

## ARTICLE 21

### Sign Regulations

#### Article 21: Sign Regulations

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#### **Section 21.1. TITLE**

The article shall be known as the “Sign Regulations” for the City of Sioux Center, Iowa, and is adopted as part of the City’s Zoning Ordinance per Iowa Code Chapter 414. Hereafter no sign shall be erected, constructed, altered, or modified except as regulated by the provisions of this article.

#### **Section 21.2. INTENT**

This article is established to protect and promote health, safety, general welfare and order within the City of Sioux Center through the establishment of comprehensive and uniform standards, regulations and procedures governing the type, number, size, structure, location, height, lighting, erection, use or display of devices, signs, or symbols serving as a visual communications media to persons situated within or upon public rights-of-way or private properties. The provisions of this article are intended to encourage opportunity for effective, aesthetically compatible, and orderly communications by reducing confusion and hazards resulting from unnecessary or indiscriminate use of communications facilities. It is the further intent of this article is to regulate signs by their physical characteristics and not by their message.

#### **Section 21.3. SEVERABILITY**

If one or more provisions of this article is found by a court of jurisdiction to be unlawful, invalid, unenforceable, or preempted by applicable state or federal law or regulations, such provisions are deemed to be severed from this article. The remaining provisions of this article remain in full force and effect.

#### **Section 21.4. DEFINITIONS**

For use in this article, the following terms are defined.

1. AIR-ACTIVATED GRAPHICS: A sign, all or any part of, which is designed to be moved by action of forced air so as to make the sign appear to be animated or otherwise have motion.
2. AWNING: A device made of cloth, metal, or other material affixed to and projecting from a building in such a manner that the device is either permanently fixed or so erected as to allow it to be raised or retracted and return to a flat position against the building when not in use.
3. CORPORATE FLAG: A flag, other than a government flag, that contains a logo, corporate name or other identification.
4. ERECT: To build, construct, attach, hang, suspend or affix, and shall also include the painting of wall signs.
5. FACING (or SURFACE): The surface of the sign upon; against or through which the message is displayed or illustrated on the sign.
6. FLAG: Any fabric, banner or bunting containing words, numbers, colors, patterns or symbols, or logos. For the purposes of this article, *Government Flags* as defined herein is not included within this definition of a *Flag*.
7. GOVERNMENT FLAG: Any fabric, banner or bunting containing words, numbers, colors, patterns or symbols, used as a symbol of a government or political subdivision, including flags of the United States, the State, the City, foreign nations having diplomatic relations with the United States, and other flags adopted or sanctioned by an elected legislative body of competent jurisdiction.
8. LOGO: A stylized group of letters, words, symbols, or combination thereof used to identify and represent a business, organization, group, team, or product and to differentiate it from others.
9. INCOMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL: Any material that will not ignite at or below a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit and will not continue to burn or glow at that temperature.
10. PERSON: Any one being, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
11. RACEWAY: An enclosed channel designed expressly for holding wires, cables, or bus bars on which a sign is mounted.
12. RACEWAY, PAN STYLE: A sign raceway that is shaped and contoured to follow the outline of the sign to which is mounted to the raceway.
13. SIGN: Any name, identification, description, display, illustration, logo, or graphic fixed to, painted on, or incorporated into the building surface or other structure or displayed from or within a building or structure, or free standing upon the site and which is visible from the public right-of-way and designed to convey or direct a message to the public concerning the identification of the premises, to advertise or promote the interests of any private or public

firm, person, organization, or other entity, or to draw attention to the use on the premises.

- a. **ABANDONED SIGN:** A sign which no longer correctly directs any person, advertises a bona fide business, lessor, owner, product, or activity conducted on the premises where such sign is displayed.
- b. **ADDRESS SIGN:** A sign communicating street address only, whether written or in numerical form.
- c. **AWNING SIGN:** A sign painted on or incorporated into an awning. The area of an awning sign shall be the area of the inscription or message incorporated into the awning, provided the awning is not internally illuminated. For an awning sign incorporated on an awning internally illuminated, the area of the entire awning shall be considered the sign area.
- d. **BACK-TO-BACK SIGNS:** If a free-standing sign or sign structure is constructed so that the faces are not back-to-back, the angle shall not exceed thirty (30) degrees to be considered back-to-back. If the angle is greater than thirty degrees, the total area of both sides added together shall be the calculated sign area. Back-to-back signs (when less than thirty degrees) shall be considered as one sign when debited against the total number of signs permitted on one zoning lot.
- e. **BAG SIGN:** A sign designed to temporarily cover an existing monument sign or pole sign.
- f. **BALLOON SIGN:** A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or a structure and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached, or held in place by a cord, rope, cable, or similar method. Also known as Inflatable Devices. See also the definition for air-activated graphics.
- g. **BANNER SIGN:** A sign composed of fabric or other flexible substrate that is fastened to the exterior of a building, exterior structure, or wall, that is attached to the ground by secure attachments to stakes, poles, or similar devices and secured or mounted so as to limit movement of the sign caused by movement of the atmosphere. Banners do not include those signs which are defined as flags in this article.
- h. **BILLBOARD:** Any structure, regardless of material used in the construction of the same, that is erected, maintained, or used for public display of poster, painted signs, wall signs, whether the structure is placed on the wall itself, pictures, or other pictorial reading matter which advertise a business, a commodity sold, service, or attraction which is not carried on or manufactured in or upon the premises upon which said signs or billboards are located, also referred to as an off-premises sign.
- i. **BLADE SIGN:** A temporary sign constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic fabric, or similar lightweight, non-rigid material and supported by a single vertical pole mounted into the ground or on a portable structure. May also be known as a "feather sign."

- j. **BUILDING SIGN:** A sign which is wholly supported by the building wall, parallel to the plane thereof, and which does not extend beyond the surface of said building wall more than twelve (12) inches. This definition includes awning signs, canopy signs, fascia signs, parapet signs, painted signs and window signs as defined herein this article. Internally illuminated color panels, strips, or bands and neon lighting shall be considered building signs. Sign area for each sign is calculated by the area of a rectangle that incorporates the extreme points or edges of all text, symbols, and logos of the sign following Sign Area Formula A.
- k. **CAMPAIGN SIGN:** A temporary sign promoting the candidacy of a person running for a governmental office, or promoting an issue to be voted upon at a governmental election.
- l. **CANOPY SIGN:** A building sign attached to or in any way incorporated with the face or underside of a canopy, marquee, or any other similar building projection, and which does not extend beyond the projection more than six inches.
- m. **CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN:** A sign that has the capability of sign copy being changed manually or mechanically.
- n. **COMMERCIAL SIGN:** Any sign not defined herein as a “non-commercial sign”
- o. **CONSTRUCTION SIGN:** A sign placed at construction site identifying the project or the name of the architect, engineer, contractor, financier or other involved parties.
- p. **DIRECTIONAL SIGN:** Any sign oriented internally intended to convey messages to internal users of a site and generally not intended to convey messages to persons off-site or from an adjoining street. Examples include directional or wayfinding signs, traffic directions and signs that provide parking instructions, security warning signs, business directories, or similar communications that are accessory to the use of the site and any building located thereon.
- q. **DIRECTORY SIGN:** A permanent diagrammed representation located near the entrance of a complex which shows the location and address of the unit designations within a complex.
- r. **ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTER:** A sign that is electronically or electrically controlled that displays a message center or reader board composed of a series of lights that may be changed through electronic means including LED or LCD displays.
- s. **FEATHER SIGN:** See “blade sign.”
- t. **FLASHING SIGN:** Any illuminated sign that has artificial light or color which is not maintained at a constant intensity or color when such sign is in use. A sign providing public service information, such as time, weather, date, temperature or similar information, shall not be considered a flashing sign.
- u. **FREE-STANDING SIGN:** Any sign or sign structure, which is supported by one or more

uprights or braces in or upon the ground and not attached to any building or wall

- v. GOVERNMENTAL SIGN: Any type of sign that is constructed, placed or maintained by or at the direction of the federal, state, county, or local government. Examples include traffic control and safety signs and devices, public notices and informational signs, all public parks and public facilities signs, and directional and identification signs such as tourist oriented directional signs approved and placed by the Iowa Department of Transportation, memorial plaques, signs of historical interest, signs designating hospitals, libraries, public parks, schools, airports and other institutions or places of public interest or concern.
- w. IDENTIFICATION SIGN: means a sign that displays no more than the name, address, crest or insignia, occupation or profession of an occupant of the premises, name of any building on the premises or the trademark of the occupant.
- x. ILLUMINATED SIGN: Any sign which has character, letters, figures, designs or outline illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes as a part of the sign proper.
- y. INFORMATION SIGN: Any sign giving information to employees, visitors or delivery vehicles, but containing no advertising or identification.
- z. JOINT IDENTIFICATION SIGN: A free-standing sign which identifies a subdivision, a multiple residential complex consisting of three (3) or more structures, a shopping center consisting of three (3) or more separate business concerns, an industrial area, an office complex consisting of three (3) or more structures or any combination of the above.
- aa. LANDSCAPE SIGN: A monument ground sign which is incorporated with a landscape feature such as planter beds, fountains, decorative walls, or other landscape features.
- bb. MOBILE SIGN: A sign affixed to an automobile, truck, trailer or other vehicle.
- cc. MONUMENT GROUND SIGN: A free-standing sign which is anchored to the ground similar to a ground sign, but which has a monolithic or columnar line and which maintains essentially the same contour from grade to top with the base of the sign being a minimum of 95% of the width of the widest component of the sign. Said signs may be doubled side (back-to-back), perpendicular or parallel to the adjoining roadway but in no case shall consist of more than 2 sign faces.
- dd. NON-COMMERCIAL SIGN: Any sign containing an ideological, political issue, religious or other message not related to the promotion of a commercial or business activity. All signs not defined as a "non-commercial sign" shall be defined as a "commercial signs."
- ee. NON-CONFORMING SIGN: A sign which lawfully existed at the time of the passage of this article or amendments thereto but which does not conform to the regulation of this article.

- ff. OBSOLETE SIGNS: Signs that advertise an activity, business, product or service no longer conducted on the premises on which the sign is located.
- gg. OFF-PREMISES SIGN: A commercial sign installed, erected, constructed, or hung on a site or property that is not appurtenant to the use of, products or services being sold on, work being performed on, or the sale, lease, or rental of the land or buildings on which the sign is located. This definition does not include non-commercial signs.
- hh. ON-PREMISES SIGN: A sign installed, erected, constructed, or hung on a site or property that is appurtenant to the use of, products or services being sold on, work being performed on, or the sale, lease, or rental of the land or buildings on which the sign is located.
- ii. PANEL SIGN: A sign consisting of a frame covered by a translucent material which may be internally illuminated. The entire sign structure is one unit and the copy is not intended to include three-dimensional individual letters.
- jj. PERMANENT SIGN: A sign constructed of durable materials and attached to a wall or imbedded in or constructed on a foundation in the ground, that does not allow removal without special tools or equipment and which is intended to exist on more than a temporary basis.
- kk. POLE SIGN: Any free-standing sign which is supported by one or more uprights or similar structures or supports in or upon the ground and independent of support from any building.
- ll. POLITICAL ISSUE SIGN: A sign announcing, promoting (for or against), or drawing attention to any personal or political issue or candidate(s) seeking public political office.
- mm. PORTABLE SIGN: Any sign not permanently attached to a building, structure, or the ground, capable of being moved at periodic intervals, including, but not limited to, signs design to be transported by means of wheels.
- nn. PROJECTED-IMAGE SIGN: A sign which involves an image projected on the face of a wall, structure, sidewalk, or other surface, from a distant electronic device, such that the image does not originate from the plane of the wall, structure, sidewalk, or other surface.
- oo. PROJECTING SIGN: A sign, other than a wall sign, which projects perpendicular to the wall surface of a building or structure, and is supported by a wall of the building or structure.
- pp. REAL ESTATE SIGN: A business sign placed upon a property advertising that particular property for sale, for lease or for rent.
- qq. ROOF SIGN: A sign erected upon or above a roof or parapet of a building or structure.
- rr. SWINGING SIGN: A sign installed on an arm or spar that is not, in addition, permanently

- fastened to an adjacent wall or upright pole.
- ss. TEMPORARY SIGN: Any portable or other sign, banner, pennant, streamer, inflatable signs, valance, bag or banner covering a permanent sign, or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, Vinyl, wallboard or other materials, with or without frames, intended to be displayed for a short period of time only.
  - tt. TRAILER SIGN: Any sign mounted on a vehicle normally licensed by the State of Iowa as a trailer and used for advertising or promotional purposes.
  - uu. VEHICLE SIGN: A message, inscription or logo painted, attached, or incorporated on a motor vehicle which advertises or promotes the interest of any private or public firm, person, organization, or other entity, or to draw attention to the use on the premises.
  - vv. WALL SIGN: All flat signs of solid face construction placed against a building or other structure and attached to the exterior front, rear or side wall of any building or other structure. Such signs may extend no more than twelve (12) inches from the surface of the building or structure to which they are attached. Wall signs are also known as "flush mounted signs".
  - ww. WINDOW SIGN: A sign posted, painted, placed, adhered, or affixed in or on a window or door, or a sign that is located on the interior of a structure that is exposed to public view from the exterior of the structure through a window or glass door.
14. SIGN AREA: That area within the marginal lines of the surface which bears the advertisement or, in the case of messages, figures or symbols attached directly to the part of a building; that area which is included in the smallest connecting geometric figures which can be made to circumscribe the message, figure or symbol displayed thereon. Only changeable copy areas of marquee or canopies shall be considered in determining the total sign area.
15. SIGN COPY: Words, letters, logos figures, symbols, illustrations, or patterns that form a message or otherwise call attention to a business, product, service, or activity, or to the sign itself.
16. SIGN PERIMETER: The external boundary of a sign at its widest point per plan view.
17. SIGN STRUCTURE: The supports, uprights, bracing and framework for a sign including the sign area.
18. STREET LINE (or PROPERTY LINE): The place where the street right of way line begins and the private property line ends.
19. STRUCTURAL TRIM: The molding, battens, cappings, nailing strips, latticing and platforms that are attached to the sign structure.
20. WALL AREA: The area of a building as calculated by multiplying the height of the building, as measured from the average ground level to the roof eave line times the width of the building, which is the width of the building facing the street as measured from an elevation view.

## **Section 21.5. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. No sign shall be allowed except as permitted by this article.
2. No sign shall be located within the Line of Site Visibility zone of street intersection as defined in Zoning Ordinance of the City of Sioux Center. No sign shall be located so that the safety of a moving vehicle or pedestrian will be impaired by obscuring a driver's or pedestrian's vision.
3. No person shall install, erect, construct, hang, or alter any sign within the City without first obtaining from the City a Sign Permit, unless such sign is otherwise exempt under this article.
4. No person shall replace the sign copy or sign face without first obtaining from the City a Sign Permit, unless such sign is otherwise exempt under this article.
5. Any permanent or temporary commercial sign allowed in this article may be utilized as a non-commercial or political issue sign subject to the regulations contained herein.
6. Sign Maintenance: All signs and sign structures shall be properly maintained and kept in a safe, orderly condition. In addition, all parts and supports shall be properly painted. Any sign or sign structure which is rotted, unsafe, deteriorated, defaced, or otherwise altered, shall be repainted, repaired, or replaced by the property owner or agent of the owner of the property upon which the sign is located, within thirty (30) days after written notice by the City of Sioux Center.
7. Interference: No sign, nor any guys, stay or attachment thereto shall be erected, placed or maintained by any person on rocks, fences, or trees; nor in such a manner as to interfere with the effective use of fire fighting equipment or personnel, or any electric light, power, telephone, fiber optic, or cable wires or supports thereof.
8. Safe Ingress and Egress: No sign or part thereof shall be erected or maintained so as to prevent or deter free ingress and egress from any door, window, or fire escape. No sign or sign structure shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
9. Safety:
  - a. *Obstructions to doors, windows or fire escapes*. No sign shall be erected, located or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
  - b. *Face of sign shall be smooth*. All signs or other advertising structures which are constructed on street lines, or within five (5) feet thereof, shall have a smooth surface and no nails, tacks or wires shall be permitted to protrude therefrom, except electrical reflectors and devices which may extend over the top and in front of the advertising structures.
  - c. *Signs not to constitute a traffic hazard*. No sign or other advertising structure as permitted by this ordinance shall, by reason of its location, lighting, size, color or intensity, create a



hazard to the safe, efficient movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. No signs shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision. No private sign shall contain words which might be construed as traffic controls, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or which makes use of the words "STOP", "LOOK", "WARNING", "CAUTION", "DANGER", or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic. No sign or other advertising structure as regulated by this ordinance shall have posts, guides or supports located within any street or alley.

- d. *Goose neck reflectors.* Goose neck reflectors and lights shall be permitted on ground signs, roof signs and wall signs, provided, however, the reflectors shall be provided with proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign as to prevent glare upon the street and adjacent property.
10. **Illumination:** All externally illuminated signs shall be constructed so as to direct the source of light away from adjacent properties or public streets.
  11. **Free-Standing Sign Height Computation:** The height of free-standing signs (including all temporary and permanent signs) shall be computed to be the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Normal grade shall be construed to mean the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.
  12. **Free-Standing Sign Setback Measurement:** The sign setback for free-standing signs (including all temporary and permanent signs) shall be measured from the nearest edge of the sign.

#### **Section 21.6. SIGN AREA CALCULATION**

The area of a sign shall be as determined by the Zoning Administrator using actual dimensions where practical or approximate dimensions when irregularity of a sign shape warrants. The area of each sign type is to be measured with either Formula A or Formula B as noted below. The application of either Formula A or Formula B is established by sign type as defined elsewhere in this article.

1. **Formula A.** The sign area is the sum of the area of two (2) contiguous rectangles, squares or circles that enclose the extreme points or edges of all copy, logos and symbols of said sign.
2. **Formula B.** The sign area is the area of one rectangle, square or circle that encloses the extreme points or edges of all areas where copy may be placed on a sign. This area does not include structural or architectural features of the sign where copy will not be located.

#### **Section 21.7. PROHIBITED SIGNS.**

The following signs shall not be permitted, erected or maintained on any property within the City, unless located within the confines of a building, or not visible from outside the premises of the lot in which the sign is located.

1. **Animated Signs, Air-Activated Graphics, and Signs with Moving Parts.** Any sign which has any visible moving part, visible revolving parts or visible mechanical movement of any description or other apparent visible movement achieved by electrical, or mechanical means, including

intermediate electrical pulsations, or by action of normal wind currents.

2. Balloon Signs.
3. Banners. Banners, pennants, spinners, and streamers, except as specified in this article as a permitted temporary sign.
4. Billboards.
5. Conflicting Signs. Signs with a format which resembles or conflicts with traffic signs or signals.
6. Discontinued Use. Signs on a property that is vacant or un-occupied for a period of more than six (6) months.
7. Flashing or Glaring Lights. Flashing lights, strobe lights, or rotating beams shall be prohibited outside of a building or visible from the outside of a building in all zoning districts except when otherwise legally displayed as emergency lights or warning lights. Illumination of signs shall be designed in such a way as to reflect light away from residential properties and motorists' vision.
8. Hazardous Signs. Any sign or sign structure which is structurally unsafe, or constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation or abandonment, or is not kept in good repair, or is capable of causing electrical shocks.
9. Mobile Signs. Signs attached to or painted on an inoperable or unlicensed vehicle or trailer.
10. Moving Lights. Signs which incorporate in any manner any flashing, pulsating, rotating, beacons, or moving lights. Except for a special event approved by the City Council.
11. Obscene Matter. Signs that display obscene matters in violation of Iowa Code Chapter 728.
12. Obstructions. Signs that constitute an obstruction so as to prevent free ingress or egress through any door, window or fire escape.
13. Off-Premise Signs.
14. Pole Signs, except as may be permitted in the HC, GI, and IP zoning districts.
15. Portable Sign. Portable signs except as specified in this article as a permitted temporary sign.
16. Prohibited Attachment. No sign or other advertising structure of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire extinguisher.
17. Projected-Image Signs.
18. Roof Signs.
19. Signs within or Projecting over Public Right-of-Way. It is unlawful to erect or maintain any sign on,

over, or above any land or right-of-way belonging to City or other governmental entity unless specifically allowed by action of the City Council or applicable governmental entity.

20. Sound or Noise. Signs that broadcast or emit any sounds or noise shall be prohibited.
21. Temporary Signs. All temporary signs except those that are specifically allowed by this article.
22. Traffic Hazard. Signs that constitute a traffic hazard.
23. Unlawful Signs. Any sign unlawfully installed, erected or maintained in violation of this article.

### **Section 21.8. EXEMPTIONS.**

The following signs shall not require a sign permit.

1. Government Signs and Government Flags. Government signs and government flags as defined herein this article, are exempt from the Sign Regulations, the Sign Design Standards, and the Sign Permits and Fees requirement.
2. Internal Signs. Signs located within the confines of a building, except those that are defined as window signs.
3. Building Address Signs. Building addresses on buildings and signs as required by the City.
4. Directory Signs. Directory signs as required by the City Fire Department for emergency identification.
5. Art Display. Defined as any mural painting or decoration, inscription, mosaic, painted glass, base-relief, or other similar art form of a permanent character that is intended for decoration, ornament, or commemoration and that is applied to, placed upon, or erected on any lot or parcel or wall of any building or structure. For the purposes of this article, this definition shall not include any art display that incorporates logos, advertisements, or other commercial speech nor any art display that contain images, letters, symbols or other representations designed to identify or market any commercial activities contained upon the site on which it is located. The designation of a display as an art display exempt from the provisions of this article shall be at the sole discretion of the Zoning Administrator.
6. Regular Temporary Signs. Regular temporary signs, to the extent that they meet the standards herein this article, are exempt from the Sign Permits and Fees requirement.

### **Section 21.9. SIGN TYPES**

For the purposes of this article, the following sign types, as defined herein this article, are categorized as follows:

1. Permanent Signs. Permanent signs include permanent, commercial signs that meet the definition of an on-premise sign. Permanent signs shall not include off-premise signs. Permanent signs may also include permanent, non-commercial signs. Permanent signs are limited to the following sign types as defined and further regulated herein this article:

- a. Building Signs
  - b. Free-standing Signs
  - c. Directional Signs
  - d. Drive-Thru Facility Signs
  - e. Signs Affixed to Automated Teller Machines (ATM)
  - f. Corporate Flags
2. Temporary Signs. Temporary signs include temporary, commercial signs that meet the definition of an on-premise sign. Temporary signs may further include temporary non-commercial signs. Temporary signs are limited to the following sign types as defined and further regulated herein this article:
- a. Commercial Signs
    - 1) Regular Temporary Signs
      - i. Free-standing signs
      - ii. A-frame signs
      - iii. Blade signs and flags
      - iv. Banner signs attached to a building wall or window or covering and affixed to an existing building sign
      - v. Bag signs covering and affixed to an existing monument ground sign
    - 2) Special Temporary Signs
      - i. Free-Standing Signs
      - ii. Changeable Message Signs that are of a portable or temporary nature
      - iii. Electronic Message Centers that are of a portable or temporary nature
  - b. Non-Commercial Signs

**Section 21.10. SIGN REGULATIONS**

1. Permanent Signs. The following permanent signs are permitted by zoning district as follows:

SIGN REGULATIONS												
PERMANENT SIGNS	ZONING DISTRICT											
	AG	RS	R-1	R-2	R-3	MH	MU	PO	GC	HC	GI	IP
<b>Building Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	1 sign per principal building facing a public street.						Building signs may be located on any side of a building so long as the total sign area does not exceed the total allowed for the building. The area of all window signs shall be included in the total building signage area.					
<b>Projecting Signs</b>	Not Permitted.						No more than 1 per building entrance.	Not Permitted.				
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	4 sq. ft.						10% of the total sq. ft. of the wall area of the principal building facing a public street. No more than two sides of a building facing a street shall be used to calculate the allowable signage. The sign area of all building signs, including window signs, shall be calculated using sign area Formula A as defined herein this article.					
<b>Free-standing Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	For single family detached and single family attached residential subdivisions or developments, 2 landscape signs per public or private street entrance. For multi-family residential and non-residential uses, 1 monument ground sign per public street frontage of a lot of record. Any allowed monument ground sign may be substituted with a landscape sign.						1 monument ground sign per public street frontage for a lot of record. For lots exceeding 500 ft of frontage, 1 monument ground sign shall be allowed for each 250 ft of frontage. Any allowed monument ground sign may be substituted with a landscape sign.			1 monument ground sign per public street frontage for a lot of record. For lots exceeding 500 ft of frontage, 1 monument ground sign shall be allowed for each 250 ft of frontage. Any allowed monument ground sign may be substituted with a landscape sign. On lots 4-acres or greater in size, any allowed monument ground sign may be substituted for a pole sign.		
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	40 sq. ft. per sign face using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article.						60 sq. ft. per sign face using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article.			150 sq. ft. per sign face using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article.		
<b>Maximum Sign Height</b>	5 ft.						15 ft.			30 ft.		
<b>Sign Setback Requirement</b>	5 ft front, side, and rear yard setback.						Front, side, and rear yard setbacks are equal to the total sign height. No sign shall be located closer than 200 ft from any other free-standing sign located on the same parcel.					

SIGN REGULATIONS												
PERMANENT SIGNS	ZONING DISTRICT											
	AG	RS	R-1	R-2	R-3	MH	MU	PO	GC	HC	GI	IP
<b>Directional Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	No more than 2 signs per site or parcel with multi-family residential and non-residential uses.								No more than 4 signs allowed per parcel.			
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	8 sq. ft. using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article.											
<b>Maximum Sign Height</b>	4 ft.											
<b>Sign Setback Requirement</b>	5 ft from all property lines.											
<b>Drive-Thru Facility Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	For sites with a permitted drive-thru facility, 1 Primary and 1 Secondary drive-thru facility sign, as provided herein this article, shall be permitted for each drive-thru lane. Signs may be free-standing (one-sided only) or building/wall mounted.											
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	The Primary sign shall be no greater than 36 sq. ft. using sign area Formula B and the Secondary sign shall be no greater than 15 sq. ft. using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article.											
<b>Maximum Sign Height</b>	6 ft.											
<b>Sign Setback and Placement Requirements</b>	25 ft front yard and 5 ft from all property lines. Must be within 10 ft of the drive-thru lane.											
<b>Signs on ATMs</b>												
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	Sign copy may be adhered or placed upon any surface of a permitted ATM or ATM kiosk; however, the total area of all signage shall not exceed 16 sq. ft.											
<b>Corporate Flags</b>												
<b>Number Permitted</b>	Not Permitted.						1 per parcel or principal building.					
<b>Maximum Flag Size</b>	n/a						15 sq. ft.					
<b>Maximum Height</b>	n/a						30 ft.					
<b>Other Requirements</b>	n/a						May only be flown concurrent with the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Iowa. Flag shall be displayed on a separate flagpole located in close proximity to and no higher than the flagpoles of the United States and the State of Iowa.					

2. Temporary Signs. The following temporary signs are permitted by zoning district as follows:

SIGN REGULATIONS												
TEMPORARY SIGNS	ZONING DISTRICT											
	AG	RS	R-1	R-2	R-3	MH	MU	PO	GC	HC	GI	IP
<b>Commercial Signs</b>												
<b>Regular Temporary Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	1 sign per public street frontage for a lot of record.						1 sign per public street frontage for a lot of record plus 1 per building or individual business. Each building or individual business may also display 1 A-frame, blade sign, or flag sign during the hours in which the business is open.					
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	For multi-family residential and non-residential uses - 32 sq. ft. per sign face using sign area Formula B and for all other uses - 4 sq. ft. using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article.						32 sq. ft. per sign face using sign area Formula B as defined herein this article. A-frame, blade sign, and flag signs are limited to 16 sq. ft. in total surface area measured one side.					
<b>Maximum Free-Standing Sign Height</b>	6 ft.						8 ft.					
<b>Free-Standing Sign Setback Requirement</b>	5 ft from all property lines.											
<b>Special Temporary Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	None permitted.						1 sign per public street frontage for a lot of record.					
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	n/a						32 sq. ft.					
<b>Maximum Free-Standing Sign Height</b>	n/a						15 ft.					
<b>Free-Standing Sign Setback Requirement</b>	n/a						10 ft from all property lines.					
<b>Non-Commercial Signs and Political Issue Signs</b>												
<b>Number of Signs Permitted</b>	6						6					
<b>Maximum Sign Area</b>	4 sq. ft.						32 sq. ft.					
<b>Maximum Free Standing Sign Height</b>	6 ft.						8 sq. ft.					
<b>Free-Standing Sign Setback Requirement</b>	5 ft from all property lines.											

**Section 21.11. SIGN DESIGN STANDARDS**

1. Permanent Signs. The following regulations are enacted for all permanent signs as may be permitted by this article.

- a. **Building Sign Regulations**

- 1) Prior to installation of any building signage, all multi-tenant buildings and multi-building commercial centers shall provide a signage plan detailing how and where signage will be allocated to each individual tenant space. This plan shall be adhered to unless an alternate plan is provided to the City by the building owner.
- 2) No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, nor project beyond the ends of the wall to which it is attached.
- 3) Signs with exposed neon or exposed florescent tubes or light bulbs are prohibited.
- 4) Painted signs, including any lettering, graphics, images, and logos, are prohibited except as may be permitted on awnings and windows.
- 5) Signs may include a changeable message sign that is no larger than 32 sq. ft. in size.
- 6) Signs within any non-residential zoning district may include an electronic message center sign that is no larger 32 sq. ft. in size, and subject to the design regulations herein this article.
- 7) Signs for any residential use shall not be internally illuminated.
- 8) Signs may be mounted on a uniform backing that is of no more than one (1) color and that projects no more than four (4) inches from the surface of the building wall.
- 9) Raceways are prohibited. In any situation where it is not physically practical to mount a wall sign without a raceway, a pan-style raceway may be authorized at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator.
- 10) Projecting Signs, where permitted, shall further comply with the following standards:
  - i. Application. Projecting signs as regulated by this article shall include any sign, other than a building sign, which projects from, and is supported by a wall of a building or structure.
  - ii. Construction. Every projecting sign, including the frame, braces and supports thereof, shall meet the compliance of the building code regulations of the City.
  - iii. Sign Width (Thickness). The thickness measured between the principal faces of any projecting sign shall not exceed twelve (12) inches.



- iv. Height of Signs. No part of any projecting sign shall be less than ten (10) feet above ground level, except as provided in subsection v. of this section.
  - v. Location. Every projecting sign shall be at least ten (10) feet above any sidewalk area over which it is erected, and a distance not greater than two (2) feet from the wall to which it is attached, measuring from the point of the sign nearest thereto. Every projecting sign to be erected over public or private driveways or thoroughfares shall be placed not less than fifteen (15) feet above the level of same.
  - vi. Obstructions and Traffic Hazards. Every projecting sign shall be erected in a manner which does not constitute an obstruction or traffic hazard regulated by this chapter.
  - vii. Projection Over Public Property or Road Right-of-Way. It is unlawful for any projecting sign to be located over public property or road right-of-way unless approval is granted by the City Council or agency that owns or controls said public property or right-of-way.
- b. Freestanding Signs**
- 1) Freestanding signs shall be restricted to monument grounds signs, except for pole signs as may be permitted in the HC, GI and IP zoning districts.
  - 2) All sign structures shall be architecturally designed and incorporate design details, materials, and colors of the associated building.
  - 3) Signs with exposed neon or exposed florescent tubes or light bulbs are prohibited.
  - 4) Painted signs, including any lettering, graphics, images, and logos, are prohibited.
  - 5) Signs may include a changeable message sign that is double-sided (back-to-back) and no larger than 32 sq. ft. in size per sign face.
  - 6) Signs within any non-residential zoning district may include an electronic message center sign that is double-sided (back-to-back) and no larger 32 sq. ft. in size, per sign face, and subject to the design regulations herein this article.
  - 7) Signs for any residential use shall not be internally illuminated.
  - 8) The premises on which the sign is located shall be maintained by the owner thereof in a clean, sanitary and inoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.
  - 9) Poles signs, when permitted, shall comply with the following design standards:
    - i. All pole signs shall be installed so that necessary sign poles, posts, uprights, braces, and supports are an integral part of the sign design.

- ii. All sign poles, posts, uprights, braces, and supports shall be wrapped or architecturally detailed to have a high-quality, finished appearance.
    - iii. The combined width of the sign poles, posts and other uprights shall be no less than twenty percent (20%) of the width of the widest component of the sign.
    - iv. Pole signs shall provide a minimum clearance of ten (10) feet between the bottom edge of the structure and the grade below when installed over a sidewalk, trail, parking area or similar paved surface.
  - c. **Electronic Message Centers.** Electronic message centers are further regulated as follows:
    - 1) Electronic message center messages and images may not scroll or flash and shall not display full-motion graphics in a series of frame to give the illusion of motion or video.
    - 2) The images and messages displayed on an electronic message center must have a minimum dwell time of at least 8-seconds before changing to the next image or message. The transition or change from one message to another must be instantaneous and involve no animation or special effects.
    - 3) The brightness of any electronic message center shall not exceed a maximum illumination of 10,000 candelas per square meter (nits) during daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 250 candelas per square meter (nits) between dusk and dawn, as measured from the brightest element on the sign's face. Electronic message centers must be equipped with a light detector or photocell that automatically adjusts the display's brightness according to natural ambient light conditions.
2. Temporary Signs. The following regulations are enacted for all temporary signs as may be permitted by this article.
  - a. **Commercial Signs.** Temporary commercial signs are hereby divided into the categories of Regular Temporary Signs and Special Temporary Signs.
    - 1) **Regular Temporary Signs.**
      - i. May include the following types temporary signs in accordance with the provisions of this article:
        - Free-standing signs
        - A-frame signs
        - Blade signs and flags
        - Banner signs attached to a building wall or window or covering and affixed to an existing building sign

- Bag signs covering and affixed to an existing monument ground sign
  - ii. Duration: No temporary sign shall be in place for a period greater than six (6) months unless removed and replaced with a new sign.
- 2) Special Temporary Signs.
- i. May include the following types of temporary signs in accordance with the provisions of this article:
    - Free-Standing Signs
    - Changeable Message Signs that are of a portable or temporary nature
    - Electronic Message Centers that are of a portable or temporary nature
  - ii. Duration: May be installed or displayed no more than four (4) times (events) in a calendar year for a maximum duration of fourteen (14) consecutive days each time (event).
- c. Non-Commercial Signs. May include the following types temporary signs in accordance with the provisions of this article:
- i. Free-standing signs
  - ii. A-frame signs
  - iii. Blade signs and flags
  - iv. Banner signs attached to a building wall or window

### **Section 21.12. PERMITS REQUIRED**

It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, alter, or relocate within the city any sign or other advertising structure as defined in this ordinance, without first obtaining a sign permit and making payment of the fee required by this section.

1. Application for Sign Permit. Application for sign permits shall be made in such form as required by the Zoning Administrator and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information unless such information shall be deemed unnecessary by the Zoning Administrator.
  - a. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
  - b. Location of building, structure, or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected.
  - c. Position of the sign in relation to nearby buildings or structures.

- d. One sketch of the plan, method of construction, and attachment to the building or ground.
  - e. Copy of plans and specifications as may be necessary to prove the sign is designed for live and dead loads and wind pressure loads in any direction in the amount required by the City building codes and applicable laws and ordinances.
  - f. Name of person, firm, corporation or association erecting structure.
  - g. Written consent of the owner of the building, structure or land on which the sign is placed.
  - h. Such other information as the Zoning Administrator shall require showing full compliance with this ordinance and all other ordinances of the city.
  - i. For signs located along a state primary highway, a state sign permit will also need to be included with the application.
2. Permit Issued. It shall be the duty of the Zoning Administrator, upon the filing of an application for a sign permit to examine such plans and other data and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign or other advertising structure, and if it shall appear the proposed structure is in compliance with all the requirements of this ordinance and all other ordinances of city, the sign permit shall then be issued. If the work authorized under a sign permit has not been completed within six (6) months after date of issuance, the permit shall become null and void.
  3. Permit Fees. Every applicant, before being granted a sign permit, and to defray administrative costs of processing requests for sign permits, shall pay to the City Clerk, a fee in the amount established by the City Council.
  4. Permit Revocation. Any permit holder who fails to comply with a valid order of the Zoning Administrator within the allotted time period, or who fails to pay reasonable removal or repair expenses shall have the permit as to such sign or signs revoked, and another permit for the erection or maintenance of such sign or signs shall not be issued to said permit holder for a period of one (1) year from the date of revocation.
  5. Application Required for Special Temporary Signs. Applications for any special temporary sign as provided for in this chapter shall require the following application process prior to installation.
    - a. A written request for approval of a Special Temporary Sign shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator no less than 48-hours prior to the desired date of sign installation. Said written request may be submitted in-person, by mail, or by email to the location or addresses as provided by the Zoning Administrator.
    - b. The written request shall include:
      - 1) Contact information for the person(s) responsible for the sign installation and removal.

- 2) Address of the property on which the sign is to be place.
  - 3) Date and time the sign will be installed and subsequently removed.
  - 4) Details of the sign including its dimensions.
  - 5) Sketch plan or details identifying the location in which said sign will be place including its setback from all adjoining property lines and street right-of-way.
- c. *Notification of Sign Removal.* Written notices that the Special Temporary Sign has be removed shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator no less than 48-hours after the sign has been removed. Said notice shall indicate the date and time the sign was removed.
- d. *Fee.* There shall be no fee charged for an application for a Special Temporary Sign.
- e. *Violations.* Any applicant, agent, or property owner who fails to comply with the provisions and regulations for a Special Temporary Sign shall be in violation of this article and is subject to the provisions of Article 27 of the Zoning Ordinance.

### **Section 21.13. INSPECTION.**

The Zoning Administrator may inspect, from time to time as deemed necessary, each sign or other advertising structure regulated by this chapter for the purpose of ascertaining whether the same is secure or insecure, and whether it is in need of removal or repair.

### **Section 21.14. UNSAFE AND UNLAWFUL SIGNS**

All signs and sign structures shall be properly maintained and kept in a safe, orderly condition. Signs shall also maintain a neat and orderly appearance in which the sign is legible and can be easily read. Additionally, all parts and supports shall be properly painted. Any sign or sign structure which is rotted, unsafe, deteriorated, defaced, or otherwise altered, shall be repainted, repaired, or replaced by the property owner or agent of the owner of the property upon which the sign is located, within thirty (30) days after written notice by the City of Sioux Center. Such notice shall include a statement explaining the alleged violations and deficiencies, an order to repair or remove said sign, and an explanation of the consequences of failure to comply with said order.

If the permit holder fails to remove or alter said sign so as to comply with the order, said sign or other advertising structure may be removed or altered to comply by the Zoning Administrator at the expense of the permit holder, or owner of the property on which it is located. The permit holder may appeal the order of the Zoning Administrator to the board of adjustment and, if such an appeal is on file, the compliance period shall be extended until following the board of adjustment's decision on the matter. If, however, the Zoning Administrator finds that any sign or other advertising structure poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or safety of any person, he/she may order the removal of such sign summarily and without notice to the permit holder.

Any applicant, agent, or property owner who fails to comply with the provisions and regulations of this article shall be in violation of this article and is subject to the provisions of Article 27 of the Zoning Ordinance.

**Section 21.15. REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE OR DISCONTINUED USE SIGNS**

Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted, or a product sold, or any sign on a property that is vacant or un-occupied for a period of more than six (6) months, shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure upon which such sign may be found within ninety (90) days from date of notice provided by the city. The owner of the property on which the sign is located shall have ninety (90) days from date of notice to remove any such sign. If after the expiration of the ninety (90) day period, the sign has not been removed, the city may cause the sign to be removed and any expenses may be charged back to the property owner.

**Section 21.16. JURISDICTION OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

The Board of Adjustment shall have jurisdiction for any requests for variances involving sign location, sign height, or sign size not consistent with this chapter. The Board shall rule on any request in accordance with Article 29 of the Zoning Ordinance. Any person aggrieved by an order, requirement, decision or determination of the Zoning Administrator in the enforcement of this chapter may file an appeal with the Board of Adjustment in accordance with Article 29 of the Zoning Ordinance.