

**AN ORDINANCE  
OF THE  
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

By Schiff

**Amending Title 20, Chapter 551 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances  
Relating to Zoning Code: Overlay Districts**

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

Section 1. That Section 551.100 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

**551.120. Building facade.** (a) *Window area.* At least forty (40) percent of the first floor facade of any nonresidential use that faces a public street or sidewalk shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly tinted glass that allow views into and out of the building at eye level. Windows shall be distributed in a more or less even manner. Minimum window area shall be measured between the height of two (2) feet and ten (10) feet above the finished level of the first floor.

(b) *Awnings and canopies.* Awnings and canopies are encouraged in order to provide protection for pedestrians and shall be placed to emphasize individual uses and entrances. ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit awnings and canopies shall be prohibited.

Section 2. That Section 551.130 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

**551.130. Prohibited on-premise signs.** The following on-premise signs shall be prohibited in the PO Overlay District:

- (1) Pole signs.
- (2) ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit awning and canopy signs.
- (3) ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit insertable panel projecting signs.

Section 3. That Section 551.250 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

**551.250. Building facade.** (a) *Window area.* At least forty (40) percent of the first floor facade of any nonresidential use that faces a public street or sidewalk, shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly tinted glass that allow views into and out of the building. Windows shall be distributed in a more or less

even manner. Minimum window area shall be measured between the height of two (2) feet and ten (10) feet above the finished level of the first floor.

(b) *Awnings and canopies.* Awnings and canopies are encouraged to provide protection for pedestrians and shall be placed to emphasize individual storefronts and entrances. Plastic, vinyl or similar material and ~~back-lighted~~ backlit awnings shall be prohibited.

Section 4. That Section 551.260 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

**551.260. Prohibited on-premise signs.** The following on-premise signs shall be prohibited in the LH Overlay District:

- (1) Pole signs.
- (2) ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit awning signs.
- (3) ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit insertable panel projecting signs.

Section 5. That Section 551.950 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

**551.950. On-premise signs.** On-premise signs shall be subject to the regulations of Chapter 543, On-Premise Signs, and the following:

(1) *Sign area.* The amount of sign area allowed for signs attached to buildings shall be three and one half (3.5) square feet of sign area per one (1) foot of primary building wall.

(2) *Sign height.* The maximum height of signs attached to buildings, except projecting signs, shall be ~~twenty-four (24)~~ twenty-eight (28) feet. The provisions of Chapter 543, On-Premise Signs, for increasing the height of wall signs by conditional use permit shall not apply.

(3) *Projecting signs.* The maximum height of projecting signs shall be ~~sixteen (16)~~ twenty-eight (28) feet. The maximum area of projecting signs shall be twelve (12) square feet. Projecting sign materials shall be limited to ornamental metal, carved wood or cloth.

(4) *Lighting of signs.* ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit signs shall be prohibited. Projecting signs shall be lighted by external illumination only.

Section 6. That Section 551.960 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

**551.960. Awnings and canopies.** Awnings and canopies are encouraged in order to provide protection for pedestrians and to emphasize individual uses and entrances, and shall be subject to the following:

(1) ~~Back-lighted~~ Backlit awnings and canopies shall be prohibited.

(2) Awning and canopy materials shall be limited to cotton, acrylic or vinyl coated cotton, copper or bronze coated metal, or clear or lightly tinted glass.