

ARTICLE 13. SIGN CONTROL REGULATIONS

These Sign Control Regulations are adopted as a supplement to “The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Alabama”, under the zoning authority of the City in furtherance of the more general purposes set forth in the Zoning Ordinance.

§13.1. Purpose and Intent. The purpose of these Sign Control Regulations are: to provide guidelines for orderly and harmonious display of signs within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, Alabama; to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication while providing for the safety of the pedestrian and traveling public by limiting distraction, hazards, and obstructions; to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment and the City’s ability to attract sources of economic development and growth; to avoid the erection of displays which produce deleterious and injurious effects to adjacent properties and to the natural beauty of the environment; and to promote the mental and physical health, safety and welfare of the public.

§13.2. Application and Enforcement. The provisions of these regulations shall be subject to such exceptions, additions, or modifications as herein provided by the following supplementary regulations:

13.2.1. Applicability. The provisions of this article shall apply to all areas within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, Alabama. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, reconstruct, erect, place, establish, create, enlarge, alter, replace or maintain any sign or cause the same to be done within the corporate limits of the City, except in conformity with the requirements of these regulations.

A. Status of nonconforming signs.

- 1) If at any time a nonconforming sign is removed for any reason, it shall not be replaced.
- 2) All non-permanent signs shall comply with these sign control regulations within the period of time for which they are permitted. (For instance, nonconforming temporary signs shall be removed within two (2) months of the date of their approval, or the adoption of this Ordinance, as amended, whichever is earlier.) Nonconforming signs that do not have a current permit shall be removed or brought into compliance and permitted within ten (10) business days, upon notification.
- 3) All nonconforming permanent signs that may be able to be brought into compliance shall be brought into compliance with these regulations when such sign undergoes alteration, in any way other than sign “maintenance.”

B. Applicability in historic districts. Within the Robert Beaty, George Houston, Courthouse Square Commercial, and Athens State University Historic Districts, or any other locally designated historic districts, signs shall comply with the design guidelines of the applicable historic districts *and* the provisions for sign type, position, density, area and height in the applicable zoning districts. Where the historic design guidelines and the sign regulations of this article are in conflict, the more restrictive standards shall apply.

13.2.2. Business License. No person or persons or firm shall construct or alter any sign within the corporate limits of the City without first obtaining a business license as required by the License Code of the City. This provision shall not apply to persons employed by licensed firms, or to the owner of or employees of the owner doing the entire work of construction or erection.

13.2.3. Site Plan Approval and Building Permit Required. Except as otherwise provided for in this Article, it shall be unlawful for any person to construct or alter within the corporate limits of

the City, or cause the same to be done without first obtaining Signage Site Plan Approval, as described herein, and a Building Permit from the Department.

A. Issuance of a Permit. No Building or Sign Permit shall be issued for an individual sign requiring a permit until a Signage Site Plan for the lot or tract of land on which the sign will be erected or placed has been approved. The Signage Site Plan must be submitted to the Department, by the owner or the owner's agent, and approved by the Commission, or Zoning Official in the case of administrative approval, whichever is appropriate.

B. Administrative Signage Site Plan approval.

- 1) Proponents of attached accessory signs, window signs, and temporary signs may apply for administrative Signage Site Plan approval by the Zoning Official upon the submission of all applicable documents as listed below.
- 2) Signs that may qualify for administrative approval are: detached accessory signs; construction site identification signs; residential identification signs; directional signs; business center signs; non-accessory signs; and all other detached, on-premise signage. Upon submission of all applicable documents as listed below said documents shall be reviewed by the Department. If the Zoning Official deems necessary, these signs shall be reviewed by the Commission.

C. Billboard signs. Refer to [§13.3.22 Billboard Signs](#).

13.2.4. Components of a Signage Site Plan. The Signage Site Plan shall contain the following information:

A. Attached Accessory or Window Signs:

- 1) Scalable measured drawings using a scalable architectural or engineering scale, or photographs, of the façade of the building in question showing the location of the proposed signage on said building
- 2) Scalable measured drawings or other graphic depictions of said signage indicating the appearance of the sign, the information to be conveyed, including drawings showing the dimensions, construction, details, supports, size, electrical wiring and components, materials of the signs and methods of attachments, lighting, and lettering or graphic style.

B. Temporary Signs:

- 1) The specific beginning and ending dates of the timed event that the sign(s) will be advertising
- 2) Information about the size of the sign(s) in area, with dimensional notations and information that will be displayed on the signs
- 3) An affirmative statement by the applicant that the permitted temporary sign will be erected and removed in accordance with the dates stated on the application

C. Detached Signs:

- 1) An accurate and scaled plot plan, drawn by a licensed, registered or certified architect, designer, drafter, engineer, or landscape architect
- 2) Location of buildings, parking lots, driveways, and landscaped areas on such lot or tract of land, showing setback dimensions
- 3) Location of electric or telephone lines overhead or underground
- 4) Location and width of utility and drainage easements

- 5) Computations of the maximum total sign area, the maximum area for individual signs, the height of signs and the number of detached signs allowed on the lot included in the plan under this Ordinance
- 6) An accurate indication on the plot plan of the proposed location of each present and future sign of any type, whether requiring a permit or not, and location of each sign on the buildings
- 7) Drawings showing the dimensions, construction, details, supports, size, electrical wiring and components, materials of the signs and methods of attachments, lighting, and lettering or graphic style.

13.2.5. Issuance Denial. When a permit is denied by the reviewing authority, notice shall be given to the proponent of the denial with a written statement of reason(s) within the following seven (7) working days. If administrative approval is denied, the signature of the Zoning Official shall accompany said denial.

13.2.6. Appeals of Permit Denial. Upon denial of an application by the reviewing authority (e.g. the Zoning Official in cases of administrative review or the Commission in cases of Site Plan review or other cases referred to the Commission by the Zoning Official), such denial may be appealed to the Board. During application or appeal process the Zoning Official shall sign the denial within seven (7) days of the review. The denial notification shall include the reason(s) for the denial. Appeals from the Board shall be to the Circuit Court.

13.2.7. Permit Fees. The Council may, at its discretion and from time to time, establish by resolution, a fee to cover the costs of Signage Site Plan review. Application for Sign Permits shall be filed with the Department after Signage Site Plan approval by the reviewing authority.

13.2.8. Inspection of Signs. All permanent detached signs shall be subject to a footing inspection and all electrical signs to an electrical inspection by the Building Official. The person constructing or altering any sign shall notify the Building Official upon completion for final inspection.

13.2.9. Exceptions. No permit shall be required for signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any governmental functions, as required by law, ordinance, or governmental regulation.

13.2.10. Penalties and Injunctions. Any violation of these regulations shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$200.00 for each and every violation. Each day that a violation remains uncorrected shall be considered a separate offense.

§13.3. General Sign Regulations.

13.3.1. Public Right-of-Way. No sign of any type, or any part of a sign, or any foundation or support of any sign, whether requiring a permit or not, shall be erected, located, or placed in or projected over any public thoroughfare or alley ROW, or in any utility or drainage easement, except as provided by this Ordinance.

13.3.2. Power and Telephone Poles. No sign shall be placed or mounted on power poles and/or telephone poles, nor be maintained or erected in anyway that will interfere with power lines and/or telephone lines. Signs shall not be located closer than ten (10) ft to any existing or proposed power line, nor shall they be placed directly under the power lines.

13.3.3. Code Enforcement. All signs shall meet the standards and codes, adopted and enforced by the City.

13.3.4. Sign Appearance. Signs and all components, supporting structures, and attachments shall be maintained in good repair, free of rust, peeling, flaking, fading, broken or cracked panels, and

broken or missing letters, presenting a clean and finished appearance, and shall be maintained in safe condition, free from damage or the results from excessive weathering. At any time the Building Official shall find that any permitted sign is in a bad state of repair, or is in danger of falling, or presents a hazard from electrical shock or fire, or at any time a permitted sign is found to be in such a bad state of repair or maintenance so as to adversely affect the property values in the surrounding neighborhood, then the Building Official shall make and enter an order directed to the owner or person in charge of the sign commanding its removal or its repair or maintenance. Any orders issued under this Section shall be subject to an appeal to the Board.

- A. Sign area appearance. The area within ten (10) feet in all directions of any part of a detached sign shall be kept clean of debris and trash, and excessive weed or grass growth, as per the City of Athens Weed Control Ordinance.
- B. Sign backs. Exposed backs of all signs shall be painted a single color and shall present a clean and finished appearance.

13.3.5. Changing Message Signs, Electronic Reader Board Signs, Electronic Center Signs. These signs will be counted as part of the total signage area permitted per frontage in any district. They shall meet the requirements specified for the type of signage it serves as: attached or detached, permanent or portable, on- or off-premises as well as other provisions for signage as specified in this Article. They shall meet the requirements for illuminated or flashing signs in §13.3.6.

- A. Such signs shall be permitted in the B-2, B-3, M-1, and M-2 Districts only.
- B. “Waterfall” messages, scrolling messages, and other similar electronic messages shall be prohibited as set forth in §13.3.6. Any sign which changes messages, e.g., temperature, time, announcements, etc., shall hold the conveyed information conveyed for a period of at least ten (10) seconds before it is replaced with another message or data.
- C. The portability of the sign does not preclude it from the requirements of this Ordinance (see [§13.3.14 Portable Signs](#)).

13.3.6. Illuminated Signs, Flashing Signs. Illuminated signs and outside lighting devices including beacons and spotlights, shall emit only light of constant intensity. No sign shall be illuminated by, contain, or display flashing, blinking, intermittent, rotating, moving lights or lights of changing degrees of intensity. Illuminated signs shall not cause glare or reflection that constitutes a traffic hazard or nuisance.

13.3.7. Revolving or Animated Signs. No sign shall revolve or be animated, or utilize movement or apparent movement in order to attract the attention of the public.

13.3.8. Electrical Lights. All signs with electrical lights and components shall conform to the codes adopted and enforced by the City of Athens.

13.3.9. Occupant Identification. One sign denoting the name and address of the occupants of the premises is permitted in any district. These signs shall not exceed two (2) sf in area.

13.3.10. Attached Signs. Attached signs shall not extend more than eighteen (18) inches into any required yard and:

- A. Attached, flush-mounted signs shall not:
 - 1) extend more than eighteen (18) inches perpendicular to the wall surface
 - 2) extend beyond the corner end of the wall surface
 - 3) extend more than eighteen (18) inches above the top of such wall

- B. Attached, projecting signs may project more than eighteen (18) inches beyond the wall surface, but shall not:
- 1) extend more than thirty-six (36) inches perpendicular to the wall surface
 - 2) extend beyond the corner end of the wall surface nor more than eighteen (18) inches above the top of such wall
 - 3) extend closer than eight (8) ft to the sidewalk or otherwise obstruct a pedestrian way
- C. Roof-mounted signs. Permanent roof mounted signs shall not be located in any district.
- 13.3.11.** Banners, Posters, etc. These are considered a type of temporary, non-permanent signage as defined in Article 2.
- A. These signs may be completely attached to an on-premise permanent detached sign, but in no case shall these be wholly or partly attached to a utility pole, street light, or other municipally owned pole or object.
 - B. Banners displayed off-premise are prohibited.
 - C. Over-the-street banners are prohibited.
 - D. These signs are also prohibited from being attached to any railroad trestle or bridge which crosses a ROW.
 - E. No more than two banners are allowed per site or per tenant in group occupancy at one time.
 - F. The size of the banner shall not exceed thirty-two (32) sf.
 - G. These signs are required to be removed within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the event.
- 13.3.12.** Pennants, Special Purpose Flags, and Streamers. Pennants, special purpose flags (such as flags that serve as commercial identification using a name, logo, slogan, etc.) and streamers may be used for advertising purposes or other purposes of attraction only in the B-2 and B-3 business districts. Although permitted, these displays of pennants, special purpose flags, and pennants are discouraged.
- A. All pennants, special purpose flags, and streamers that are displayed are expected to be in a good state of repair and not through their appearance to be detrimental to the image of the City. They shall not be allowed to become an eyesore due to shredded, torn, faded, or worn material that is obviously neglected for maintenance by the business displaying them. Such neglect of their appearance or the supporting ropes, cords, cables, etc., that support them such that their appearance may become unsuitable for their intended purpose may result in an order of removal by the City.
 - B. Other than in the foregoing guidance, any use of pennants, special purpose flags, and streamers shall be short term in nature and limited to properly permitted festivals, carnivals, or other short term public events in districts appropriate for such events.
- 13.3.13.** Flags. All business and institutions, in any district, may display the flag of the United States of America and the Alabama State flag; however, the use of the United States flag and the Alabama flag shall be for patriotic and not commercial purposes. Any display of the United States flag or the Alabama flag must be done with respect and in accordance with appropriate protocols and traditions of the nation and the state. Reference for other information about the flag of the United States: United States Code, Title 36, Chapter 10.
- 13.3.14.** Portable signs. Portable signs shall be considered detached signs, and shall meet all the requirements specified for detached signs, including total maximum area of signage.

Permanent signs combined with portable signs shall not exceed the maximum area for detached signage permitted per frontage in the applicable district.

- A. Portable signs must conform to wind load requirements and must be anchored or supported to guard against the effects of wind.
- B. Vehicle/trailer-mounted signs shall be considered, based upon their use and placement, as either on-premise accessory signage or off-premise non-accessory signage and shall apply for sign approval and permit before they may be used as such. For example, signs that are so placed on a vehicle or trailer and moved from one location to another—such as from one shopping venue to another, or on vacant property along the side of the road—and parking them in such a location for an indefinite period of time. Vehicle or trailer mounted signs, when moved to alternate location, will be considered temporary signs and appropriate permitting must be obtained.

- 13.3.15. Temporary Signs.** A temporary sign may shall not be displayed for more than two (2) months during any six (6) month period; shall not exceed thirty-two (32) sf in size; and shall be located on-premises. In no event shall any temporary sign be permitted in violation of any provisions of this Ordinance, and shall be administratively approved by the Zoning Official.
- 13.3.16. Temporary Political Signs.** Temporary political signs are allowed without permit in all districts and provided that sign placement does not violate any other provision of this Ordinance, including by reference, the sight distance requirements of the City of Athens Traffic Circulation Standards. Temporary political signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after the election or referendum to which they pertain.
- 13.3.17. Yard Sale Signs.** Yard sale signs shall not exceed four (4) sf and shall only be permitted on-premises. These signs shall not be placed more than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the sale event and shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours following the advertised date of the sale.
- 13.3.18. Two-sided Sign.** A two-sided sign shall not have two signs in a “stacked” arrangement with one sign face above another, unless authorized as a component of a Business Center Sign, which otherwise meets the requirements of this Ordinance. A two-sided sign shall be regarded as one sign so long as the two sides are at no point separated by a distance in excess of forty-two (42) inches and are parallel to each other and each sign face is equal in size to the face it is opposite.
- 13.3.19. Window Sign.** Signs fixed or mounted directly on or in windows shall not require a permit and shall not count against the signage allocation for the premises, provided that such signs do not cover more than ten (10) percent of the total window area. In such case that the window signage is greater than ten (10) percent; the signage shall count against the signage allocation for the premises.
- 13.3.20. Public Endangerment and Nuisance.** The following signs are considered either a public endangerment or a public nuisance. Such signs are prohibited and shall not be given a nonconforming status. Any existing sign(s) found to be a public endangerment shall be removed or otherwise brought into conformity with the provisions of this Article *immediately*. Any existing sign(s) found to be a public nuisance shall be removed or brought into conformity within thirty (30) days of notice of non-compliance.

A. Public endangerment:

- 1) Dangerous signs and signs which can be confused as traffic control devices. Signs which may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device or that copy, imitate, or in any way approximate an official traffic signal or sign, flashing blue, green, red or amber lights, or containing the words “stop”, “go slow”, “caution”,

“danger”, “warning”, or similar words, or device designed to cause the public to focus attention on the sign, where the ultimate purpose is to draw attention to the service or product being offered and not warn the public of a real danger.

- 2) Public hazards. No sign shall be located as to cause a public hazard, obstruct or impair motorist vision, diminish safe ingress or egress to any property, or impede flow of pedestrian or vehicular circulation in parking areas, sidewalks or public thoroughfares.
- 3) Right of-way view. Signs which interfere with the view of street traffic, or interfere with, any sign displayed by public authority for the purpose of giving traffic instruction or direction or other public information, are prohibited. Signs within a required sight triangle shall not be over thirty (30) inches in height, or shall not be within ten (10) ft of grade level at the street or drive.
- 4) Obstructions. No signs, nor any means of supporting or staying such signs shall be placed or constructed so as to obstruct or interfere with any door, window, fire escape or other means of ingress, light, or ventilation.

B. Public nuisance:

- 1) Signs on public property, which includes public ROWs and utility and drainage easements, shall not be attached to or maintained upon trees, or painted or drawn upon rock or other natural features.
- 2) Noisy signs. Signs incorporating any noisy electronic or mechanical device(s) are prohibited.
- 3) Abandoned signs are prohibited. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to remove all abandoned signs.

13.3.21. Obscene Advertising Signs. No loud, vulgar, indecent, or obscene advertising matter shall be displayed in any manner, including, but not limited to:

- A. Any signs depicting any sexual act or simulated sexual acts of any nature, or any sexual acts which are prohibited by law
- B. Any signs whereon a nude body, or any anatomical portion of the body considered to be of the sexual areas of the body is exposed and not covered with clothing. Covering with letters or printing cannot be used in place of clothing
- C. Scenes wherein artificial devices are employed to depict, or drawings are employed to portray any of the prohibited signs, photographs or graphic representations described above
- D. Any other graphic illustration pertaining to specified sexual activities, and/or specified anatomical areas

13.3.22. Billboard Signs. Additional Billboard signs, except for directional signs, shall not be permitted within the corporate limits of the City.

- A. Replacement of Existing Billboards. Billboard signs in existence on the effective date of this subsection, which are subsequently destroyed or removed, may be replaced subject to the following conditions:
 - 1) If, on the date of removal or destruction, the sign did conform to the requirements in effect on the date of removal or destruction, then the sign may be replaced, provided:
 - a) Upon first obtaining a Building Permit through the Department, the repair or replacement shall be completed within six (6) months after the removal or destruction of the old sign

- b) The replacement sign meets all sign requirements in effect when a construction permit is issued
 - c) The replacement sign is located at the same location as the sign it replaces
 - 2) If on the date of the removal or destruction, the sign did not conform to the requirements in effect on the date of removal or destruction, then the sign may be replaced, provided:
 - a) Upon first obtaining a Building Permit through the Department, the repair or replacement shall be completed within six (6) months after the removal or destruction of the old sign
 - b) The replacement sign meets all requirements in effect when a construction permit is issued
 - c) The site of the sign shall be reviewed by the Commission, according to [§13.2.3](#) and approval must be granted before a Building Permit can be issued. If said approval is not granted, no such Building Permit shall be issued.
 - 3) Responsibility for proving that the repairs in Items 1 or 2 above are made within six (6) months of the destruction or removal of said sign, and that the changes made bring the sign in compliance with applicable regulations is solely upon the proponent of said sign.
 - 4) If a sign which was removed or destroyed is not actually replaced within the six (6) month time limit enumerated in this Subsection, then the sign that was removed or destroyed shall not be replaced, and the location from which the sign was removed or destroyed shall no longer be considered available for the erection of a Billboard sign.
 - B. Any Billboard Sign, existing on property in an AG District that is rezoned to a residential district, shall be removed within sixty (60) days of said rezoning.
 - C. An existing Billboard Sign shall be maintained, repaired, and retain a “good sign appearance” as defined Article 2.
 - D. An existing Billboard Sign shall adhere to the following standards:
 - 1) shall not be located closer than 1,000 ft to another billboard or non-accessory detached sign along the same side of the thoroughfare
 - 2) shall not be located within 300 ft radius of any other billboard or non-accessory detached sign
 - 3) shall not be less than 200 ft from any residential district
 - 4) shall not be closer than 100 ft to any existing or approved thoroughfare intersection
 - 5) shall not be located within 200 ft of an on-premise accessory detached sign, whether on the same property or on adjacent property.
 - 6) Double-faced or V-type billboard signs shall be considered as one sign.
 - 7) Stacked single-face billboards shall not be replaced except by a non-stacked double-faced or V-type billboards.
- 13.3.23. *Exceptions and Exemptions.*** This Ordinance shall not apply to any signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any government function, or required by any law of governmental function.

§13.4. Computations Of Sign Area and Height. The following principles shall control the computation of sign area and sign height.

13.4.1. *Computation of Area of Individual Signs.* The area of a sign's face is expressed in square footage calculated from the total perimeter of the writing, display of color or any background material included in the sign's design, and encompasses all the sign's graphic components and symbols. The area calculation will be based on a combination of circles, rectangles, squares, triangles, etc., as appropriate. The sign's face is differentiated from the backdrop or structure to which it is fixed, and does not include the supporting framework, bracing, or wall which supports the sign face.

13.4.2. *Computation of Area of Multi-faced Signs.* The sign area for a sign with more than one face shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point. When two identical faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than forty-two (42) inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the faces.

13.4.3. *Computation of Height.* The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at grade level to the top of the highest attached component of the sign, including border, trim, frame, supports, and all other structural members and appurtenances.

13.4.4. *Number of Signs based on Street Frontage.*

A. Attached signs. One attached (1) sign shall be permitted per street fronting facade.

B. Detached signs. If a business has a frontage along more than one public thoroughfare, and these regulations permit more than one such detached sign per establishment, the sign area calculation shall be made for each sign based on the linear feet of each separate frontage along which said sign(s) are proposed to be placed, not an aggregate of all frontages. Spacing between multiple detached signs shall be in accordance with the spacing requirements set out in §13.5 following.

§13.5. Permitted Signs By District. The following signs and no other, shall be permitted in the districts hereinafter set forth:

13.5.1. *R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts.* See [Table 13-1](#) for sign type, position, density, area, and height regulations.

A. Home occupation signs. Home occupation signs shall be attached only, surface-mounted, flat against the wall of the principal building, extending not more than three (3) inches outside the wall surface, and non-illuminated.

B. Detached sign for approved non-residential uses.

C. Real estate signs.

D. Construction site identification signs.

E. Residential identification sign, such as for subdivision or multi-family complexes, located at vehicular entrances or attached to a building wall.

F. On-premises directional signs for approved non-residential uses.

G. Residential building identification signs.

H. Occupant identification sign, used to identify individual residential homes.

I. Temporary political sign. See [§13.3.16](#).

Table 13-1: Sign Position, Density, Area, and Height by District			
R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts			
Sign Type	Sign position	Sign density, area and height regulations	
Home occupation signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per premises
		Max. area per sign	2 sf
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
Signs for non-residential uses	attached or detached	Max. density	1 sign per frontage per premises
		Max. area per sign	40 sf
		Max. height	10 ft
Real estate signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per street frontage per premises
		Max. area per sign	6 sf for improved property 40 sf for unimproved property
		Max. height	4 ft for improved property 6 ft for unimproved property
Construction site identification signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per contractor per residential lot For institutional projects, refer to §13.5.3
		Max. area per sign	6 sf
		Max. height	6 sf
		Max. area per premises	40 ft
Residential identification signs	attached or detached	Max. density	2 signs per entrance
		Max. area per sign	40 sf
		Max. height	6 ft
Directional signs for non-residential uses (on-premises)	detached	Max. density	2 signs per premises
		Max. area per sign	3 sf
		Max. height	30 in
Residential building identification signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per façade or building wall
		Max. area per sign	3 sf
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
Occupant identification signs (for single-family homes only)	attached or detached	Max. density	1 sign per premises
		Max. area per sign	2 sf 3 sf for historical identification signs
		Max. height	3 sf

13.5.2. Planned Development Districts.

A. Residential areas. See [§13.5.1](#).

B. Non-residential development. See [§13.5.3](#) and the following modifications.

- 1) P-TND and P-MU Districts. Detached accessory signs shall not be permitted, except where: (a) the use/structure is specially approved to be setback from the ROW greater than sixty (60) ft, or (b) the use is primarily open space, such as a park. In such cases, the maximum height of specially permitted detached signs in the P-TND and P-MU Districts shall be eight (8) ft.
- 2) P-R District. The maximum height of detached signs shall be eight (8) ft.
- 3) P-OD District. The maximum height of detached signs shall be twenty-five (25) ft.

13.5.3. B-1 District. See Table 13-2 for sign type, position, density, area, and height regulations.

- A. Attached accessory signs.
- B. Accessory detached signs.
- C. Business center signs.
- D. Real estate signs.
- E. Construction site identification signs.
- F. On-premises directional signs.
- G. Window signs. See [§13.3.19.](#)
- H. Temporary political sign. See [§13.3.16.](#)

Table 13-2: Sign Position, Density, Area, and Height by District			
B-1 Neighborhood Business District			
Sign Type	Sign position	Sign density, area and height regulations	
Attached accessory signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per facade
		Max. area per sign	1 sf per linear foot of facade, up to 100 sf max.
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
		Max. area per establishment	100 sf
Detached accessory signs (for lots with only one occupant, tenant, commercial or business enterprise)	detached	Max. density	For frontage of 250 ft or less, 1 sign per lot For frontage in excess of 250 ft, 2 signs per lot with 150 ft min. between such signs
		Max. area per sign	35 sf
		Max. height	10 ft
		Max. area per premises	60 sf
Business center signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per center (no other detached signs permitted)
		Max. area per sign	100 sf for each 250 sf of frontage or fraction thereof
		Max. height	10 ft
Real estate signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per 250 ft of frontage per premises and 1 additional sign for frontage over 250 ft
		Max. area per sign	40 sf
		Max. height	8 ft
		Max. area per premises	80 sf per frontage for frontage over 250 ft
Construction site identification signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per site for the developer OR general contractor + up to 4 signs for subcontractors (at the option of the developer or general contractor)
		Max. area per sign	40 sf for developer/contractor sign 6 sf per subcontractor sign
		Max. height	8 ft
		Max. area per premises	64 sf
Directional signs (on-premises)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per entrance/exit
		Max. area per sign	4 sf
		Max. height	30 in

13.5.4. *B-2, B-3, M-1, and M-2 Districts.* See [Table 13-3](#) for sign type, position, density, area, and height regulations.

- A. Attached accessory signs.
- B. Accessory detached signs.
- C. Business center signs.
- D. Non-accessory detached signs.
- E. Marquee signs, for theatres only.
- F. Real estate signs.
- G. Construction site identification sign.
- H. On-premises directional signs.
- I. Off-premises directional sign, permitted only for a business on a no-outlet street, having access from a major arterial highway and where the area is not served by an existing business center sign that could otherwise be used. If several individual businesses existing on the same thoroughfare wish to erect an off-premise directional sign, and a business center sign is not available for use, they may be allowed to erect a multi-business, off-premises directional sign structure at the intersection of the no-outlet street and arterial highway.
- J. Window signs. See [§13.3.19](#).
- K. Temporary political sign. See [§13.3.16](#).
- L. Flags, pennants and streamers. The flags of the United States and the State of Alabama may be displayed pursuant to [§13.3.13](#). Pennants and streamers, pursuant to [§13.3.12](#), shall be permitted in the B-2 and B-3 Districts only.

13.5.5. *B-4 District.* See [Table 13-4](#) for sign density, area, and height regulations.

- A. Attached accessory signs.
- B. Detached sign. Detached accessory signs shall not be permitted, except where: (a) the use/structure is specially approved to be setback from the ROW greater than sixty (60) ft, or (b) the use is primarily open space, such as a park.
- C. Marquee signs, for theatres only.
- D. Real estate signs.
- E. Construction site identification sign.
- F. On-premises directional signs.
- G. Window signs. See [§13.3.19](#).
- H. Temporary political window signs. See [§13.3.16](#).

Table 13-3: Sign Position, Density, Area, and Height by District			
B-2, B-3, M-1, and M-2 Districts			
Sign Type	Sign position	Sign density, area and height regulations	
Attached accessory signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per facade
		Max. area per sign B-2 and B-3: M-1 and M-2:	1 sf per linear foot of facade, up to 200 sf max. 3 sf per linear foot of facade, up to 300 sf max.
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
Detached accessory signs (for lots with only one occupant, tenant, commercial or business enterprise)	detached	Max. density	For frontage of 250 ft or less, 1 sign per lot For frontage in excess of 250 ft, 2 signs per lot with 150 ft spacing min.
		Max. area per sign	150 sf
		Max. height	B-2: 18 ft B-3, M-1 and M-2: 25 ft
		Max. area per premises	300 sf
Business center signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per center
		Max. area per sign	150 sf + 1 sf per 2 ft of frontage over 50 ft
		Max. height B-2: B-3, M-1, M-2:	18 ft 25 ft + 1 ft per 60 ft of frontage over 100 ft
		Max. area per premises	800 sf
Non-accessory (detached) signs	detached	Max. density	See §13.3.22.D
		Max. area per sign	150 sf
		Max. height	25 ft with min. 10 ft ground clearance
Marquee signs (for theaters only)	attached	Max. density	1 sign per premises
		Max. area per sign	300 sf
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet; 9 ft min. ground clearance
Real estate signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per 250 ft of frontage
		Max. area per sign	40 sf on improved property 60 sf on unimproved property
		Max. height	8 ft
Construction site identification signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per site for the developer OR general contractor + up to 4 signs for subcontractors (at the option of the developer or general contractor)
		Max. area per sign	40 sf for developer/contractor sign 6 sf per subcontractor sign
		Max. height	8 ft
		Max. area per premises	64 sf
Directional signs (on-premises)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per entrance/exit; or 1 entrance sign and 1 exit sign for premises with only 1 driveway
		Max. area per sign	4 sf
		Max. height	30 in
Directional signs (off-premises)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per intersection and 50 ft from any other permanent, detached sign
		Max. area per sign	4 sf per business entity
		Max. height	30 in

Table 13-4: Sign Position, Density, Area, and Height by District			
B-4 Central Business District			
Sign Type	Sign position	Sign density, area and height regulations	
Attached accessory signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per facade
		Max. area per sign	1 sf per linear foot of facade, up to 100 sf max.
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet; 9 ft min. ground clearance
		Max. area per establishment	100 sf
Detached accessory signs (for lots with only one occupant, tenant, commercial or business enterprise)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per premises
		Max. area per sign	35 sf
		Max. height	15 ft
Marquee signs (for theatres only)	attached	Max. density	May be in addition to other permitted signs
		Max. area per sign	300 sf
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet; 9 ft min. ground clearance
Real estate signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per frontage
		Max. area per sign	20 sf
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
Construction site identification signs	detached or attached	Max. density	1 sign per site for the developer OR general contractor + up to 4 signs for subcontractors (at the option of the developer or general contractor)
		Max. area per sign	40 sf for developer/contractor sign 6 sf per subcontractor sign
		Max. height	8 ft (if detached); attached signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
		Max. area per premises	40 sf
Directional signs (on-premises)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per entrance/exit
		Max. area per sign	4 sf
		Max. height	30 in

13.5.6. MC and INST Districts. See [Table 13-5](#) for sign density, area, and height regulations. The total area of all permitted signage for any one such establishment shall not exceed one (1) sf per linear foot of building frontage with the maximum size of 300 sf.

- A. Attached accessory signs.
- B. Accessory detached signs.
- C. Medical business center signs.
- D. Real estate signs.
- E. Construction site identification signs.
- F. On-premises directional signs.
- G. Off-premises directional signs, permitted only for a business on a no-outlet street, having access from a major arterial highway or collector street and where the area is not served by an existing business center sign that could otherwise be used. If several individual businesses existing on the same thoroughfare wish to erect an off-premise directional

sign, and a business center sign is not available for use, they may erect a multi-user, off-premises directional sign structure at the intersection of the no-outlet street and subject arterial or collector.

H. Window signs. See [§13.3.19](#).

I. Temporary political sign. See [§13.3.16](#).

Table 13-5: Sign Position, Density, Area, and Height by District			
MC and INST Districts			
Sign Type	Sign position	Sign density, area and height regulations	
Attached accessory signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per facade
		Max. area per sign	35 sf
		Max. height	Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet; 9 ft min. ground clearance
		Max. projection	9 inches from wall surface
Detached accessory signs (for lots with only one occupant, tenant, commercial or business enterprise)	detached	Max. density	For frontage of 250 ft or less, 1 sign per lot For frontage in excess of 250 ft, 2 signs per lot with 150 ft spacing min.
		Max. area per sign	35 sf
		Max. height	8 ft
		Max. area per premises	70 sf
Medical business* center signs	detached	Max. density	1 sign per frontage
		Max. area per sign	100 sf
		Max. height	15 ft
		Max. area per premises	300 sf
Real estate signs	attached	Max. density	1 sign per 250 ft of frontage
		Max. area per sign	6 sf on improved property 40 sf on unimproved property
		Max. height	8 ft
Construction site identification signs	detached or attached	Max. density	1 sign per site for the developer OR general contractor + up to 4 signs for subcontractors (at the option of the developer or general contractor)
		Max. area per sign	40 sf for developer/contractor sign 6 sf per subcontractor sign
		Max. height	8 ft (if detached); attached signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet
		Max. area per premises	40 sf
Directional signs (on-premises)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per entrance/exit
		Max. area per sign	4 sf
		Max. height	30 in
Directional signs (off-premises)	detached	Max. density	1 sign per intersection and 50 ft from any other permanent, detached sign
		Max. area per sign	4 sf per business entity
		Max. height	30 in
*The total area of all permitted signage for any one hospital or medical office building shall not exceed one (1) sf per linear foot of facade up to a maximum of 300 sf.			

13.5.7. *AG Agricultural District.*

A. Residential. Signs on residential property shall be subject to the provisions for signs in residential districts. See [§13.5.1](#).

B. Other Uses. Signs for all other Permitted Uses, Special Exception Uses, and Conditional Uses shall be subject to the provisions for signs in the B-1 District. See [§13.5.3](#).

§13.6. Severability. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be held void or invalid, it shall not affect the validity of any other section or provision thereof which is not of itself void or invalid, it being the purpose and intention of the Council to enact each separate section and/or subsection separately.