

**AN ORDINANCE
OF THE
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

By Schiff

**Amending Title 5, Chapter 109 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances
Relating to Building Code: Signs and Billboards**

The City Council of The City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Section 109.10 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

~~*Editor's note: Ord. No. 2005-Or-029, § 1, adopted April 29, 2005, repealed Ch. 109, in its entirety, which pertained to signs and billboards. Ord. No. 2005-Or-030, § 1, adopted April 29, 2005 enacted provisions designated as a new Ch. 109 to read as herein set out. See also the Code Comparative Table.~~

~~Cross references: Director of inspections zoning administrator to enforce ordinances relating to signs and billboards, § 28.50; licenses for bill posting and sign painting, § 277.2630 et seq.; provisions of zoning code relative to signs, Chs. 543, 544.~~

109.10. Sign hangers, billboard erectors to be licensed. No person shall install, reconstruct, alter, repair or remove any sign ~~upon the exterior walls or upon the roof of any building, or erect, reconstruct, alter or repair any~~ or billboard ~~within~~ or submit a sign permit application the city without first having secured a license from the director of regulatory services authorizing him or her to do so. Such licenses shall be divided into two (2) kinds, sign hanger's license and billboard erector's license. ~~Billboard erectors' licenses shall include erecting, reconstructing, altering or repairing billboards as defined in section 530.160 only.~~

Section 2. That Section 109.20 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

109.20. Permits required. Except as provided in ~~section 109.30~~ this chapter and Chapter 543, On-Premise Signs, of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, 543.40, no person shall paint or install any sign ~~in any manner upon, or attached to, or supported by any building, on the exterior thereof or erect or construct any~~ or billboard without first obtaining a permit from the ~~director of inspections~~ zoning administrator. An application for a sign permit shall be filed on a form approved by the ~~director of inspections~~ zoning administrator along with all supporting documentation including the permit fee.

Section 3. That Section 109.30 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

109.30. Permit exceptions. No sign permit shall be required for the installation of the following signs: ~~The sign area of exempt signs shall still count towards the overall signage allocation.~~

~~(a1) Any sign the area of which, computed by multiplying its greatest width by its greatest length, that is less than three (3) square feet in area and which merely announces the name of the proprietor or the nature of the business conducted at that location.~~

(2) Portable sign less than twelve (12) square feet in area.

(3) Real estate or project information sign less than eight (8) square feet in area and six (6) feet in height.

~~(b) (4) Signs placed on the inside of any building, including window signs that are not visible or intended to be visible from the exterior of the building.~~

(5) Window sign, except a dynamic sign.

~~(c) (6) Replacement of the changeable copy portion removable display board or panel or other removable display surface of a sign or of a billboard having a stationary framework or structure, so designed that a display board or panel or other display surface may be inserted therein or attached thereto or removed therefrom whenever desired without unfastening or removing said stationary framework or structure from its supports.~~

~~(d) (7) Approved signs loosened from their supports and taken down, painted and replaced without any change having been made in their size, or form, or illumination, or in the ownership thereof.~~

~~(e) (8) Repainting any legal, existing projecting sign, flat wall sign, roof sign, ground sign, sign or billboard, or when there is no change in copy or size for a sign painted directly on the wall of a building for which previous permits had been issued.~~

Section 4. That Section 109.40 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

109.40. Posting and "snipe" advertising, etc. No person, except a public officer or a government employee in the performance of a public duty, shall, maintain, place, erect, paint, paste, print, nail, tack or otherwise fasten any card, banner, picture, handbill, sign, poster, advertising or notice of any kind, or cause the same to be done, on any curb, street, walk or public thoroughfare surface,

fence, board, barrel, box case, railing, pole, post, tree, natural feature, barricade, material bridge, bridge fender, dock, building or structure of any kind, within the city except as may be permitted by this chapter or other provisions of this Code.

Section 5. That Section 109.50 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

109.50. Construction of signs on buildings. (a) *In general.* All signs attached to or placed on any building shall be adequately supported and secured to such building by iron or metal anchors, bolts, supports, chains, stranded cables, steel rods or braces, in a manner subject to the approval of the ~~director of inspections~~ zoning administrator. No staples shall be used for securing any projecting sign to ~~any a~~ building. All projecting and roof signs shall be ~~constructed and braced to withstand a horizontal wind pressure of at least thirty (30) pounds for every square foot of surface exposed in any such sign~~ designed and constructed to withstand snow loads and wind loads as required by the state building code.

(b) *Load.* A building or part of a building to which a sign is to be attached, and the foundation of such building, shall be of sufficient strength to safely resist the resultant of the dead load and the wind load of the sign, in addition to the dead load, the live load and the wind load the building or part thereof is otherwise designed to carry.

109.60. Signs obstructing egress, ventilation. No sign of any kind shall be erected, constructed or maintained on any building in such a manner as to obstruct any fire escape, or any window or door or opening used as a means of egress or for fire-fighting purposes or so as to prevent free passage from one (1) part of a roof to any other part thereof, nor shall any sign be attached, in any form, shape or manner, to a fire escape, or be so placed as to interfere with any opening required for legal ventilation. ~~Transom windows may be covered entirely or in part by a completely incombustible sign built of metal panels, with all backing and supports of metal, when the glass and framework of the transom windows are left in place. Windows, except transom windows referred to above, may be covered with a sign provided the opening is properly closed up as per building code requirement. Stationary shown windows in a building may have cutout letters of incombustible material covering the upper one-third of such show window providing such letters are a minimum of eight (8) feet above the sidewalk.~~

Section 6. That the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto Section 109.70 to read as follows:

109.70. Electrical requirements. All electrical signs require an electrical permit issued by the State of Minnesota. Every electrical sign shall be wired and installed to meet the requirements of the state electrical code.

Section 7. That the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto Section 109.80 to read as follows:

109.80. Height over public property. *(a) Public streets, public sidewalks or public pathways.* Signs projecting over a public street, public sidewalk or public pathway shall be hung not less than eight (8) feet above the ground or pavement. Flat wall signs that do not project more than six (6) inches from the building shall have no minimum clearance.

(b) Public alley. Signs projecting over a public alley shall be hung not less than fifteen (15) feet above the ground or pavement.

Section 8. That the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto Section 109.90 to read as follows:

109.90. Widening of streets. In case the roadway of any street is hereafter widened, any existing projecting sign which then projects to within less than eighteen (18) inches of the newly created outer curblin of said street shall be at once removed or brought into conformity with the requirements of this Code for signs hereafter erected.

Section 9. That the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto Section 109.100 to read as follows:

109.100. Unsafe signs. Signs which are deemed unsafe by the zoning administrator shall be either removed or repaired immediately.

Section 10. That Section 109.70 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

~~**109.70**~~**110. Sign maintenance and removal.** The director of inspections zoning administrator may order the removal of any sign that is not maintained or painted, or the supports, guys, braces and anchors of which are not so maintained, and it shall be unlawful for the owner or person having charge of such sign not to have the same repaired or removed after receiving notice from the director of inspections to do so.

Section 11. That Section 109.80 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

~~**109.80**~~**120. Abandoned signs.** Any sign which advertises a commodity, service or entertainment no longer in existence and any sign which or directs attention to a business, profession, commodity, service or entertainment no longer in existence at the premises on which such sign is located, shall be deemed abandoned and shall be removed by the owner of the premises on

~~which such sign is located within thirty (30) days of notice so to do from the director of inspections zoning administrator or shall have shown reasonable cause for failure so to do so. The removal required by this section shall include all supporting brackets, frames or other structural elements of the abandoned sign. The obtaining of an annual sign maintenance permit shall in no way be construed to modify, alter or extinguish the enforcement of this section.~~

Section 12. That the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto Section 109.130 to read as follows:

109.130. Complete removal of signs. Whenever a sign of any type is removed, either intentionally, accidentally or by an act of nature, all supports, guys, braces and anchors etc., shall be removed completely.

Section 13. That the above-entitled ordinance be amended by adding thereto Section 109.140 to read as follows:

109.140. Surface repair. Any surface from which a sign has been moved or removed shall be repaired with materials which match the existing background.

Section 14. That Section 109.90 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~**109.90. Height over public property.** (a) Signs extending over public right-of-way may be hung so that the lowest point thereof shall be not less than eight (8) feet above ground elevation except flat wall signs not to extend six (6) inches shall have no minimum clearance.~~

~~(b) Signs projecting over public alleys, which shall not be hung less than fifteen (15) feet above the level of any such public alley.~~

Section 15. That Section 109.100 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~**109.100. Electrical requirements.** All electrical signs require an electrical permit issued by the department of inspections. Every electrical sign shall be wired and installed to meet the requirements of the electrical code of the city.~~

Section 16. That Section 109.110 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~**109.110. Removal of unsafe signs.** Every sign heretofore installed which is deemed unsafe by the department shall be either removed immediately on the order of the director of inspections or shall be put in a safe condition.~~

Section 17. That Section 109.120 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~**109.120. Proximity to electrical conductors.** (a) The minimum clearance of any sign from unprotected electrical conductors (whether on poles or otherwise) shall be not less than thirty six (36) inches for conductors carrying not over six hundred (600) volts, and forty eight (48) inches for conductors carrying more than six hundred (600) volts.~~

~~(b) In all cases where a sign is proposed to be hung adjacent to an electrical conductor carrying a voltage higher than six hundred (600) volts the sign shall not be erected until the conductors shall have been examined and approved by an electrical inspector of the department of inspections.~~

Section 18. That Section 109.130 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~**109.130. Widening of streets.** In case the roadway of any street is hereafter widened, any existing projecting sign which then projects to within less than eighteen (18) inches of the newly created outer curblineline of said street shall be at once removed or brought into conformity with the requirements of this Code for signs hereafter erected.~~

Section 19. That Section 109.140 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~**109.140. Inspection, correction of signs.** The director of inspections shall inspect all new and existing signs on or attached to buildings as often as may be practicable. Where any such signs or their fastenings, anchorages, supports or bracing are found to be in an unsafe, insecure or defective condition or not in compliance with any ordinance provisions applicable thereto, the inspector shall order and compel the removal of any such sign or the elimination of such unsafe, insecure or defective condition or material, or require such changes as may be necessary to bring such sign and its fastenings, supports and bracing into conformity with ordinance requirements, as the case may require. The owner or person in charge or control of such sign shall, when so ordered by the director of inspections as above provided, forthwith remove such sign, eliminate such unsafe, insecure or defective condition or material or so change such sign and its fastenings, supports and bracing as to bring the same into conformity with ordinance requirements, as so ordered.~~

Section 20. That Section 109.150 of the above-entitled ordinance be and is hereby repealed:

~~109.150. Removal of signs.~~ Whenever a sign of any type is removed, either intentionally, accidentally or by an act of God, all cables, fastenings, anchors, braces, guy wires, etc., must be removed completely.

Section 21. That Section 109.160 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

109.160150. City financing of billboard advertising prohibited. (a) ~~Prohibition.~~ The city, any city employee working within the scope of the employee's employment, and any agency or individual acting on behalf of the city shall not pay for or in any way financially support billboard advertising, taking place within the city limits of the City of Minneapolis. All city contracts shall contain a provision prohibiting the use of city or city derived funds to pay for billboard advertising as a part of a city project or undertaking. Billboard space donated to the City of Minneapolis shall be exempt from this section. Production costs associated with in-kind donations shall not be prohibited.

~~(b) Exemption - In kind donations. Billboard space donated to the City of Minneapolis shall be exempt from this section. Production costs associated with in-kind donations shall not be prohibited.~~