

Sec. 601. Signs.

601.1 Statement of purpose.

A. The purpose and intent of this section is to establish a set of standards for the fabrication, erection, use, maintenance, and alteration of signs, symbols, markings, or advertising devices within the county. The standards are designed to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the county by providing regulations which allow and encourage creativity, effectiveness, and flexibility in the design and use of such devices while promoting traffic safety and avoiding an environment that encourages visual blight.

B. It is not the purpose of this section to regulate or control the copy, the content, or the viewpoint of signs. Nor is it the intent of this section to afford greater protection to commercial speech than to noncommercial speech. Any sign, display, or device allowed under this section may contain, in lieu of any other copy, any otherwise lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to a commodity or service for sale, and that complies with all other requirements of this section. If any or all of the other provisions of this section are held to be unconstitutional, it is the explicit intent of the county commission that, at a minimum, the standards in section 601.17 be considered severable and enforced as the minimum standards for signs in the county.

C. This section is intended to establish a coordinated graphic program that provides for occupant identification and directional communication, while allowing the creation of unique and informative signs. These guidelines are not intended to prohibit the design of unusual signs that may enhance the character of the building or reflect the nature of the business or use.

D. This section is intended to be consistent with the county comprehensive plan.

601.2 Applicability of other code or regulatory requirements. In the event any of the provisions of this section are in conflict with other applicable requirements, the more restrictive requirements shall apply.

601.3 Reserved.

601.4 Signs specifically prohibited. Any sign not specifically permitted, exempted, or authorized by this section is prohibited; provided, however, that any authorized or permitted sign under this section is allowed to contain non-commercial speech in lieu of any other speech. The following types of signs are specifically prohibited except as otherwise provided by this section:

- A. Activated signs and devices.
- B. Revolving signs.
- C. Snipe signs.
- D. Signs other than sandwich signs placed on the sidewalk or curb.
- E. Swinging signs.
- F. Vehicle signs.
- G. Signs which imitate or resemble any official traffic or government sign, signal, or device. Signs which obstruct, conceal, hide, or otherwise obscure from view any official traffic or government sign, signal or device.
- H. Any sign which:

1. Has unshielded, illuminated devices that produce glare or are a hazard or nuisance to motorists or occupants of adjacent properties.
2. Due to any lighting or control mechanism, causes radio, television, or other communication interference.
3. Is erected or maintained so as to obstruct any fire fighting equipment, window, door, or opening used as a means of ingress or egress for fire escape purposes including any opening required for proper light and ventilation.
4. Projects in excess of 18 inches over a dedicated public street, alley, sidewalk, or private or public roadway.
5. Is erected on public property or a public right-of-way, except government signs or other signs as expressly allowed in the code.
 - I. Bench signs located on private property.
 - J. Abandoned signs.
 - K. Inflatable signs or devices.
 - L. Illegal signs.
 - M. Beacon lights.
 - N. Roof signs.
 - O. Back to back sign faces at an angle that exceeds 90 degrees.
 - P. Window signs which, in aggregate, cover more than 25 percent of the total window surface.
 - Q. Signs in or upon any river, bay, lake, or other body of water within the unincorporated limits of the county. Signs attached to or painted on piers or seawalls, other than official regulatory or warning signs.
 - R. Pole signs.
 - S. Multiprism signs.
 - T. Portable signs.
 - U. Pennants.
 - V. Festoons.
 - W. Banner signs and advertising balloons which do not comply with section 601.16(D).
 - X. Sandwich signs that do not meet the requirements of section 601.5(18).

Notwithstanding any code provision to the contrary, neither the county commission nor any board of the county may grant a variance allowing the erection of any of the prohibited signs expressly enumerated in this section unless the sign or sign plan submitted consists of a uniform design for pedestrian walkways or streetscape signs that are interior to the project site.

601.5 Certain signs exempt from permits.

A. The following signs are exempted from permit requirements provided, however, that such signs are erected in conformance with all other requirements of this section. All signs set forth in this section that do not meet the requirements set forth herein for an exemption or permit are prohibited.

1. A permit is not required to change or replace the advertising copy, message, or sign face on changeable copy signs. However, the change or replacement of advertising copy, message, or sign face must not enlarge or increase the sign surface area, sign structure area, nor adversely affect the original design integrity. If, in order to change or replace the advertising copy, message, or sign face, the supporting sign structure must be

unfastened, loosened, or removed, then a sign permit shall be required. Copy shall not be replaced such that the sign changes from an on-site sign to an off-site sign.

2. Government signs.

3. Flags, emblems, or insignia of any nation, state, or political subdivision, religious, charitable, political, social, or fraternal organization when displayed on a single pole or other supporting structure.

4. Holiday, seasonal, or commemorative decorations provided that such signs are not displayed for a period of more than 60 days.

5. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other noncombustible materials.

6. In nonresidential districts, two directional signs per driveway, which signs shall be located on and pertaining to a parcel of private property. Each sign shall not exceed four square feet in sign surface area and 30 inches in height. If such sign is to be illuminated, then an electrical permit shall be obtained. Directional signs may be placed with a one-foot setback from the right-of-way provided that such signs meet all other applicable regulations. The square footage of directional signs shall not be counted as part of the maximum allowable square footage for any parcel.

7. In residential districts, one nonilluminated, identification sign used to identify the address and occupant of the residence not to exceed two square feet in sign surface area. This sign may not be used to advertise any home occupation.

8. One nonilluminated, real estate sign may be displayed per street frontage, subject to the following restrictions:

a. In residential zoning districts: maximum four and one-half square feet in sign surface area, where the property being advertised or developed has a street frontage of less than 500 feet. In E-R and ER-2, a maximum of six square feet in sign surface area. If the parcel borders a navigable waterway, one additional real estate sign may be placed on the waterfront side of the property. If the parcel borders a golf course, one additional real estate sign may be placed on the golf course side of the property.

Maximum eight square feet in sign surface area, where the property being advertised or developed has a street frontage of 500 feet or more.

Such signs shall not exceed six feet in height, shall not be posted prior to the listing of the property for sale or lease or the filing of applications for the development of the property, and shall be removed within 30 days after the sale or lease of the property, or the completion of development as evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

b. In nonresidential districts: maximum 32 square feet in sign surface area.

Such signs shall not exceed ten feet in height, shall not be posted prior to the listing of the property for sale or lease or the filing of applications for the development of the property, and shall be removed within 30 days after the lease or sale of the property, or the completion of development as evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

c. Multiple listing strips, broker identification strips, and sold signs are allowed when attached to a real estate sign. Signs shall be removed when ownership has changed or the property is no longer for sale or lease or under development. Multiple listing strips, broker identification strips, and sold signs shall not be counted as part of the maximum square footage permitted for real estate signs nor shall real estate signs be considered as part of the maximum square footage permitted on any parcel.

9. Window signs which comprise, in aggregate, 25 percent of the total window area or less.
10. Signs incorporated on machinery or equipment at the manufacturer's or distributor's level, which identify or advertise only the product or service dispensed by the machine or equipment, such as signs customarily affixed to vending machines, newspaper racks, telephone booths, and gasoline pumps. Such signs shall not be counted as part of the maximum square footage permitted on any parcel.
11. Interior signs which are displayed on the inside of a building and not visible from a public place. Such signs shall not be counted as part of the maximum square footage permitted on any parcel.
12. "No Trespassing" or "No Dumping" signs, not exceeding one sign every 500 feet along boundaries of and at each corner of the posted property, four in number per acre, and no one sign exceeding two square feet in sign surface area.
13. Noncommercial, on-site signs not included in this subsection, which are less than four square feet in sign surface area and 30 inches in height, provided that they are not displayed for more than 14 consecutive days nor more than 28 days per year.
14. Warning signs, provided that warning signs do not exceed four square feet in sign surface area.
15. Directional signs related to construction located within the development where building or development permits/approvals have been issued by the county and not to exceed four square feet in sign surface area and 30 inches in height.
16. One construction sign per street frontage, provided that the following conditions are met:
 - a. Such sign is not illuminated; and
 - b. Such sign shall be authorized only when active building or construction is taking place; and
 - c. Such sign shall contain only on-site advertising; and
 - d. All such signs shall be removed or made to conform to the provisions of this section when a certificate of occupancy is issued; and
 - e. The height and size of all construction signs shall be limited according to the following restrictions:

In residential zoning districts:
Maximum four and one-half square feet in sign surface area where the property being constructed has a street frontage of less than 500 feet. The sign shall not exceed six feet in height.
Maximum eight square feet in sign surface area where the property being constructed has a street frontage of 500 feet or more. The sign shall not exceed six feet in height.

In all other districts:
Maximum eight square feet in sign surface area, where the property being constructed has a street frontage less than 200 feet. The sign shall not exceed ten feet in height.
Maximum 16 square feet in sign surface area, where the property being constructed has a street frontage of 200 feet or more. The sign shall not exceed ten feet in height.
17. Two nonilluminated, political campaign signs per candidate or issue for each residential or nonresidential parcel not to exceed eight square feet in area.
18. In nonresidential zoning districts, one sandwich sign per business establishment having a certificate of occupancy placed on the sidewalk no further than five feet from

the main entrance door of the structure of the establishment and with a maximum height of three and one-half feet and maximum sign structure width of two feet. The sign shall not be placed in the public right-of-way and shall not be placed so as to obstruct pedestrian traffic along the sidewalk.

601.6 Nonconforming signs.

A. Any sign, lawfully erected within the county on the effective date of this Code which does not conform to the requirements of this Code shall be treated as a nonconforming sign pursuant to this subsection.

B. The following signs shall be removed or made to conform to this section within 90 days from the effective date thereof:

1. All temporary signs other than those allowed herein.
2. Those signs prohibited by section 601.4.C, D, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, P, Q, T, U, V, W, and X.

C. Any nonconforming, on-site sign which is destroyed or substantially damaged shall not be repaired or rebuilt except in conformity with this section.

D. A nonconforming, on-site sign shall not be replaced by another nonconforming sign. However, substitution of letters, poster panels, and painted boards, or demountable material on nonconforming signs shall be allowed. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to signs relocated or reconstructed as a result of condemnation action by any governmental agency as provided for in this Code. Routine repair and maintenance is allowed as long as it does not increase the sign surface area, sign structure area or height of the sign.

[E. Reserved.]

F. A nonconforming sign that is abandoned is a violation of this ordinance and shall be removed.

601.7 Reserved.

601.8 Special purpose signs.

A. Menu signs for drive-through restaurants. In addition to the signs otherwise permitted by these sign regulations, a drive-through restaurant shall be permitted one menu sign placed in proximity to the drive-through lane for the purpose of ordering. Such sign shall be set back to the minimum building setback for the appropriate zoning district, or 40 feet, whichever is less; shall have a sign surface area not exceeding 24 square feet; and shall require a sign permit.

601.9 Abandoned signs. An abandoned sign is prohibited and is a violation of this section. Lawfully-erected conforming permanent on-site signs applicable to a business temporarily suspended because of a change in ownership or management shall not be deemed to be abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a period of six consecutive months or more. Nonconforming signs shall be removed if abandoned. During any time a sign is not in use by a business currently operating on the parcel upon which the sign is located, the owner shall replace or cover the copy relating to the prior business with an opaque covering, and shall ensure that all internal fixtures of the sign remain covered.

601.10 Signs on rights-of-way.

A. Allowance of certain signs. The following signs may be erected in rights-of-way within the county and shall be exempt from the regulatory provisions of this section.

Such structures must also comply with applicable provisions of the county Right-of-Way Use Ordinance and the building code.

1. Government signs;
2. Traffic-control devices; and
3. Bench signs as permitted in section 311 of this Code.

B. Prohibition of all other signs on rights-of-way. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or other entity, for its own or the benefit of another, to erect, place, post, install, affix, attach, or in any other way locate or maintain a sign upon, within or otherwise encroaching on a right-of-way or upon a structure located within such a right-of-way. Information contained in any sign, including names, addresses, or telephone numbers of persons or entities benefiting from or advertising on the sign shall be sufficient evidence of ownership or beneficial use or interest for purposes of enforcing this section. More than one person or entity may be deemed jointly and severally liable for the placement or erection of the same sign. Each unlawful sign shall be deemed a separate violation of this section.

601.11 Reserved.

601.12 Reserved.

601.13 Reserved.

601.14 On-site signs; permit required.

A. *General regulations.*

1. For the purpose of determining the spacing requirement found in this subsection, distances shall be measured from the leading edge of the sign structure to the property line of the property from which the distance is being measured.
2. Illuminated signs, including neon signs, shall not produce more than one foot-candle of illumination four feet from the sign, when measured from the base of such sign. Exposed neon tubing shall not be permitted on ground signs.
3. For purposes of conformance with right-of-way setback regulations, any property owner who has an on-site sign which was made nonconforming in regard to required setbacks from the right-of-way by governmental right-of-way acquisition may follow section 105.3.B of this Code provided that the sign is erected on private property.
4. Signs shall not be placed in the clear site triangle.

B. *Standards for on-site signs in residential districts.* The following signs may be erected in residential zoning districts:

1. One double-faced or two single-faced permanent subdivision sign(s) may be located at each entrance to a platted subdivision provided that all of the following requirements are met:
 - a. The sign shall not create a physical or visual hazard for pedestrians or motorists entering or leaving the subdivision and shall be set back a minimum of five feet from the right-of-way line and 20 feet from the intersection of the rights-of-way.
 - b. An individual firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other legal entity other than the county shall be designated as the person responsible for perpetual maintenance of the subdivision sign.
 - c. Each sign surface shall not exceed ten feet in height and 40 square feet in sign surface area.
 - d. If single faced, the two signs shall be located on opposite sides of the entry drive.

e. Signs authorized by this subsection may be located within the rights-of-way provided that the appropriate right-of-way use, maintenance and license agreements, and permits are obtained.

f. One additional subdivision sign may be placed at each terminus or farthest edge of the subdivision, if located at least 1,000 feet from the main subdivision sign, up to a maximum of two additional signs.

2. One wall sign or one double-faced or two single-faced, ground identification signs may be located at each entrance to a multiple-family residential development or mobile home park, provided that all of the following requirements are met:

a. Such signs shall not exceed two square feet in sign structure area for each dwelling unit up to and including 16 units. In no event shall the sign exceed 32 square feet of sign structure area.

b. Such signs shall not exceed ten feet in height.

c. Such signs shall be set back five feet from the right-of-way line and 20 feet from the intersection of the rights-of-way.

d. If single faced, the two signs shall be located on opposite sides of the entry drive.

Backlighting or interior illumination is prohibited. One projecting sign may be substituted for each wall sign pursuant to section 601.14.C.3.

e. Signs authorized by this subsection may be located within the rights-of-way provided that the appropriate right-of-way use, maintenance and license agreements, and permits are obtained.

3. One directional sign per subdivision entrance with a maximum height of five feet for the structure, 12 inches for the copy, and 32 square feet of sign structure area. The directional sign shall meet the separation and setback requirements of on-site signs. Additional directional signs may be placed where necessary to locate subdivision amenities.

4. Nonresidential permitted uses (such as churches), special exception uses (such as day cares), and conditional uses (such as residential treatment and care facilities) located in residential or agricultural districts (other than home occupations) shall be allowed one ground sign no more than five feet in height and 32 square feet in total sign area (including architectural features). The sign shall not create a physical or visual hazard for pedestrians or motorists entering or leaving the property and shall be set back a minimum of five feet from the right-of-way line, 20 feet from the property line if adjacent to a residential use, and 20 feet from the intersection of the rights-of-way.

C. Standards for on-site signs in nonresidential districts. On-site signs on properties in nonresidential districts which abut a residential district shall not be erected closer than ten feet from any residential zoning district. Finishing materials shall be consistent with those used on the structure to which the sign relates.

1. Regulations for ground signs. Ground/monument signs shall be allowed in nonresidential districts, provided the following specific regulations are met, in addition to the general regulations stated above:

a. One ground sign is permitted for each parcel having frontage on a public street. If a parcel has public street frontage in excess of 300 feet, one additional ground sign shall be permitted for each additional 300 feet of public street frontage. At least 600 feet of public street frontage is needed for a second sign, and the signs shall be placed no closer than 300 feet from each other on the same parcel.

b. Ground/monument signs shall be a maximum of 11 feet in height (measured from finished grade to the top of the structure), except that a monument/ground sign may contain an ornamental top feature that is sculptural or artistic in nature that exceeds the 11-foot height limitation. However, the ornamental top feature shall not exceed 15 percent of the overall height of the structure. The sign structure size must be at least 50 percent of the total square footage of the copy area, and shall contain architectural features.

c. Maximum sign size and copy area.

i. Single occupancy parcels. The maximum allowable copy area and total sign size for any single occupancy parcel shall be determined by the table below:

TABLE INSET:

Building Size	Maximum Copy Area	Maximum Total Sign Size
Under 75,000 square feet	100 square feet	200 square feet
75,000--250,000 square feet	125 square feet	250 square feet
Over 250,000 square feet	150 square feet	300 square feet

ii. Multioccupancy parcels. The maximum allowable copy area for any multioccupancy parcel shall be determined by the table above by aggregating the size of the buildings (proposed and existing) if the parcel has multiple buildings, and/or by granting copy area equal to 12 square feet for each tenant (proposed and existing), or a combination of these two approaches to achieve the higher number of square feet allowed for copy area. However, the maximum allowable copy area for a sign on a multioccupancy parcel shall not exceed 200 square feet, and the maximum sign structure area shall not exceed 400 square feet.

iii. Multioccupancy parcels with 600 feet or more of frontage. If a parcel is entitled to more than one sign under subsection 601.14.C.1.a., above, (parcels with 600 feet or more of frontage on a public street) and is a multiple-occupancy parcel, then all allowable ground signs may be combined into a single ground sign not to exceed 400 square feet in sign structure area. Such a combined sign may not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height measured from the finished grade level to the top of the sign structure, except that a monument/ground sign may contain an ornamental top feature that is sculptural or artistic in nature that exceeds the 15-foot height limitation. However, the ornamental top feature shall not exceed 15 percent of the overall height of the structure. The combined sign may be divided into two signs, if the frontage of the parcel exceeds 1,500 feet. The total area of the combined signs shall not exceed 400 square feet in sign structure area and the height of each sign shall not exceed 15 feet.

d. Location of multioccupancy signs on out-parcel. Multioccupancy signs or signs for a large-scale commercial retail building may be located on an out-parcel if the out-parcel and the multioccupancy parcel or the large-scale commercial retail building have shared common access. The out-parcel may also have its own sign, the size of which shall be determined by the single occupancy parcel table located in subsection c.i. (above).

e. Ground signs shall be of a monument design with an enclosed base possessing a minimum width of two-thirds the width of the sign structure measured from its widest point.

f. All ground signs shall be set back five feet from the right-of-way line and 20 feet from the intersection of the rights-of-way, except when ground signs are located on one-way streets the setback from the intersection may be 15 feet so long as the sign does not interfere with the clear sight triangle.

g. Administrative approval of variances to eliminate trees or landscaping otherwise required by chapters 602 or 603 of the Land Development Code, to allow for a reasonably-necessary line of sight to a sign otherwise permitted by this ordinance:

i. Subject to the criteria in section 316.1.A., the Development Director may grant an administrative variance of up to two trees and corresponding shrubs.

ii. A request for an administrative variance must be submitted in writing and include a site plan showing the sign and the landscaping requested to be considered for elimination along with a detailed explanation and justification for the variance.

iii. The Development Director may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards upon any administrative variance to ensure that the public welfare is protected. A violation of such conditions imposed shall be deemed a violation of this Code.

iv. The Development Director may require replanting elsewhere on the site, may require alternative trees or landscaping to be used to mitigate for the loss of trees or landscaping eliminated to preserve or create a line of sight to a sign, or may require the owner or applicant to go through the formal variance process.

v. The applicant shall at the time the application is made pay a \$300.00 fee. This amount may be amended from time to time by resolution and the board of county commissioners.

vi. Persons whose request is denied by county staff may still seek a variance in accordance with section 316 of this Code.

h. Any ground sign erected after the effective date of this ordinance shall contain the street number of the parcel upon which the sign is located. If the sign is located on a multioccupancy parcel, the street number may be expressed as a range. The street numbers on such signs shall not be considered when figuring copy area.

i. Ground/monument signs may be placed as an interim use in rights-of-way as provided in section 319 of this Code.

2. Regulations for wall signs. Wall signs shall be allowed in nonresidential districts, provided the following specific regulations are met, in addition to the general regulations stated above:

a. The maximum allowable sign structure area for wall signage shall not exceed one and one-half square feet per linear foot of establishment frontage, excluding parking garages, facing a public street. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the maximum total sign structure area shall not exceed 150 square feet for each frontage.

b. One projecting sign may be substituted for each wall sign, provided that the sign structure area of the projecting sign shall not exceed the maximum allowable sign structure area of the wall sign that the projecting sign replaces.

c. Wall signs shall not project beyond the roof line or side walls of the establishment to which the wall sign is attached, nor shall the wall sign project more than 12 inches out from the wall to which it is attached.

d. One wall sign shall be permitted for each establishment in a multiple-occupancy parcel. Establishments located at a corner shall be allowed one wall sign for each side of the establishment that faces a public street.

3. Regulations for projecting signs. Projecting signs shall be allowed in nonresidential districts, provided the following specific regulations are met, in addition to the general regulations stated above:

- a. Projecting signs may be substituted for the permitted wall sign referenced above, provided that the sign structure area of the projecting sign is not greater than the maximum sign structure area permitted for a wall.
- b. Projecting signs shall not project more than four feet from the building wall to which the projecting sign is attached.
- c. Projecting signs shall not be located above the roofline of the building nor more than 18 feet above the grade of the street, whichever is less.
- d. The supporting hardware of a projecting sign shall not be visible from the street or sidewalk.
- e. Projecting signs shall not be constructed in violation of the public space encroachment limitations specified in this section.
- f. Projecting signs shall not be erected closer than ten feet from an interior lot line or an adjacent establishment.
- g. Projecting signs which project over any public or private pedestrian way shall be elevated a minimum of nine feet above such pedestrian way. Projecting signs which project over any public or private street shall be elevated a minimum of 15 feet above such street.

4. Regulations for marquee, canopy, and awning signs. Marquee, canopy, and awning signs shall be allowed in nonresidential districts, provided the following specific regulations are met, in addition to the general regulations stated above:

- a. One sign located on a marquee, canopy, or awning shall be affixed flat to the surface and shall not rise in vertical dimension above the marquee, canopy, or awning.
- b. The maximum allowable sign structure area for awning, canopy, and marquee signs shall not exceed two square feet per linear foot of building frontage facing a public street. However, the aggregate surface area of all shapes, letters, numbers, symbols, and illustrations shall not exceed 25 percent of the total area of the awning or canopy surface. The awning or canopy sign may be illuminated only if the material of which it is made is opaque.
- c. Canopy and awning signs shall be permitted only when in lieu of a wall sign.

5. Directory signs. One directory sign per entrance into a nonresidential development or subdivision with a maximum height of five feet for the structure, 12 inches for the copy, and 32 square feet in sign structure area. The directional sign shall meet the separation and setback requirements of on-site signs.

6. Colonnade signs. One colonnade sign per establishment may be suspended at least nine feet above the walkway if limited to pedestrian traffic and at least 15 feet above the walkway if open to vehicular traffic, with a maximum six square feet of sign structure area.

601.15 Reserved.

601.16 Temporary signs. Temporary signs shall be allowed provided the following requirements are met:

A. General requirements. The following requirements shall be met except where specified in this subsection.

1. *Time of display.* Where not otherwise specified in this subsection, all temporary signs shall not be posted more than 15 calendar days prior to the time of the event or activity to which they related and shall be removed no later than five calendar days after the conclusion of that event or activity. For the purposes of this section, the maximum duration of an event or activity shall be no longer than two weeks. Political campaign signs may be posted no earlier than the date of candidate qualification and must be removed no later than 15 calendar days after the election to which they relate.

2. *Residential districts.* Temporary signs are permitted in residential districts provided no sign shall exceed four square feet in sign surface area and six feet in height. Two political signs per candidate or issue may be placed on each residential parcel.

3. *Nonresidential districts.* Temporary signs are permitted in nonresidential districts provided no sign shall exceed 32 square feet in sign surface area and eight feet in height. Two political signs per candidate or issue may be placed on each nonresidential property or individual business establishment.

4. *Location on parcel.* All temporary signs shall be located behind the right-of-way line and shall not be located within the clear site triangle.

5. *Permitting.* Unless otherwise specified herein, temporary signs shall be exempt from the permitting requirements of this Code.

6. *Additional regulations.* See section 601.5 for additional treatment of temporary signs, including real estate, holiday, construction, directional construction, and political signs.

B. Model signs. Signs erected for the purpose of marketing new housing developments shall be allowed as follows:

1. One model sign is permitted per residential sales center and shall be located at such sales center. Such signs shall have a maximum sign structure area of 16 square feet, and a maximum height of four feet. The said sign shall be removed when the residential sales center ceases operations.

2. One directional sign is permitted per development entrance. Such sign shall designate the location of the pods or parcels and shall be located along the collector roads for the development. Such signs shall have a maximum sign structure area of six square feet and a maximum height of four feet. The said sign shall be removed before or upon build out of the development.

3. One model sign is permitted per model home or unit type and shall be located at the model home or unit type it identifies. Such sign shall have a maximum sign structure area of four and one-half square feet and a maximum height of four feet. The said sign shall be removed before or upon sale of the said model home.

4. One warning sign is permitted per pod, out-parcel, or development entrance that provides instructions to contractors working therein. Such signs shall be located at such entrance. Such signs shall have a maximum sign structure area of 20 square feet and a maximum height of six feet. The said sign shall be removed upon completion of construction within the said pod, out-parcel, or development.

C. Special event signs shall be allowed as follows:

1. Two nonilluminated temporary, ground, or wall signs per frontage on the site of the institution where the event is to take place.

2. Such signs shall not exceed eight square feet in sign surface area, and six feet in height in residential districts and 32 square feet in sign surface area, and ten feet in height in nonresidential districts.

3. Signs announcing public or semipublic events or functions shall be set back a minimum of five feet from the right-of-way line and 20 feet from the intersection of the rights-of-way.

D. In nonresidential districts, one banner sign or advertising balloon for each establishment having a certificate of occupancy may be displayed a maximum of four times per calendar year, with a maximum sign surface area for banners of 24 square feet. A sign permit shall be obtained for such banner or advertising balloon, pursuant to section 307.1, and the permit number and expiration date shall be displayed on the banner or advertising balloon as provided in the permit.

601.17 Minimum criteria for all signs in county. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the following minimum criteria shall also be met by all signs erected in the county.

A. *Residential districts.* No sign may be erected in a residential district that exceeds the following dimensions and requirements:

1. Maximum sign height: ten feet.
2. Maximum sign structure area: 40 square feet.

B. *Nonresidential districts.* No sign may be erected in a nonresidential district that exceeds the following dimensions and requirements:

1. Maximum sign height: 20 feet.
2. Maximum sign structure area: 300 square feet.

601.18 Reserved.

601.19 Reserved.

601.20 Maintenance of signs.

A. *General maintenance requirements.* All signs for which a permit is required by this Code, including their supports, braces, guys, and anchors, shall be maintained so as to present a neat, clean appearance. Painted areas and sign surfaces shall be kept in good condition and illumination, if provided, shall be maintained in safe and good working order. Trash, rubbish, and debris shall be kept clear in front of, behind, underneath, and around the base of signs for a distance of five feet.

B. *Maintenance of outdated on-site signs.* This subsection relates to on-site signs that are not currently being used to identify an activity on the property, but that are not abandoned signs as defined by this section. Such signs shall be maintained, including at all times covering the inner fixtures or workings of the sign. Copy that does not relate to a current activity on the property shall be removed or covered with an opaque covering, so such signs maintain a neat and clean appearance.

601.21 Outdoor advertising signs (billboards) (Created by the county Ordinance No. 99-20, adopted September 28, 1999, and amended by the county Ordinance No. 02-06, adopted April 2, 2002).

A. The purpose of this section is hereby set forth as follows:

1. To promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the county by avoiding an environment that encourages visual blight; and
2. To prohibit the installation, construction, placement, or erection of new outdoor advertising signs (billboards) which are hereby determined to be detrimental to the aesthetic sense and public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the county.
3. The installation, construction, placement, or erection of new outdoor advertising signs (billboards) is prohibited in the unincorporated areas of the county.

For purposes of this section, "new outdoor advertising signs (billboards)" shall be defined as: 1) those outdoor advertising signs (billboards) that have not registered with the county as of the effective date of this Code; or 2) as addition to a registered outdoor advertising sign (billboard) that increases the area of the sign facing by more than ten percent or increases the height of the outdoor advertising sign (billboard) by more than ten; or 3) the reconstruction or relocation of a registered outdoor advertising sign (billboard) to: a) a different road, b) a new location lying outside a 1,320-foot radius from the location of the outdoor advertising sign (billboard) as registered, or c) a new parcel where such sign would not be permissible pursuant to the county regulations in effect that the time such sign was originally permitted and constructed. The provisions of this section shall be subject to section 316 of this Code relating to variance requests.

601.22 Removal.

A. *Removal of signs on rights-of-way in violation of section.* Except as provided otherwise in this section, any sign on a right-of-way in violation of this section shall be subject to immediate removal and impounding without notice by the county administrator or his designee at the joint and several expense of the owner, agent, lessee or other person having beneficial use of the sign, the sign contractor or, if non-county right-of-way, the owner or lessee of the land upon which the sign is located.

1. *Illegal signs of negligible or no value; destruction.* Any sign placed or erected in a right-of-way in violation of this section, which has negligible or no value due to its perishable or nondurable composition including, but not limited to, those made out of paper, cardboard, or poster board, shall be deemed abandoned and may be destroyed by the county after removal. No notice or opportunity to reclaim such a sign shall be given by the county.

2. *Recovery of impounded signs; abandonment and destruction.* Except for those signs described in Subparagraph 1 above, any sign removed and impounded by the county shall be held in storage and the owner, if the owner's identity and whereabouts are known to the county, shall be provided with written notice via certified mail and regular mail of impoundment and 15 days from the date of notice to reclaim any such sign. Any impounded sign stored by the county may be destroyed if not reclaimed within 15 days of the written notice date or within 15 days of the date of removal if the identity and whereabouts of the owner is not known to the county.

B. *Removal of signs on private property for immediate peril.* The county administrator or his designee may cause without notice the immediate removal of any sign which is an immediate peril to persons or property at the joint and several expense of the owner, agent, lessee, or other person having beneficial use of the sign, the sign contractor, or the owner or lessee of the land upon which the sign is located.

601.23 Enforcement.

A. In addition to any other remedies available at law including, but not limited to, F.S. § 125.69, as it may be amended, and F.S. ch. 162, as it may be amended, or equity or provided in this section, the county may apply any one or combination of the following remedies in the event of a violation of this section or applicable local law or order.

1. Whenever a violation(s) of this section occurs or exists, or has occurred or existed, any person, individual, entity or otherwise, who has legal, beneficial, or equitable interest in the facility or instrumentality causing or contributing to the violation(s), and any person, individual, entity or otherwise who has legal, beneficial or equitable interest in

the real or personal property upon which such violation(s) occurs or exists or has occurred or existed shall be liable for such violation(s). In addition, any person with control or responsibility over the condition or appearance of the premises where a violation exists (such as a manager), or any person who erects a sign in violation of this ordinance, or any person who otherwise causes or contributes to a violation shall be liable for the violation.

2. Fines, penalties, remedies, and prosecution for any violation of this section may be pursuant to the County Code of Ordinances, including section 1-11 as it may be amended, and the county uniform citation schedule, as it may be amended. Each violation of this section shall be a separate offense.

3. Failure of the county to enforce any requirements of this section shall not constitute a waiver of the county's right to enforce the section with respect to that violation or subsequent violations of the same type or to seek appropriate enforcement remedies.

4. The county administrator, or his or her designee, and the county attorney or his or her designee, shall be responsible for administration and enforcement of this section, and is authorized to give any notice required by law or this section.

(Ord. No. 08-13, §§ 2--7, 1-22-08; Ord. No. 08-18, § 1, 4-28-08)