

Local Law No. 5 of the year 2026
Amending Chapter 300, Zoning
to amend §300-46, Signs and billboards
Village of Delhi

§ 300-46 Signs and billboards.

A. General provisions. Signs are an accessory use only. Signs are not permitted as a principal use. Wherever located and whatever their nature, signs and billboards shall conform to the following.

B. Intent.

(1) It is the intent of this chapter to authorize signs that:

- (a)** Protect and enhance the Village's historic structures, streetscapes, neighborhoods and scenic views, which represent distinctive elements of Delhi's historic, architectural and cultural heritage, the Village's sense of place, and its unique character.
- (b)** Are compatible in scale, color and design to the buildings to which they are attached or the property on which they are located and the neighborhood.
- (c)** Minimize distractions and the adverse effects of visual clutter.
- (d)** Promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Village.
- (e)** Are designed, constructed and displayed in a manner that is not hazardous to pedestrians, motorists or adjacent neighbors.
- (f)** Follow clear and reasonable standards for design and display, lighting and maintenance.
- (g)** Assist and support Village merchants and others in their communications and advertising to their customers.

(2) It is the further intent of this chapter to permit nonconforming signs to continue until they are removed or discontinued but not to encourage their survival.

C. Types of signs enumerated.

- (1)** Sign: any device, located or used on the exterior of any building or unattached and separate from any building, designed to inform or attract the attention of persons not on the premises on which the device is located or on the immediate street frontage thereof. Such devices include but are not limited to wall signs, projecting signs and freestanding signs, as defined in this chapter, containing advertisements, announcements, notices, directional matters, names, declarations, demonstrations, displays, illustrations or insignia used to advertise or promote the interests of the advertiser when the sign is placed in view of the general public. Such signs may be known as "billboards," "signboards," "painted signs," "hanging signs" or "ground signs" and include illuminated, moving, flashing or fluttering devices.
- (2)** Freestanding sign: any sign not attached to or painted upon a building and having an independent fixed location.

- (3) Illuminated sign: any sign illuminated by electricity, gas or other artificial light, including reflective or phosphorescent light.
- (4) Portable sign: any sign not fastened to a structure or to the land and readily movable to other locations.
- (5) Projecting sign: any sign which projects from the exterior of any building.
- (6) Nonconforming sign: any sign which was lawful before this chapter was passed or amended but which would be prohibited, regulated or restricted under the terms of this chapter or future amendments.
- (7) Temporary sign: A sign or advertising display constructed of but not limited to cloth, canvas, fabric, paper, cardboard, plywood, or other light material and designed or intended to be displayed for a short period of time.
- (8) Wall sign: any sign attached to or erected against the exterior of a building or structure so that the display surface of the sign is parallel with the plane of the wall.
- (9) Window sign: a sign located in the window of a building and designed to be visible from the exterior of the building, but not including graphics in connection with customary window display of products. A window sign is considered to be a sign regulated by this chapter.
- (10) Roof sign: a sign placed above the upper edge of any building or parapet or placed or painted on or above the roof covering or on an independent structural frame on a roof or on the side or roof of a roof structure such as a penthouse, elevator housing, tank, etc.

D. Prohibited signs. The following are specifically prohibited:

- (1) Any of the above-or below-defined signs which are deemed to be detrimental to public health or safety or which obstruct in any fashion a traffic sign or traffic light.
- (2) Signs illuminated by or containing flashing, intermittent, rotating or moving lights or devices, except time-and-temperature-clock signs.
- (3) Roof signs. No sign shall be erected upon or applied to any roof, except religious symbols unaccompanied by lettering when applied to the cornice tower or spire of a place of worship.
- (4) Billboards and other off-premises advertising, except as allowed in Subsection G(11).

E. Exempt signs. The following are allowed in all districts, and no permit is required:

- (1) Signs not exceeding one square foot in area and bearing only the property number, postbox number, names of occupants of premises or other identification of premises having no commercial connotation.
- (2) Official flags and insignia of any government except when displayed in connection with commercial promotion.
- (3) Legal notices, identifications and informational or directional signs required or erected by governmental bodies.
- (4) Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking on private property but bearing no advertising matter shall be limited to the minimum amount required to adequately direct traffic.
- (5) Signs, temporary in nature, such as real estate sale signs, lawn and porch sale signs and special event signs and temporary window signs in commercial establishments

advertising a special item or sale. Removal of such signs is the responsibility of the owner or sponsor or agent within two days of the end of the sale or event.

- (6) One sign, not exceeding six square feet in area in an R District nor 16 square feet in B and I Districts, listing the architect, engineer, contractor and/or owner on premises where construction, renovation or repair is in progress. Such sign is to be removed at the completion of the project.
- (7) Political posters and similar signs, not exceeding four square feet in R Districts nor 16 square feet in Business and Industrial Districts. Placement of such signs shall not exceed 30 days' duration, and removal shall be the responsibility of the person, owner or organization sponsoring or providing the signs.

F. Signs allowed in AR, R-1, R-2, R-3 and P-D Districts.

- (1) Home office occupation or professional office in home. For an allowed business or home occupation, one sign is allowed, restricted in area to four square feet. A permit is required. Location of such sign shall be at the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer.
- (2) One temporary sign pertaining to the development of more than one residential structure on a group of adjacent lots or properties, which shall not be illuminated, shall not exceed 20 square feet in area on either of two sides and shall be situated not closer than 10 feet to any property line. No permit is required.
- (3) One sign or bulletin board on each building frontage facing a street or public place, not exceeding 12 square feet in area, customarily incident to libraries, museums, churches and similar institutions. Such sign may be either a wall sign or a freestanding sign and, if a freestanding sign, shall conform to the setback requirements for structures in the zone in which it is located. No permit is required.
- (4) The Code Enforcement Officer may issue a permit for a sign or signs, as needed, to identify the buildings or activities of colleges, schools, hospitals and similar institutions. The conditions regarding the size, placement and lighting of such signs shall be at the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer but shall be the most restrictive possible consistent with the purpose for which the signs are intended.

G. Signs in Business B and Industrial I Districts.

- (1) All signs allowed in the Residential Districts are allowed in Business and Industrial Districts without permit.
- (2) At gasoline and vehicle repair stations, integral graphics and attached price signs on gasoline pumps and regulation signs as may be required by governmental bodies are allowed without permit.
- (3) Except as provided in Subsections G(1), (2) and (12), a sign may be erected in a B or I District by permit only, as provided in Subsection M.
- (4) Each business location shall be allowed one principal sign, which shall contain only the name of the business located there.
- (5) A shopping plaza shall be allowed one additional sign, not exceeding 40 square feet in area, advertising the name of the shopping plaza; provided, however, that if said sign is freestanding, it shall be the only freestanding sign in the shopping area. A shopping plaza shall be considered to be two or more contiguous business locations under single ownership and utilizing a common parking area equally accessible to both stores.

- (6) Determination of allowed sign area. The allowed area of a sign is to be determined on the basis of the lineal building frontage on which the sign is to be placed. On a corner property, only one side of the building may be considered to be the front.
- (7) Accessory signs. Each business location shall be allowed a maximum of two accessory signs, which may display the name of a product or service provided on the premises. Said accessory signs may be projecting signs, wall signs or freestanding signs; provided, however, that only one freestanding sign shall be allowed on each parcel of property. The sum of the areas of the accessory signs shall not exceed 1/3 of the maximum allowable area for the principal sign, and neither accessory sign shall exceed the principal sign in area.
- (8) Projecting signs.
- (a) The maximum area of a projecting sign shall be 12 square feet, and the area shall be independent of the frontage of the building to which it is attached.
 - (b) The exterior edge of a projecting sign panel shall extend not more than five feet from the building face or 1/3 the width of the sidewalk over which it is placed, whichever is less.
 - (c) No part of a projecting sign shall extend into vehicular traffic areas. Signs projecting over pedestrian traffic shall have a minimum clearance of seven feet eight inches.
 - (d) No projecting sign shall have a vertical dimension greater than eight feet, and the top of said sign shall not extend more than 16 feet above the grade level.
- (9) Wall signs.
- (a) The maximum area of a wall sign shall be two square feet for each lineal foot of building frontage on which the sign is placed; provided, however, that no sign shall exceed 100 square feet in area.
 - (b) A wall sign shall not extend beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached and shall not extend more than 20 feet above grade level.
- (10) Freestanding signs.
- (a) The maximum area of the sign panel of a freestanding sign shall be 40 square feet and shall be independent of the frontage of the building for which it is an accessory.
 - (b) The maximum height of a freestanding sign shall be 16 feet.
 - (c) No part of a freestanding sign shall extend into vehicular traffic areas. Any part of a freestanding sign extending over pedestrian areas shall have a minimum clearance of seven feet eight inches.
 - (d) A freestanding sign shall be placed in a front yard only and shall be located not closer than six feet to a building, and no part shall extend over a public street or sidewalk.
- (11) A business location which has no front yard directly on a public street shall be permitted one off-premises sign at a location as near as possible and practical to said business.
- (12) Portable signs. Each business location shall be allowed a maximum of two portable signs. They shall not be counted as accessory signs. The area of each portable sign shall not exceed eight square feet and shall not be illuminated. No portable sign may be placed on a public right-of-way or otherwise interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. No permit is required for a portable sign.

- (13) Neon signs. Each business shall be allowed one neon sign per business. This sign shall be limited to the interior only. Neon signs will be no more than 432 square inches inclusive.
- (14) Banner signs. A banner sign wholly on private or public property shall be considered a temporary sign. A banner sign across a Village street shall be erected only after receiving a permit from the Village Clerk and shall conform to the requirements established by the Village Board.

H. Sign illumination.

- (1) No illumination shall be directed upon a sidewalk, street or public place or upon adjacent premises, which illumination will cause glare or reflections constituting a nuisance or traffic hazard.
- (2) Strings of lights not part of a sign shall not be used for advertising, outlining buildings or otherwise attracting attention.
- (3) Direct illumination shall be permitted by shielding linear light sources, floodlights and other light sources.
- (4) Lighting fixtures and wiring shall conform to the latest edition of the National Electrical Code and other applicable codes and regulations.
- (5) All wiring to freestanding signs shall be underground. No principal or accessory sign shall be illuminated later than one-hour past the closing time of the business or 9:00 p.m., whichever is later. This shall not apply to interior window signs.

I. Measuring signs. The area of a sign shall be calculated as the area of the smallest polygon or circle capable of enclosing the sign.

J. Nonconforming signs.

- (1) Any nonconforming sign which is portable in nature, e.g., a banner, portable sign, etc., shall be removed within 90 days of the effective date of this chapter.
- (2) Any sign which is prohibited in Subsection D of this chapter shall be removed within three years of the effective date of this chapter.
- (3) Any wall, projecting, freestanding or window sign which is nonconforming by virtue of area, height or other specifications shall not be enlarged or replaced with another nonconforming sign.

K. Maintenance.

- (1) A sign and any supports identifying or advertising a business no longer conducted or a product no longer sold on the premises shall be removed within six months from the date of disuse, unless the Code Enforcement Officer shall determine that such sign or portions thereof may be used by a new enterprise.
- (2) Unsafe or insecure signs shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the premises.
- (3) Any sign which threatens immediate danger to persons or property may be removed, without notice to the owner, by the Village Department of Public Works, which shall charge the cost of said removal to said property owner.

L. Appeals. In accordance with § 300-64 of the Zoning Code, the Board of Appeals may hear and decide on any appeals allowed and stated in § 300-64 as such may pertain to signs.

M. Sign permit.

- (1) Except as provided in Subsection G(1), (2) and (12), no sign is to be erected in a business or industrial district without a permit.**
- (2) Application for a permit shall be made on the form provided, including a dimensioned sketch of the proposed sign and a dimensional plot plan and/or front elevation of the building to which the sign is to be an accessory.
- (3) The application, together with any supporting documents as may reasonably be required by the Code Enforcement Officer, is to be submitted along with an application fee as determined by the Village Trustees.
- (4) If a sign authorized by a permit is not completed and in place within six months of the date of issuance, the permit is null and void.
- (5) Construction and placement of a sign shall not deviate in a substantial manner from the plans approved for issuance of the permit.
- (6) A fee shall be charged for each permit. The amount of said fee is to be determined from time to time by the Board of Trustees by resolution.