

Attachment 1

Proposed Language for Amendments to Zoning, Off-Premise Sign and Countywide Lighting Ordinances

Zoning Ordinance

Section 7: Definitions

- Temporary Sign – Any non-permanent sign designed to advertise a business or event (non-profit or for-profit) for a limited amount of time. These can include portable signs, signs placed in or on the ground or signs placed on a vehicle. These do not include political signs as specified in Section 15.5(9).

Section 9.4: Extension or Enlargement of Non-conforming Situations

Option A – Language proposed in Attachment 2: Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Option B – Language discussed by Board of Commissioners March 1, 2010

1. Non-conforming situations may be extended or enlarged as provided below:
 - f) Non-conforming Signs: Any permanent, on-premise sign may be replaced, or repaired ~~or relocated~~ on the property, provided that the replaced, or repaired ~~or relocated~~ sign does not exceed the size (square footage) or height of the original sign.

Section 15.5: Signs Permitted in any Zoning District

Option A – Language proposed in Attachment 2: Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Option B – Language discussed by Board of Commissioners March 1, 2010

9. Signs of any political party or announcing the candidacy of any individual for any nomination or office; provided that in any residential district, no such sign shall exceed 32 square feet in area and in any district other than a residential district no sign shall exceed in area the maximum area of sign display permitted on any lot in that district; provided further, that all such signs, shall be erected no sooner than ~~the filing period deadline for the election~~ 30 days prior to the start of early voting for the primary and general elections for which a candidate is seeking office and shall be removed not later than 14 working days after the date of the primary and general elections to which they pertain.

Section 15.10: Temporary Signs

Option A – Language proposed in Attachment 2: Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Option B – Language discussed by Board of Commissioners March 1, 2010

- A. On-premise or off-premise signs promoting events sponsored by civic, charitable, educational, religious, community recreational, or other non-profit organizations may be erected up to two (2) weeks in advance of the event being promoted. These signs shall be removed within two (2) days following the conclusion of the event. The signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in size, and shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height, measured from

ground level to the top of the sign. Written permission shall be required for signs located on property other than the location of the event. No such signs shall be permitted on public property or within public rights-of-way unless authorized by the responsible landowner or agency. There shall be no more than one (1) sign per street or road frontage per parcel.

B. On-premise or off-premise signs promoting real estate open houses may be erected up to two (2) days prior to the open house and must be removed within 24 hours following the conclusion of the open house. The signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet in size, and shall not exceed five (5) feet in height, measured from ground level to the top of the sign. Written permission shall be required for signs located on property other than the location of the event. No such signs shall be permitted on public property or within public rights-of-way unless authorized by the responsible landowner or agency. There shall be no more than one (1) sign per street or road frontage per parcel, and no more than three (3) signs per real estate open house.

C. All other temporary signs shall be on-premise and shall not be erected for more than 30 calendar days per year, shall not exceed 32 square feet in size, and shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height, measured from ground level to the top of the sign. No such signs shall be permitted on public property or within public rights-of-way unless authorized by the responsible landowner or agency. There shall be no more than one (1) sign per street or road frontage per parcel.

D. Banner signs shall be permitted as on-premise temporary signs, provided they do not exceed 32 square feet in size. Banner signs shall be erected for no more 30 calendar days per year. No banner signs shall be permitted on public property or within public rights-of-way unless authorized by the responsible landowner or agency. There shall be no more than one (1) sign per street or road frontage per parcel.

E. On-premise temporary signs giving information pertaining to construction taking place on the property for which a permit has been issued may remain throughout construction but shall be removed upon issuance of a certificate of occupancy. These signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in size, and shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height, measured from ground level to the top of the sign. No such signs shall be permitted on public property or within public rights-of-way unless authorized by the responsible landowner or agency. There shall be no more than one (1) sign per construction entrance.

Off-Premise Sign Ordinance

Section 109.00 Non-conforming Signs

Option A – Language proposed in Attachment 3: Off-Premise Sign Ordinance Amendments

Option B – Language discussed by Board of Commissioners March 1, 2010

B. Any off-premise sign may be replaced, or repaired ~~or relocated~~ on the property it is located, provided that the replaced, or repaired ~~or relocated~~ off-premise sign does not exceed the size (square footage) or height of the original sign.

Zoning Ordinance Section 13.12: Permanent Sign and Billboard Lighting

Countywide Lighting Ordinance Section 17: Permanent Sign and Billboard Lighting

Draft Language for internally illuminated signs and digital message boards

These Standards Would Require a Separate Public Hearing

Internally Illuminated Signs

Internally illuminated signs are permitted so long as the sign meets the following requirements:

1. Such signs shall consist of light lettering or symbols on a dark background wherever possible and as follows:
 - The lettering or symbols shall constitute no more than forty (40) percent of the surface area of the sign.
 - The luminous transmittance for the lettering or symbols shall not exceed thirty-five (35) percent.
 - The luminous transmittance for the background portion of the sign shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent.
2. For light background signs, a sample sign demonstration in the proposed Chatham County area for the sign installation or a representative photo of an illuminated sign in a surround similar to the Chatham County installation being proposed must be approved by the planning department of Chatham County to insure that it is not too bright.
3. The lamp rating for internally illuminated signs shall not exceed 1000 initial lumens per square foot of sign.
4. If the light source is linear fluorescent, the lamps should be spaced at least twelve (12) inches on center, mounted at least 3.5 inches from the translucent surface material unless approved otherwise by the Chatham County planning department.

For all other light sources, they shall be positioned inside the sign such that they do not cause any kind of excessive glare, a hazard to motorists or concern for adjacent neighbors.

Digital Message Boards

Digital message boards shall meet the following requirements:

- a. not allowed in areas zoned _____ by Chatham County
- b. not operate past 11:00 p.m. when visible from a residential district or use
- c. have a static message or image lasting no less than 8 seconds

- d. have a maximum transition time of 1 second between successive static messages and not permit blending of static messages
- e. contain a default design that freezes the message in one position if a malfunction occurs
- f. not be located within 1,000 feet of approaching interchange or traffic-merging lanes
- g. be capable of being adjusted so that when judged by Chatham County during the daytime or nighttime to be excessively bright or to create a distraction to drivers, the owner or operator of the board shall reduce/dim and permanently set the light output to a lower level deemed satisfactory by Chatham County.