

ORDINANCE NO. 28 -68

By: [Signature]

To regulate the size, number, use and location of signs, and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY, OHIO:

Section 1. DEFINITIONS.

A. "Sign" shall mean and include every sign, billboard, ground sign, free standing sign, wall sign, roof sign, illuminated sign, projecting sign, temporary sign, pole sign, marquee, awning, canopy, and shall include any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display, illustration, insignia or similar device used to advertise or promote the interests of any person or business when the same is placed out of doors in view of the general public, or is visible to the general public from out of doors.

B. "Wall Sign" shall mean any sign attached to or erected against the exterior wall of a building or structure or which is an integral part of the exterior of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of said wall, building or structure.

C. "Free Standing Sign" shall mean any sign that has as its support metal columns, pipe, angle iron framing or similar type of support, which is permanent in nature and which is affixed to the realty.

D. "Temporary Sign" shall mean any sign other than a wall sign or a free standing sign.

E. "Display Area" shall mean the area available on the sign structure for the purpose of displaying the advertising message, whether the area is used or not used.

Section 2. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS.

A. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, no sign shall hereafter be constructed, erected, replaced, re-erected or remodeled within the limits of the City of Bexley by any person, firm, corporation or organization until a permit for the same has been issued by the Building Inspector. Such permits will be granted by the Building Inspector only upon the basis of representations submitted to him pertaining to the design, specifications and location of each sign.

B. There shall be a fee of Five (\$5.00) Dollars for each permit.

C. Any request for variances from the provisions hereof, or any requests for permits for signs not specifically permitted hereunder, shall be submitted to Council for their final decision.

D. No permit shall be required for the following signs:

1. Temporary real estate signs of an area of 12 square feet or less for the sale or lease of property.
2. Professional name plates not exceeding two square feet in area.
3. Small announcements with an area of less than four square feet located inside buildings, whether or not the same are visible from the outside.

E. Public notices by government bodies, traffic control signs and other official signs and notices are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

A. No sign, including its frame and structure, shall exceed 40 square feet in area on any one side; and in addition the total display area of all signs on any one property, shall not exceed 80 square feet. Neither the vertical nor the horizontal measurements of any sign shall exceed 15 feet in length. In computing the above measurements, wall signs shall be excluded.

B. No sign shall be placed on or above any public right-of-way except publicly owned signs, such as traffic control signs and directional signals, without the consent of the Mayor.

C. No sign shall be installed, erected or constructed in such a manner as to obstruct any fire escape or any door or window giving access to a fire escape.

D. Every wall sign or free standing sign shall be securely attached to the building wall or suitable metal support by iron or metal anchors, bolts, supports, chains, cables or steel rods.

E. All signs attached to buildings may extend not more than three feet above the roof or parapet of said building, whichever is higher. All other signs may extend not more than 30 feet in the air, measured from street level.

F. On a corner lot, only one pole will be permitted within 12 feet of the corner of said lot.

G. Any sign on a corner lot which is within 12 feet of the corner of said lot shall be at least seven feet above the highest point of the sidewalk, unless such signs are wall signs and the flat side of said sign is attached to the front or side of a building. No sign base within 12 feet of the corner is permitted to extend more than six inches above grade.

H. No temporary sign shall be attached to, painted on or otherwise displayed on a light standard, fence, wall, post, pole, portable supporting device or other structure except as specifically authorized by this ordinance.

I. Except as provided in Sections 7 and 8 hereof, no signs shall be permitted other than those which pertain to the business being carried on on the premises on which the sign is located.

Section 4. WALL SIGN.

A. Each business may have not more than one wall sign on the front, one wall sign on each side and one wall sign on the rear of the building in which it is located.

B. The aggregate area of all wall signs for any single business on any one wall may have an area equivalent to three square feet of sign area for each linear foot of width of the building or part of a building occupied by such business, but such aggregate area shall not exceed 70 square feet.

C. No wall sign shall project laterally beyond the building.

Section 5. FREE STANDING SIGNS.

A. Each business shall not have more than one free standing sign.

B. On all free standing signs supported by a pole, the concrete foundation for the pole shall be four times the diameter of the pole and not less than four feet deep.

C. No temporary sign shall be attached to any free standing sign, or its support.

Section 6. ILLUMINATED SIGNS.

A. All wiring, fittings and material used in the construction, connection and operation of electrically illuminated signs shall be in accordance with provisions of the national electric code, and shall be inspected by the Electric Inspector for the City of Bexley.

B. Every illuminated sign shall be constructed of metal or other equally non-combustible material.

C. No mounted lamp fitting of the gooseneck type shall be permitted on any sign with the exception of roof signs.

D. No sign shall contain electric bulbs, lamps, fixtures or equipment of a nature resembling flasher signals or traffic lights, and the light from signs shall not interfere with the vision of motorists.

Section 7. SPECIAL SIGNS.

A. Signs used for announcing special public or institutional events or the erection of a building, the architect, the builders, contractors, etc. shall not exceed 24 square feet and may be erected for a period not to exceed 30 days plus the construction period.

B. All candidates for public office, their campaign committees or other persons responsible for the posting on private property of campaign material or special announcements, shall remove such material within 10 days following the election or special event.

Section 8. REAL ESTATE SIGNS.

A. Signs not exceeding 12 square feet in area and advertising the sale, rental or lease of the premises on which the sign is located, shall be permitted. Real estate "open house" signs shall be permitted only when a house is open for inspection, and only on the premises for which this sign is applicable. Such signs shall not exceed four feet in height.

B. "For sale" or "Rent" signs shall be removed not later than 10 days after the contract for sale or rent of said property has been entered into. Signs indicating that the property has been sold shall not be displayed for more than 10 days.

Section 9. EXCEPTION FOR SERVICE STATIONS.

A. In the case of automobile service stations whose principal business is the sale of automobile fuel, such stations may display signs in addition to those hereinabove authorized. Such additional signs shall not exceed three in number, each having a total aggregate display area, including sign, frame and surrounding surfaces of not more than nine square feet. The top of said sign shall not extend in height more than four feet above the finished grade of the service station. Such signs may be free standing or temporary, but shall not be located nearer to the street on any side than the gasoline pump islands that are nearest to such street. Such signs shall not be subject to the permit requirements of Section 2 of this ordinance.

Section 10. UNSAFE AND UNSIGHTLY SIGNS.

A. Should any sign be or become insecure or in danger of falling or otherwise unsafe, the Building Inspector may declare such sign unsafe because of failure to conform with the provisions set forth herein; and the owner thereof or person or organization maintaining or responsible for the same shall, upon the receipt of written notice from the Building Inspector, proceed at once to comply with the instructions of the Building Inspector, and put such sign in a safe and secure condition, or remove the same.

B. If the Building Inspector at any time decides that because of the appearance of a sign the owner thereof or the business being advertised has abandoned maintenance of the same, he may so notify such person, firm, corporation or business to either restore said sign to its original condition or remove the same within 15 days.

Section 11. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

A. It shall be unlawful to construct, erect, replace, re-erect or remodel any sign in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance or any amendments or supplements thereto.

B. Any person, firm, corporation, organization or business violating the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than Five (\$5.00) Dollars nor more than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars. Each day during which such unlawful construction, erection, replacement, re-erection or remodeling continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 12. REMOVAL OF SIGNS.

A. Temporary signs in existence at the effective date of this section which do not comply with the provisions of this ordinance, and all other signs heretofore erected or displayed without legal authorization or as to which a non-conforming use has not been established, shall be removed within ten days after delivery of written notice to that effect by the Building Inspector to the owner or occupant of the premises on which such signs are located.

B. No sign shall be permitted on a building's premises for longer than two weeks after the business to which said sign pertains has ceased operating on said premises.

Section 13. CANVAS AWNINGS.

A. Canvas awnings to protect windows from rain or sunshine may be erected and maintained if the framework and all parts thereof are made of metal, and no part of such awning or of any support therefore that extends over the sidewalk shall be less than seven feet above the highest point of the sidewalk.

Section 14. Ordinance No. 9-58 is hereby repealed.

Section 15. This ordinance is an emergency measure, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, said emergency being the necessity of providing satisfactory regulation of signs at the earliest possible time, and said ordinance shall go into immediate force and effect.

Passed: July 23, 1968.

J. Paul Trable
President of Council

Attest: Robert W. Solomon
Clerk of Council

Approved: 7/27/68, 1968

W. M. Clure
MAYOR

Posted 7/25/68