, but not the open space between separate groupings of sign copy on the same building or structure.
3. In the case of sign copy enclosed within a painted or illuminated border, or displayed on a background contrasting in color with the color of the building or structure, the sign face shall

comprise the area within the contrasting background, or within the painted or illuminated border.

**Site** – Any plot or parcel of land or combination of contiguous lots or parcels of land.

**Special Event Sign** – A temporary sign pertaining to any civic, patriotic, or special event of general public interest.

**Temporary Sign** – A sign intended to display either commercial or noncommercial messages of transitory or temporary nature. Portable signs or any sign not permanently embedded in the ground or not permanently affixed to a building are considered temporary signs.

**Trans-Illuminated Sign** – See Internally Illuminated Sign

**Transition** – A visual effect used on an Electronic Message Sign to change from one message to another.

**Travel** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Sign in which the message appears to move horizontally across the display surface.

**Under Canopy Sign or Under Marquee Sign** – A sign attached to the underside of a canopy or marquee.

**V Sign** – A sign containing two faces of equal size, positioned at an interior angle subtending less than one-hundred seventy-nine degrees (179°) at the point of juncture of the individual faces.

**Wall or Fascia Sign** – A sign that is in any manner affixed to any exterior wall of a building or structure and that projects not more than eighteen (18) inches from the building or structure wall. Also includes signs affixed to architectural projections that project from a building provided the copy area of such signs remains on a parallel plane to the face of the building façade or to the face or faces of the architectural projection to which it is affixed. Refer also to Section 21.09 (see Pages 15 & 16) for visual reference examples, and comparison examples of differences between wall or fascia signs and roof signs.

**Wayfinding Sign** – A sign, frequently off-premise, specifically designed to provide directional or destination information. See also, Off-Premise Sign.

**Window Sign** – A sign affixed to the surface of a window with its message intended to be visible to the exterior environment.

SECTION 21.08: TYPICAL ON-PREMISE SIGN TYPES

FREESTANDING SIGNS

usually perpendicular to viewer's line-of-sight. May be double or multi faced and contain thematic embellishment and integral covers or cladding to conceal structural supports.

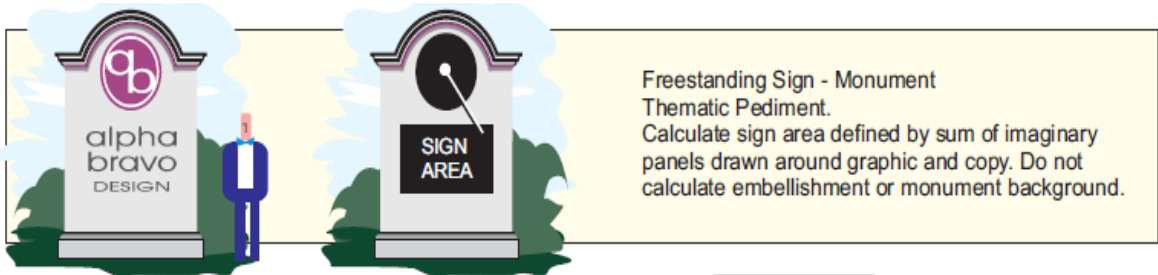


BUILDING SIGNS

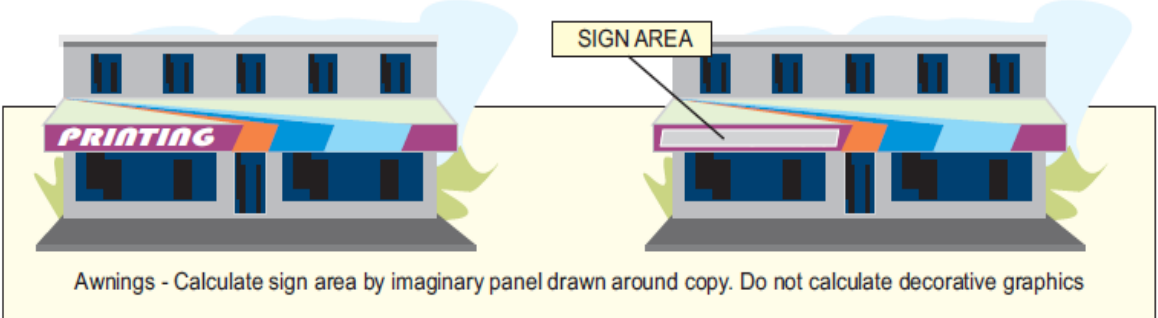
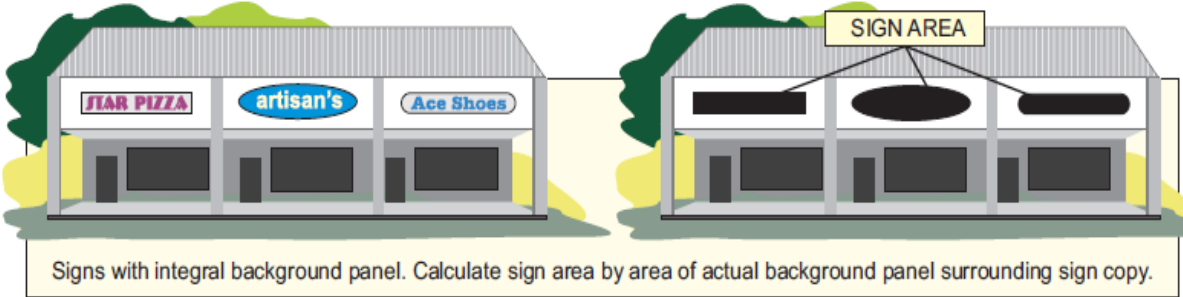
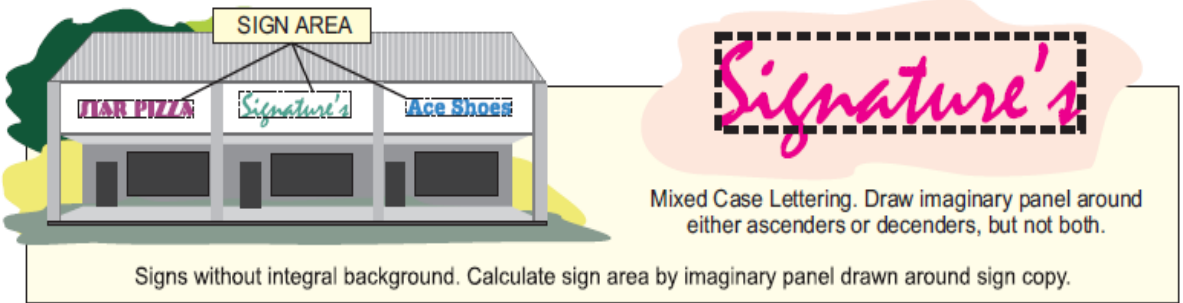


SECTION 21.09: SIGN AREA COMPUTATION METHODOLOGY / GROUND SIGNS

	<p>Freestanding Sign - Exposed Pole Support Calculate sign area defined by actual rectangular panel surrounding copy.</p>
	<p>Freestanding Sign - Thematic Embellishment - Concealed Support Calculate sign area defined by actual rectangular panel surrounding copy. Do not calculate embellishment or support cladding</p>
	<p>Freestanding Sign - Multi Panel - Concealed Support Calculate sign area defined by sum of actual oval panels surrounding copy. Do not calculate support cladding</p>
	<p>Freestanding Sign - Monument Thematic Embellishment - Concealed Support Calculate sign area defined by imaginary panel drawn around copy. Do not calculate embellishment or monument background</p>
	<p>Freestanding Sign - Monument Thematic Embellishment - Concealed Support Calculate sign area defined by actual oval panel surrounding copy. Do not calculate embellishment or monument background</p>



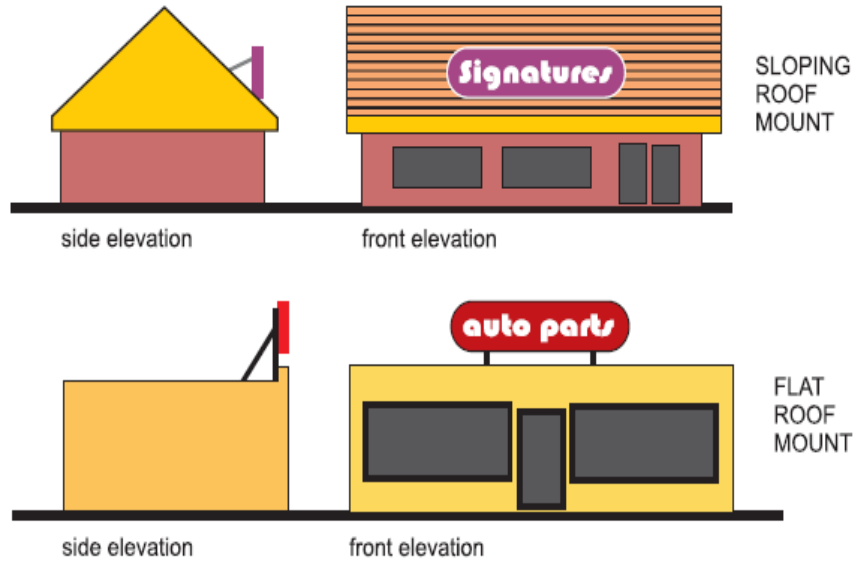
Wall / Fascia Signs



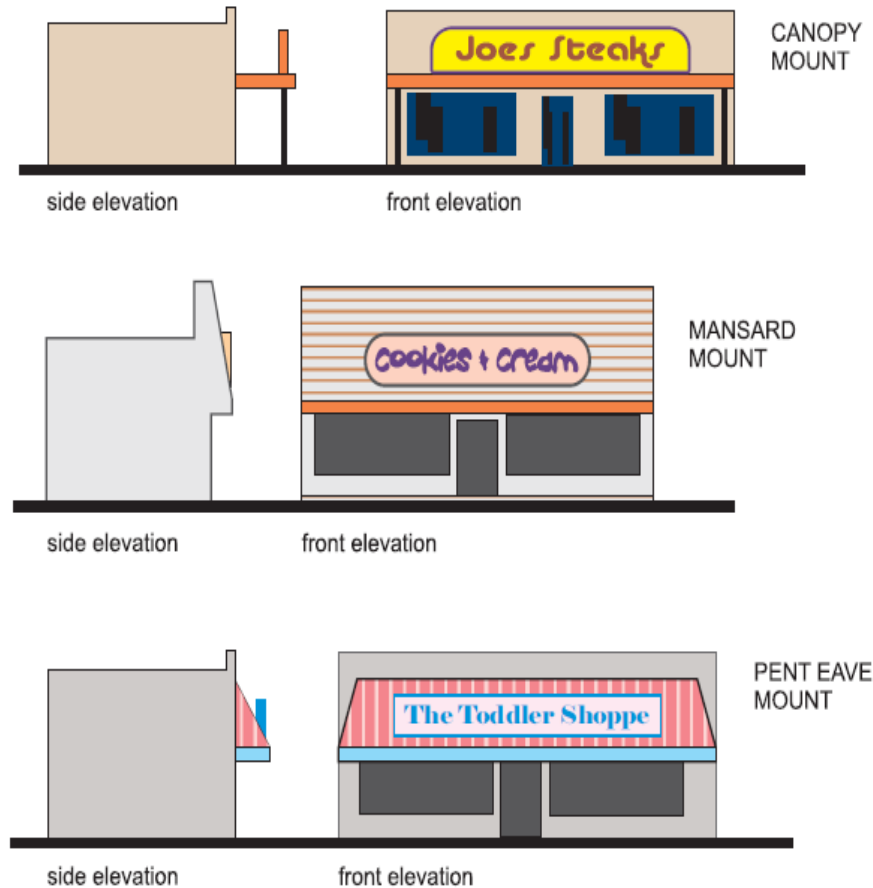


SECTION 21.09: COMPARISON: ROOF AND WALL SIGN DISTINCTIONS

ROOF SIGNS



Fascia Signs on Roof-Like Projections  
NOT ROOF SIGNS



**SECTION 21.10: EXEMPTIONS**

The following are exempt from the regulations of this Ordinance and do not require a Sign Permit Application, but may be subject to other Ordinances enacted by Marquette Charter Township where applicable:

- A.** Signs which are not visible from a public roadway; however, these signs must comply with any building and constructions provisions enacted by Marquette Charter Township or Marquette County Building Codes;
- B.** Interior Signs;
- C.** Signs carved into a building or raised in integral relief on a building;
- D.** Signs required by federal or state law;
- E.** Signs required by municipal authority;
- F.** Flags & individual pennants (not on a string);
- G.** Painted and/or applied wall accents and decorations;
- H.** Illuminated building accents and decorations;
- I.** Public Art, including Permitted Original Art Murals
- J.** Name and Address – Up to two (2) signs indicating address, number and/or name of occupants of the premises, that do not exceed two (2) square feet in area per side, and do not include any commercial advertising or other identification.
- K.** Decals – Decals and/or logos affixed to windows or door glass panels, such as those indicating membership in a business group or identifying credit cards accepted at the establishment.
- L.** Handicapped Parking Space – Signs not exceeding two (2) square feet in area reserving parking for handicapped individuals.
- M.** Private Drive Signs – On-premise private drive signs are limited to one (1) per driveway entrance, not exceeding two (2) square feet in area.
- N.** Public Signs – Signs erected by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing and identification signs for public facilities and any signs erected by the Charter Township of Marquette.
- O.** Security and Warning Signs – On-premise signs regulating the use of the premises, such as “no trespassing”, “no hunting” and “no soliciting” signs that do not exceed one (1) sign two

(2) square feet in area in Rural and Urban Residential Districts; and one (1) sign five (5) square feet in area in all other Zoning Districts. These limitations shall not apply to the posting of conventional “no trespassing” signs in accordance with state law.

- P. Political Signs. *(See also Section 21.17 (9), Temporary Signs, of this Article)*
- Q. Real Estate and/or Construction Signs.
- R. Holiday, Special Event, Garage/Rummage Sale Signs.

**SECTION 21.11: PROHIBITIONS**

The following signs are prohibited:

- A. Signs containing strobe lights;
- B. Abandoned sign structures, as defined by this Ordinance (see Page 4);
- C. Signs placed on or painted on a motor vehicle or trailer parked with the primary purpose of providing signage not otherwise allowed by the Ordinance; Prohibited is any sign displayed on a parked trailer or truck or other vehicle where the primary purpose of the vehicle is to advertise a product, service business, or other activity. This regulation shall permit the use of business logos, identification or advertising on vehicles primarily and actively used for business purposes and/or personal transportation.
- D. Signs that imitate or resemble official traffic lights, signs or signals or signs that interfere with the effectiveness of any official traffic light, sign or signal.
- E. Mechanically Moving Signs – An environmentally activated sign or other display with actual mechanical motion powered by natural, manual, mechanical, electrical or other means, including but not limited to propellers and search lights.
- F. Flashing Signs – See Definitions. For the purposes of this Ordinance, a sign that has changed rate or dwell time of three (3) seconds or longer does not fit within the prohibition noted herein.
- G. Posters and Handbills – Any signs affixed to any structures, trees, or other natural vegetation, rocks or poles.
- H. Roof Signs – Roof signs, except for those permitted by special exceptions in the General Business and Development Districts. See Section 21.17 (see Page 25 & 26)

- I. Simulated Traffic Signs and Obstructions – Any sign which may be confused with, or obstruct the view of, any authorized traffic sign or signal, obstruct the sight-distance triangle at any road intersection or extend into the public right-of-way.
- J. A-framed/Wheeled Signs – Any portable “A” frame or similar portable sign is prohibited except as described under Temporary Signs. Section 21.17 (see Page 28)
- K. Signs Adversely Affecting Safety. Signs which prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, fire escape, or that prevent free access from one part of a roof to any other part. No sign other than a safety sign shall be attached to a stand-pipe or fire escape.
- L. Sign Emissions – No sign which emits smoke, visible vapors, particles, sound or odor shall be permitted. Open flames used to attract public attention to place of business or to an advertising sign shall not be permitted.
- M. Mirrors. No mirror device shall be used as part of a sign.

**SECTION 21.12: GENERAL RULES FOR READING AND APPLYING THE ORDINANCE LANGUAGE**

- A. **Reading and applying the Ordinance.** Literal reading of the Ordinance language will be used. Regulations are no more or less strict than as stated. Application of the regulations that are consistent with the rules of this Ordinance are non-discretionary actions of the Zoning Administrator to implement the Ordinance. The action of the Zoning Administrator is final.
- B. **Situations where the Ordinance is silent.** Where the Ordinance is silent, or where the rules of this Ordinance do not provide a basis for concluding that a sign is allowed, said sign is therefore prohibited.

**SECTION 21.13: TERMS**

- A. **Defining words:** Words used in the Ordinance have their dictionary meaning unless they are listed and described otherwise. Definitions: words listed in the Definitions chapter have the specific meaning stated, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning. The word “sign” in this Ordinance always refers to an “on-premise” sign.

**B. Tenses and usage**

1. Words used in the singular include the plural. The reverse is also true.
2. Words used in the present tense include the future tense. The reverse is also true.
3. The words “shall”, “must,” “will,” and “may not” are mandatory.

4. "May" is permissive.
5. When used with numbers, "Up to x," "Not more than x" and "a maximum of x" all include "x".

**C. Conjunctions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following conjunctions have the following meanings:

1. "And" indicates that all connected items or provisions apply;
2. "Or" indicated that the connected items or provisions may apply singly or in combination;
3. "Either...or" indicates that the connected items or provisions apply singly, but not in combination.

**D. Lists.** Lists of items that state "including the following," "such as," or similar language are not limited to just those items. The lists are intended to provide examples, but not to be exhaustive of all possibilities.

#### **SECTION 21.14: SIGN FACE AREA**

- A. Sign Cabinets.** The area of sign faces enclosed in frames or cabinets is determined based on the outer dimensions of the frame or cabinet
- B. Double sided signs.** Only one (1) side of a double sided sign is counted in determining the area of sign faces. Where the two (2) sides are not of equal size, the larger of the two (2) sides is used for the determination of sign area. The area of multiple-faced signs in which the interior angle formed by the faces is greater than ninety-one degrees (91°) shall be expressed as the sum of the areas of all the faces, except for multiple –faced signs containing faces that are configured back to back, in which case the area of the faces configured back to back will be calculated according to the rule for double-faced signs.
- C. Round, Oval & Irregularly shaped signs.** To be measured based on the appropriate mathematical formula to obtain the sign area for a circle, an oval or irregularly shaped sign.
- D. Calculating Sign Area**
1. Signs containing integral background areas: the area of a sign containing a clearly defined background area shall be calculated based on the area of the smallest standard geometric shape or combination of geometric shapes capable of encompassing the perimeter of the background area of the sign. In the case of signs in which multiple background areas are separated by open space, sign area shall be calculated based on the sum of the areas of

all separate background areas, calculated as references above, but without regard for any open space between the separate background areas.

2. Signs without integral background areas in instances in which a sign consists of individual elements such as letters, symbols, or other graphic objects or representations that are painted, attached to, or otherwise affixed to a surface such as a wall, window, canopy, awning, architectural projection, or to any surface not specifically designed to serve as a sign background, the sign area shall be based on the sum of the individual areas of the smallest geometric shape or combination of geometric shapes capable of encompassing the perimeters of the individual elements comprising the sign.

- E. **Awnings and Marquees.** When graphics or sign copy is incorporated into an awning, the sign area is determined by computing the area of a standard imaginary geometric shape or combination of shapes drawn around the sign copy area or graphics. When the ends of awnings or marquees are parallel and contain graphics or sign copy, only one side is counted in addition to the sign face area on the front.

#### **SECTION 21.15: HEIGHT OF SIGNS**

- A. The overall height of a freestanding sign or sign structure is measured from the lowest point of the ground directly below the sign to the highest point of the freestanding sign or sign structure.
- B. **Exception:** Where a freestanding sign or sign structure is mounted along a roadway that has a higher grade level as compared to the grade level directly below the freestanding sign or sign structure, then the freestanding sign or structure's height will be measured from the roadway grade level to the highest point of the freestanding sign or sign structure. See Figure A.

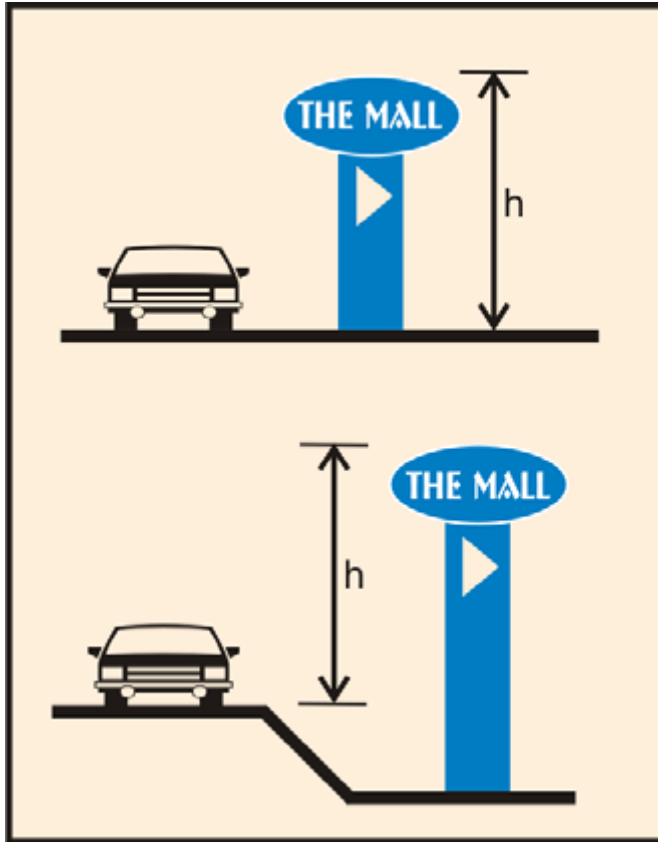


Figure A

**SECTION 21.16: STANDARDS IN RURAL RESIDENTIAL & URBAN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

- A. General standards: standards for permanent on-premise signs in the Rural Residential and Urban Residential Zoning Districts are described below and on Table 1 (see Page 23).
- B. Residential properties – all single family residential properties that are located in Rural Residential and Urban Residential Zoning Districts are permitted signs not to exceed eight (8) square feet in total sign area per road frontage. Corner lots and lots with frontage on more than one street are entitled to eight (8) square feet per frontage. This sign area allowance covers but is not limited to: address signs, home occupations signs, lawn signs, real estate signs, contractor signs, and political signs. Signs may be free standing, mounted to a permanent building structure or displayed in a window. Trees, rocks, or other naturally occurring landscape features shall not be used to support a residential sign.
- C. Subdivisions, apartment, multi-family dwellings and condominium complexes are permitted a freestanding sign not to exceed sixty-four (64) square feet, and further provided that one (1) such sign shall be permitted for each separate street and or separate building frontage

occupied by the subdivision, apartment, or condominium complex and/or for each means of entrance to or exit from the subdivision, apartment, or condominium complex. Wall signs are also permitted not to exceed five (5) percent of the area of the façade in elevation view upon which they are placed.

- D. For properties located in the Rural Residential and/or Urban Residential Zoning Districts as described in subsection C above, other directional, incidental and/or accessory signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in sign area and eight (8) feet in height (if freestanding).
- E. Other permitted non-residential uses in a Rural and Urban Residential Zoning Districts are permitted a freestanding sign not to exceed forty-eight (48) square feet. Wall signs are also permitted not to exceed five (5) percent of the area of the façade in elevation view upon which they are placed.
- F. Animated signs: as defined by this Ordinance, animated signs are prohibited in Rural and Urban Residential Zoning Districts.
- G. Roof Signs: as defined by this Ordinance, Roof signs are prohibited in Rural and Urban Residential Zoning Districts.

<b>Table 1 – Signs in Residential Districts</b>				
	<b>Types of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Number of Signs Allowed</b>	<b>Permitted Sign Area</b>	<b>Maximum Height (if Applicable)</b>
<b>Rural &amp; Urban Residential: Including Single Family Attached, Detached</b>	<b>Freestanding or Wall</b>	<b>Any number so long as the total sq. ft. of all signs does not exceed 8 sq. ft. per frontage</b>	<b>8 sq. ft.</b>	<b>6'-0"</b>
<b>Rural &amp; Urban Residential: Subdivisions, Apartment Complexes, Multi-Family Dwellings, Duplexes, Town Homes, Condominiums</b>	<b>Freestanding</b>	<b>One Per Frontage</b>	<b>64 sq. ft.</b>	<b>15'-0"</b>
	<b>Wall</b>	<b>One Per Façade</b>	<b>5% of Façade</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>Incidental or Directional</b>	<b>Unlimited</b>	<b>6 sq. ft.</b>	<b>8'-0"</b>
<b>Rural / Urban Residential: Permitted Non-Residential Uses in</b>	<b>Freestanding</b>	<b>One Per Frontage</b>	<b>48 sq. ft.</b>	<b>15'-0"</b>
	<b>Wall</b>	<b>One Per Façade</b>	<b>5% of Façade</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>Incidental or Directional</b>	<b>Unlimited</b>	<b>6 sq. ft.</b>	<b>8'-0"</b>



**SECTION 21.17: STANDARDS IN GENERAL BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

General standards and sign features: The standards for permanent signs in the General Business and Development Districts. All such signs must conform to the regulations of this Section.

- A. Any signs permitted in a Rural or Urban Residential Districts are permitted in General Business and Development Districts.
- B. Signs for an office, office development, professional building or multitenant commercial establishment, including a directory of tenants engaged in professional and/or commercial activity on the premises. The area of any such sign shall not exceed sixty-four (64) square feet and not more than two (2) such signs shall be permitted on premises held in single and separate ownership unless such premises fronts on more than one (1) street in which case two (1) such sign shall be permitted on each separate street frontage.
- C. Signs on properties located in the General Business or Development Districts are regulated by reference to types noted in the following:

**1. Freestanding Signs:**

- a) Freestanding signs shall be limited to one (1) per property held in single and separate ownership except for a property that has frontage on more than one (1) street, in which case one (1) such sign shall be permitted for each separate street frontage. If a property has frontage that exceeds three hundred (300) lineal feet on any given roadway, one (1) additional such sign on such frontage shall be permitted; and for each multiple of three hundred (300) lineal feet of frontage thereafter, one (1) additional such sign shall be permitted for each separate street frontage.

Unless otherwise regulated by specific reference herein, the area and height above grade of any freestanding sign shall not exceed the amounts specified in Table 2. See Page 25

- b) In the case of property designated as a shopping center or planned industrial park, additional freestanding signs shall be permitted for each vehicular entrance to the property. Permitted sign area for these additional freestanding signs shall be sixty (60) percent of the sign area permitted by Table 2 for Signs in General Business and Development Districts. Sign height shall be in conformance with Table 2. See Below.
- c) Freestanding signs may not extend into the right-of-way.

**Table 2 – Freestanding Signs in GB, DD, SR, & RP Values indicated are maximum limits on sign size and height  
A= Sign Area in Square Feet / H= Sign Height in Lineal Feet**

Zoning District ▶	GB, DD, SR, RP	
Speed Limit ▼	A	H
25	64	24
30	92	28
35	125	30
40	164	38
45	208	43
50	256	47
55	312	51

**2. Building Signs:**

- a) Building signs include wall or fascia signs, roof signs, and signs otherwise permanently applied to walls or other building surfaces.
- b) The total area of all parallel wall signs applied to any given façade shall not exceed the area computed as a percentage of the building façade in elevation view, including window and door areas and cornices to which they are affixed or applied in accordance with Table 3 (See Page 25) for Parallel Signs in General Business and Development Districts.
- c) In the case of a shopping center or a group of stores or other business uses on a lot held in single and separate ownership, the provisions of this section relating to the total area of signs permitted on premises shall apply with respect to each building, separate store, separate storefront, or separate use. Only wall signs shall be permitted for individual establishments in a Shopping Center or on a property with more than one use, entity or business (multi-use or multi-tenant properties; these properties may also have one (1) freestanding sign per street frontage).
- d) Fascia or wall signs may not extend above the top of the building wall upon which they are mounted.
- e) Fascia or wall signs may not extend more than eighteen (18) inches out from the wall or structure to which they are attached.

<b>Table 3 - Parallel Signs</b>	
Distance of sign from road	Percentage of building elevation façade permitted for sign area
0 to 100 feet	Fifteen (15%)
101 to 300 feet	Twenty (20%)
Over 301 feet	Twenty-Five (25%)

**3. Roof Signs, Special Considerations:**

a) Roof signs are permitted by Special Exception in the General Business and Development Districts and are in lieu of a building or wall sign. For permitted roof sign area, see Table 3 (above) for parallel signs in General Business and Development District. The height of any roof sign above the highest architectural point of the building to which it is mounted shall not exceed the percentage of the vertical dimension of the building façade parallel to the sign in accord with subsection (1) Page 26. Measurements shall be computed from the highest building point to the top of the sign.

(1) General Business and Development District – Twenty-five (25) percent

- b) The area calculation for any roof sign whose orientation on a roof may be other than parallel to an individual building façade shall be computed with reference to the building façade that most closely parallels the orientation of such sign.
- c) A pitched roof sign may not extend above the roofline.
- d) Pitched roof signs must be parallel to the building face. They may not extend beyond the building wall. See illustrations in Section 21.09 (See Page 16)
- e) Support structures must be designed so that there is no visible support structure above the sign.

**4. Canopy Signs (also Marquee Signs and Signs on Architectural Projections): Special Considerations**

- a) Canopy Signs, Marquee Signs and Signs on Architectural Projections are signs that are mounted to either structures that project off the face of the building more than eighteen (18) inches or signs that are mounted to a freestanding structure not attached to a building that creates a canopy or covering over an area below.
- b) Signs affixed or applied in an essentially flat plane to the face of a building or freestanding canopy, marquee, or architectural projection provided that the copy area of any such sign, as defined herein, does not exceed an area equal to forty (40) percent of the product of the height and length of the face area of the canopy, marquee, or architectural projection to which such sign is affixed or applied, or fifteen (15) percent of the building façade to which it is attached, whichever is greater.
- c) Graphic treatment in the form of striping or patterns shall be permitted on the face of any building or freestanding canopy, marquee, or architectural projection without restriction, and the area of any such graphic treatment shall not be calculated as a component of permitted copy area.

**5. Awning Signs**

- a) Graphics affixed or applied to the face or side surfaces of an awning or backlit awning are permitted provided that the copy area of any such sign copy or graphic, as defined herein, does not exceed an area in accordance with Table 3 for parallel signs, to which the awning is attached.
- b) Graphic treatment and/or embellishment in the form of striping, patterns, or valances shall be permitted on the face or side surfaces of any awning or backlit awning without restriction, and the area of any such graphic treatment and/or embellishment shall not be calculated as a component of permitted copy area.

**6. Projecting Signs:**

- a) Projecting signs shall be limited to one (1) per building façade on which any such sign is mounted except for a use that fronts on more than one (1) street, in which case, one (1) such sign shall be permitted per façade for each separate street frontage. In the case of a building in which any individual façade exceeds two hundred (200) lineal feet, one (1) such sign shall be permitted for each two hundred (200) lineal feet of such façade or multiple thereof on each separate street on which such façade fronts.
- b) The area of any projecting sign shall not exceed one (1) square foot per every two (2) lineal feet of the building façade on which such sign is

mounted, except that no such sign shall be larger in area than one hundred (100) square feet.

- c) No projecting sign shall extend in vertical dimension above the highest architectural point of the façade to which it is mounted in excess of twenty five (25) percent of the vertical dimension of the façade itself. No projecting sign's height from highest grade below the sign to the lowest point of the projecting sign or sign structure shall be less than ten (10) feet.
- d) Projecting signs extending over a public sidewalk shall be limited to a projection distance not to exceed two-thirds (2/3) of the width of the sidewalk.
- e) Projecting signs shall not be permitted in addition to any permitted freestanding signs on any given property frontage, except that, in the case in which a premises is permitted either freestanding or projecting signs on any one (1) frontage, projecting signs may be substituted for any of the permitted freestanding signs on such frontage, provided that the requirements herein specifically relating to size, height, and extension of projecting signs are met.
- f) Projecting signs are not allowed on rooftops or on pitched roofs.

**7. Directional Signs**

- a) General standards: Directional signs that meet the standards of this subsection are allowed in all districts and are not counted in the total square footage of permanent signage allowed on any property or site.
- b) Size: Freestanding directional signs may be up to six (6) square feet in area and ninety-six (96) inches in height. Fascia directional signs may be up to sixteen (16) square feet in area.
- c) Directional signs in any district may have internal or external illumination.

**8. Permanent Banners**

- a) General: Banners used as permanent signs are allowed in all Commercial and Industrial districts and will be included in the total square footage of permanent signage allowed on the site. If a banner is used as a permanent sign it must be placed in a frame. Any banner not in a frame will be considered a temporary banner. Temporary banners are regulated under Section 21.17 Subsection 9.c. (See Page 29)

- b) Standards: Permanent banners are subject to the standards for either fascia signs or projecting signs depending on how the banner is supported or anchored.

**9. Temporary Signs**

- a) Signs that meet the standards of this subsection are exempt from the standards for permanent signs and are not counted in the total square footage of signage allowed on any particular property or site. Signs that do not meet the standards of this subsection are subject to the standards for permanent signs.
- b) Temporary signs may have external or internal illumination.
- c) Temporary Signs also include inflatable signs and objects. Signs and other objects which are inflated, including but not limited to, balloons. Balloons may be permitted in temporary non-commercial situations; for instance: they are permitted for special occasions at a residence.
- d) Temporary banners: Temporary banners are subject to the following regulations:
  - 1) In Rural and Urban Residential Districts, temporary banners are not permitted on sites with houses, duplexes, and attached houses. Exception: banners for holidays, religious commemoration, and special family events.
  - 2) In the General Business and Development Districts, one banner no larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in size is permitted per property or, on a multi-use property, per storefront. One (1) of these banners may be hung on each building wall or on each separate structure.
    - i. In no case may a storefront have more than one (1) temporary banner.
    - ii. A temporary banner may be displayed no longer than ninety (90) days per calendar year, and for no more than 30 days at a time.
    - iii. Any additional banners, or banners larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in size, must meet the standards for permanent signs in this Ordinance.

**10. Political Signs.**

- a) Temporary signs advertising political parties or candidates for elections may be erected or displayed with out permit or fee provided that:

- 1) The size of the sign shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
- 2) The sign(s) shall be removed not later than ten (10) days after the election to which they pertain.

**11. Joint Signs.**

- a) The Planning Commission shall review permit applications for a Joint Sign or Area Identification Sign, which the Planning Commission may approve pursuant to review criteria and this Subparagraph, and thereafter the Zoning Administrator may issue a permit for said sign.
- b) Joint Signs and Area Identification Signs shall comply with both general and district-specific sign requirements for construction, setbacks, and height. Approval of the Joint Sign area and design shall be based on the following criteria:
  - 1.) The number and type of parcels, organizations, and structures served by the sign;
  - 2.) Consistency with other provisions and conditions of any Site Plan Approval, Conditional Use Permit or related permit;
  - 3.) Compatibility with adjacent development, including but not limited to the size and design of Freestanding Signs in the vicinity;
  - 4.) Consistency with the intent of the sign provisions of this Ordinance, including district-specific sign regulations, and;
  - 5.) Compliance with other applicable laws.
- c) After the initial approval of a Joint Sign structure, each subsequent Joint Sign Subunit to be included in the Joint Sign shall obtain a sign permit directly from the Zoning Administrator. After initial construction of the Joint Sign structure and Joint Sign Subunits, any alterations to the structure of said signs shall require a sign permit from the Zoning Administrator.
- d) Easements. A sign easement shall be required for all Joint Signs approved by Planning Commission. The easement shall reflect the right of all affected parcels to access and maintain the signage.
- e) Sign Use and Maintenance Agreements. Parcels affected by a Joint Sign

Determination shall - in addition to the easement requirements of subparagraph (a) above - be party to a sign-usage-and-maintenance agreement for the Joint Sign.

Said agreement shall, at a minimum, establish terms for shared maintenance and landscaping of the overall sign structure and sign subunits; establish each parcel's share of area in the Joint Sign; set any requirements for the temporary disposition of sign subunits in the event of business vacancies; and any other limitations on sign design, appearance, or refurbishment. Said agreement shall be subject to prior review and approval by the Planning Commission.

- f) Recordation. All easements and agreements described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall be recorded with the Marquette County Register of Deeds.

**SECTION 21.18: ADDITIONAL STANDARDS IN ALL DISTRICTS**

- A. Where these regulations apply.** These regulations apply to all signs regulated by this Ordinance.
- B. Sign placement.** All signs and sign structures must be erected and attached totally on or within the site or property to which they refer, behind any applicable legal right-of-way.
- C. Removal of signs.** The Michigan Department of Transportation, Marquette Charter Township, or the Marquette County Road Commission may require a sign extending into the right-of-way to be modified or moved if streets are widened or other improvements made in the right-of-way, which result in the creation of unsafe conditions. The modification or moving will be at the owner's expense. If a nonconforming sign is moved under this requirement, it may be re-erected on the site without being brought into conformance.
- D. Design continuity.** All signs and sign structures must be professionally designed by a licensed and insured sign contractor.

**SECTION 21.19: ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTERS**

- A.** In the General Business and Development Districts, Electronic Message Centers (EMCs) are permitted to be sixty percent (60%) of the allowable sign areas in accordance with the sign areas noted in Table 2 (see Page 24) or Table 3 (see Page 25) respectively.
- B.** Additional general EMC regulations:



1. All EMC signs shall have automatic dimming controls, either by photocell (hardwired) or via software settings, in order to bring the EMC lighting level at night into compliance with Section 21.21 of this Ordinance “Sign Illumination Standards”.
2. In General Business and Development District, EMC signs must maintain a minimum transition time between messages and/or message frames of three (3) seconds and these transitions may employ fade, dissolve, and or other transition effects.
3. All EMC display features and functions are permitted, with the exception of (a) flashing, which is prohibited, and (b) full motion video or film display via an electronic file imported into the EMC software or streamed in real time into the EMC.

**SECTION 21.20: SIGN ILLUMINATION STANDARDS**

Signs may be illuminated consistent with the following standards:

- A. A sign in any district may be illuminated at night. Signs that are illuminated at night may not exceed a maximum luminance level of seven hundred fifty (750) cd/m<sup>2</sup> or Nits, regardless of the method of illumination.
- B. Signs that have external illumination, whether the lighting is mounted above or below the sign face or panel, shall have lighting fixtures or luminaries that are fully shielded.
- C. All illuminated signs must comply with the maximum luminance level of seven hundred fifty (750) cd/m<sup>2</sup> or Nits at least one-half hour before Apparent Sunset, as determined by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Department of Commerce, for the specific geographic location and date. All illuminated signs must comply with this maximum luminance level throughout the night, if the sign is energized, until Apparent Sunrise, as determined by the NOAA, at which time the sign may resume luminance levels appropriate for daylight conditions, when required or appropriate.
- D. On-premise signs do not constitute a form of outdoor lighting at night, but they shall not be exempt from outdoor lighting regulations that the Charter Township of Marquette has adopted, or may adopt in the future.

**SECTION 21.21: NONCONFORMING SIGNS**

- A. Nonconforming permanent signs may continue to exist after passage of this Code. Nonconforming signs will be removed and changed in accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- B. Permanent signs and sign structures that are moved, removed, replaced, or structurally altered must be brought into conformance with the sign regulations. However,

nonconforming signs required to be moved because of public right-of-way improvements may be re-established. Removable faces or sign panel inserts in cabinet style sign may also be changed by right, and such change does not constitute a structural alteration nor trigger loss of nonconforming status.

- C. All nonconforming signs and sign structures must continue to be maintained in accordance with all applicable sections of this Ordinance as determined by the Zoning Administrator.
- D. Nonconforming temporary signs must be removed within two (2) months of the passage of this Ordinance.
- E. Ownership. The status of a nonconforming sign is not affected by changes in ownership.
- F. Once a sign is altered to conform or is replaced with a conforming sign, the nonconforming rights for that sign are lost and a nonconforming sign may not be re-established.
- G. Loss of a nonconforming sign status.
  - 1. Discontinuance. See definition of Abandoned Sign.
  - 2. Destruction. When a sign or sign structure is removed or intentionally destroyed, replacement signs and sign structures must comply with the current standards. However:
    - a) Unintentional destruction. When a sign or sign structure that has nonconforming elements is partially or totally damaged by fire or other causes beyond the control of the owner, the sign and sign structure may be rebuilt to the same size and height using the same materials.

**SECTION 21.22: ELECTRICAL REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY ON-PREMISE SIGNS**

All on-premise electrical signs outline lighting systems and skeleton neon lighting systems and all other Electrical Regulations shall fall under the regulations of the Marquette County Building Codes Department.

**SECTION 21.23: CONSTRUCTION AND STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Structural Standards**

- 1. Signs, sign structures, sign foundations and methods to attach and anchor signs must be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Marquette County Building Codes Department.

2. The supports and foundations used in construction for all signs and sign structures must be located outside any rights-of-way.
3. Welds of sign structures & sections of sign structures must be welded in accordance with the Marquette County Building Codes Department.

**B. Clearances**

1. Vision clearance areas: Vision clearance areas are triangular-shaped areas located at the intersection of any combination of rights-of-way, alleys or driveways. The sides of the triangle extend thirty (30) feet from the intersection of the right-of-way, alley or driveway in either/each direction. (See Section 13.03 Fig. 13-1) No sign may be installed within this clear sight triangle.
2. Vehicle area clearances: In areas outside of rights-of-way, when a sign or awning extends over an area in which vehicles travel or are parked, the bottom of the structure must be at least fourteen (14) feet above the ground. Vehicle areas include driveways, alleys, parking areas, and loading and maneuvering areas.
3. Pedestrian area clearances: When a sign or awning extends more than twelve (12) inches over a sidewalk, walkway, or other space used by pedestrians, the bottom of the structure must be at least ten (10) feet above the ground.
4. Clearances from fire escapes, means of egress or standpipes: Signs, sign structures and awnings are prohibited from being erected in any manner that interferes in any way with the free use of any fire escape, means of egress or standpipe. Attaching signs, sign structures or awnings to a fire escape is prohibited.
5. Obstruction of windows and ventilation: Signs, sign structures and awnings are prohibited from being installed in any way that obstructs any building openings to such an extent that light, ventilation or exhaust are reduced to a level below that required by either the Marquette County Building Codes Department, The Marquette County Health Department or the Marquette Township Fire Department.

**SECTION 21.24: MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Signs, sign structures and awnings, together with their supports, braces, guys, anchors and electrical components must be maintained in a proper state of repair. The Zoning Administrator may at his/her discretion order any sign or sign structures or awnings to be removed if not maintained in accordance to this Ordinance.

**B. Dangerous Structures and Equipment**

1. Signs, sign structures or awnings that are dangerous must be taken down and removed or made safe as the Zoning Administrator deems necessary. Signs may be deemed dangerous for one or more of the following reasons:
  - a) Whenever a sign structure or its foundation, a sign's attachments to a building, or a building to which a sign is attached is damaged by fire, earthquake, wind, flood or by any other cause, to such an extent that the structural strength or stability is materially less than it was before the catastrophe and is less than the minimum requirements of the Ordinance;
  - b) Whenever any portion or member of a sign, sign structure or awning is likely to fail, or become detached or dislodged, or to collapse and thereby injure persons or property;
  - c) Whenever any portion or member of a sign, sign structure or awning is likely to partially or completely collapse as a result of any cause, including dilapidation, deterioration, or decay; faulty construction or wiring; or removal, movement or instability of any portion of the ground or building necessary for supporting such structure;
  - d) Whenever a sign, structure or awning is structurally or electrically unsafe or otherwise hazardous to human life or safety by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, fire hazard, disaster, damage or abandonment;
2. All signs, sign structures and awnings determined after inspection by the Zoning Administrator to be dangerous must be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or removal.

## **SECTION 21.25: PERMITS**

### **A. Permit**

A Sign Permit Application shall be required for all sign except for those denoted in Section 21.10 of this Article and shall be fully completed before submitting to the Zoning Department.

### **B. Review of Applications and Issuance of Permits**

The Zoning Department has ten (10) business days to review completed permits. Any missing information may cause the review to be extended a reasonable amount of time. Once the Zoning Department has completed their review of the Permit Application a Permit will be issued at which time all applicable fees will need to be paid.

### **C. Life of Permit and Registration Limited**

Once a permit is granted the individual erecting the sign has one (1) year to complete the work as designated on the issued permit. Should the work not take place within one year the

Zoning Department will need to again review the permit application before any work may commence.

**SECTION 21.26: ENFORCEMENT & VIOLATIONS**

A. The Zoning Administrator is empowered under this Article and in accordance with *Article XXV, Administration and Enforcement, Section 25.10, Zoning Administrator Duties and Power*, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter a premise located within the Charter Township of Marquette, for the purpose of inspection of a sign.

**B. Penalties**

If any sign is installed or placed on any property prior to receipt of a permit, the specified permit fee shall be doubled. However, payment of the doubled fee shall not relieve any person of any other requirements or penalties prescribed in this Ordinance.

**C. Violations**

When, in the opinion of the Zoning Administrator, a violation of the Ordinance exists, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a written order to the alleged violator. The order shall specify those sections of the Ordinance which the individual may be in violation of and shall state that the individual has thirty (30) days from the date of the order in which to correct the alleged violation or to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals. If, upon inspection, the Zoning Administrator finds that a sign is abandoned or in any way endangers the public health, safety or welfare, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a written order to the owner of the sign and occupant of the premises stating the nature of the violation and requiring them to repair or remove the sign within thirty (30) days of the date of the order. In cases of emergency, the Zoning Administrator may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or defective sign without notice. Signs removed in this manner must present a hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare as defined in the local building or traffic codes.

**SECTION 21.27: FEES**

A. No permit will be issued by the Zoning Administrator until all applicable fees have been paid as required by the Township Board.

**SECTION 21.28: APPEALS**

An individual aggrieved by a decision rendered by the Zoning Administrator in denying a permit or in alleging a violation of this Article may appeal in writing to the Zoning Board of Appeals within ten (10) days of receipt of the Zoning Administrator’s written decision. The action being appealed shall be held in abeyance pending the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals.