

Chapter 109. Signs and billboards

Code Section	Action	Description	Cross Reference
109.10. Definitions.	Repeal	All sign definitions can be found in Section 520.160 of the Zoning Code. Chapters 543 and 544 contain additional references to sign terminology.	520.160
109.20. Sign hangers, billboards erectors to be licensed.	Amend	Table #1 shows the four existing sign license types. Bill posting and sign painting licenses will be eliminated to be combined with the Sign Hanger license. The Sign Hanger license and Billboard Erector license will be administrated by Department of Regular Services instead of having to be approved by City Council. Both license types will still require the contractor to be bonded and insured.	See Table #1
109.30. Permits required.	Amend	Only a licensed sign hanger can apply for a sign permit. All signs require a permit except for the permit exceptions listed in Section 109.50 and exempt signs listed in Section 543.40. A permit application shall be filed on a form approved by the director of regulatory services	109.50, 543.40
109.40. Poster panel permits and regulations.	Repeal	"Advertising signage" is addressed in Chapter 543 and Chapter 544. Sign permit requests of this type will require a sign permit just like all other sign permit requests.	
109.50. Permit exceptions.	Amend	Section has been numbered for easy reference.	543.40
109.60 Political campaign signs.	Repeal	Section 543.260 addresses political campaign signs. Section 543.260 needs to be updated to reflect changes in state law 211B.045 [noncommercial signs exemptions].	543.260 and state law 211B.045
109.70. Posting and "snipe advertising, etc.	No change		
109.80. Application of permit.	Repeal	This section has been combined with section 109.30 to address the need for a permit application.	109.30
109.90. Electric signs wired outside the city.	Repeal	Section 109.220 addresses illuminated signs' electrical code compliance.	109.220

109.100. Permit to keep signs, billboards.	Repeal	The City Council has directed staff to research eliminating the Annual Sign Registration. Sections 109.100 and 91.390 will have to be repealed to eliminate the billing.	109.100, 91.390
109.110. Wall signs over public property.	Repeal	Section 109.160 addresses sign height over public right-of-way.	109.160
109.120. Height of wall signs over public property.	Repeal	Section 109.160 addresses sign height over public right-of-way.	109.160, 543.60
109.130. Construction of signs on buildings.	No change		
109.140. Signs obstructing egress, ventilation.	No change		
109.150. Sign maintenance and removal.	Amend	Section to be updated to compliment Chapter 543, Article VI. Design and Maintenance.	Ch. 543, Art.VI
109.155. Abandoned signs.	No change		
109.160. Height Clearance over public property right-of-way	Amend	Sections 109.110, 109.120, and 109.160 all address sign clearance. These three sections have been combined to clarify the matter. The proposed amendment also was changed to address all signs extending into the public right-way-way as opposed to just over public property.	109.110, 109.120, 109.160 543.60
109.165—109.210. Reserved.	Delete	Editor's note: Ord. No. 2001-Or-094, § 1, adopted Aug. 8, 2001, repealed §§ 109.165--109.210, which pertained to designated commercial nodes restricted; signs over Nicollet Avenue restricted; Lake Calhoun restricted; signs over Central Avenue restricted; Dinky Town signs restricted; signs over West Broadway restricted; nonconforming signs. See the Code Comparative Table.	
109.220. Electrical requirements.	Amend	Language added requiring that all illuminated signs obtain an electrical permit in addition to the sign permit.	
109.230. Sign identification	Repeal	The practice of have signs marked to identify the licensed sign contractor is unnecessary because this information is part of the permit.	
109.240. Removal of unsafe signs.	No change		

109.250. Swinging or moving signs.	Repeal	Section 543.50 addresses swinging and moving signs	543.50
109.260. Space between wall and sign.	No change		
109.270. Proximity to electrical conductors.	No change		
109.280. Widening of streets.	No Change		
109.290. Inspection, correction of signs.	Amend	Restated so that inspectors shall inspect all new and existing signs as often as may be practicable.	
109.300. Globe signs.	Repeal	Three-dimensional signs are addressed in Section 543.80	543.80
109.310. Reflectors.	No change		
109.320. Sign classification restriction.	Repeal	Section 543.20 addresses sign classification restrictions	543.20
109.330. Removal of signs	No change		
109.340-109.420 (sign materials)	Repeal	These sections impose additional restrictions on signs constructed of different materials (metal, plastic, wood, glass, etc.) mainly for safety reasons. Chapter 543, Article VI. Design and Maintenance adequately addresses sign safety and section 109.240 allows the inspector to order the immediate removal of any unsafe sign or have it put in a safe condition.	
109.430. Signs on marquees, fixed awnings, backlit awnings porticos.	Repeal	Section 543.200 addresses signs on marquees, fixed awnings, backlit awnings porticos.	543.200
109.440. Roof signs	Repeal	Section 543.50 prohibits roof signs	543.50
109.450. Billboards	Repeal	Chapter 544 covers billboards and off-premise signs	Chapter 544
109.460. Backlit awnings signs	Repeal	Section 543.200 and other sections of the Zoning Code adequately address backlit awnings signs	543.200
109.470. City financing of billboard advertising prohibited	No change		

Article II. REGULATION IN LOOP AREA (sections 109.480-109.540)	Repeal	Existing Overlay Districts, the Downtown Entertainment District, and Historic Preservation Code address any special signage issues in this area.	
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Previously repealed ordinances referenced in Chapter 109:

- Section 360.30 (repealed per 90-Or-223)
- Section 522.40 was the definitions chapter of the “1963 Zoning Code”, it was repealed when the “1999 Zoning Code” was adopted.

Chapter 91, Article VII. Sign and billboards

91.360. Fees required	No change		
91.370. Area of signs	Amend	Section 543.80 addresses sign area calculations.	543.80
91.380. Sign fees established	No change		
91.390. Annual registration	Repeal	The City Council has directed staff to research eliminating the Annual Sign Registration. Sections 109.100 and 91.390 will have to be repealed to eliminate the billing.	109.100, 91.390
91.400. Reserved	No change		
91.410. Temporary signs	No change		
91.415. Banner signs	No change		
91.420. Reserved	No change		

Chapter 277, Article XVI. Sign hangers and billboards erectors

277.2480. Application for license	Amend	The Sign Hanger license and Billboard Erector license will be administrated by Department of Regular Services instead of having to be approved by City Council. Both license types will still require the contractor to be bonded and insured.	109.20, 109.30
Sections 277.2490-277.2540	No change		

Chapter 277, Article XVI. Bill posting and sign painting

Sections 277.2630-277.2740	Repeal	Bill posting and sign painting licenses will be eliminated to be combined with the Sign Hanger license. The Sign Hanger license and Billboard Erector license will be administrated by Department of Regular Services instead of having to be approved by City Council. Both license types will still require the contractor to be bonded and insured.	
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Table #1

License Type	Ordinance Cross-reference	Licensing Code
Sign Hanger*	Chapter 277, Article XIV	089
Billboard Erector	Chapter 277, Article XIV	088
Bill Posting, Sign Painting	Chapter 277, Article XVI	087
Bill Posting, Sign Painting and Sign Hanging— Combined	Chapter 277, Article XVI, XIV	086

*Sign Hangers are further divided into two classes: Class A sign hangers and Class B sign hangers' license. In practice, however, the city has never made this distinction and only offers the Sign Hanger license.

Referenced ordinances in Chapter 109:

Reserved.

Editor's note: 90-Or-223, § 1, adopted Aug. 31, 1990, repealed § 360.30, which section pertained to special permit for and regulation of exterior signs, and which was derived from Code 1960, as amended, § 856.020.