

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-~~62~~63

CITY OF CLYDE, OHIO

AMENDING SECTIONS 1157.02, 1157.03, AND 1157.06 OF CHAPTER 1157 (SIGNS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CLYDE, OHIO.

WHEREAS, Chapter 1157 (Signs) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Clyde was last substantively amended by Ordinance 2002-034, passed May 7, 2002, and has not been comprehensively revised since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Clyde reviewed proposed amendments to Sections 1157.02, 1157.03, and 1157.06 at meetings held on June 4, 2026, July 2, 2026, and August 6, 2026, and recommended adoption of the amendments with modifications; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest to amend these sections of Chapter 1157 of the Codified Ordinances to correct constitutional deficiencies, modernize downtown sign standards, clarify right-of-way enforcement and standards, and reflect the Planning Commission's recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Clyde, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. Section 1157.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Clyde, Ohio, is hereby amended to add the following definitions, the text of which is set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Each definition shall be inserted by the Codifier in alphabetical sequence with the existing definitions of Section 1157.02 and assigned a subsection number consistent with the publisher's numbering conventions.

SECTION 2. Sections 1157.03 and 1157.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Clyde, Ohio, are hereby amended in their entirety to read as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3. All other provisions of Chapter 1157 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Clyde not expressly amended by this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect without modification.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage at the earliest period allowed by law.

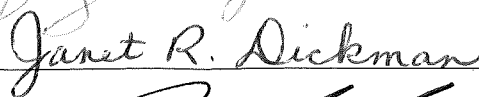
Adopted:

9-1-2026

Authorized:



Attest:



Approved to form:



EXHIBIT A
CHAPTER 1157. – SIGNS

Sec. 1157.03. – General provisions.

The following regulations shall apply to the display of all signs in the city:

- (a) No sign shall be erected unless it is in compliance with the regulations of this chapter.
- (b) Signs must be constructed in compliance with any applicable regulations of the city's zoning code and any applicable state building and fire codes.
- (c) All signs shall be properly maintained. Exposed surfaces shall be clean and painted, if paint is required. Defective parts shall be replaced. The zoning inspector shall have the right to order repair or removal of any sign which is defective, damaged, or substantially deteriorated. The property owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the premises shall be responsible for all costs for repair or removal.
- (d) Any sign, retractable canopy, or awning which advertises a business no longer being conducted on the premises to which the sign relates constitutes a public nuisance and shall be removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the premises upon which such sign is found. Such sign shall be removed immediately after written notice from the zoning inspector, or the sign may be removed by the zoning inspector or authorized representative and the costs charged to the responsible party.
- (e) No sign shall obstruct or interfere with traffic or traffic visibility, or resemble or imitate signs or signals erected by the city or other governmental agency for the regulation of traffic or parking.
- (f) Signs may be illuminated, except temporary signs in any Residential District (R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-3), by either external or internal sources of light except where otherwise prohibited in this chapter. However, no illuminated sign shall be permitted any part of which flashes on or off or displays changing degrees of intensity (this does not apply to holiday, religious, or an automatic changeable copy sign). This regulation applies to signs located outside buildings, and to window signs inside buildings which are meant to be seen from the outside.
- (g) No sign, whether freestanding, ground-mounted, projecting, or attached to a building or other structure, may project or be mounted over any public street, sidewalk, or public right-of-way, except as expressly permitted in this chapter.
- (h) Any sign which is permanently mounted shall bear, in a permanent position, a clearly legible identification stating the name and address of the owner of the sign, and the person, firm, or corporation responsible for its construction, and the date of erection.
- (i) No sign, with the exception of governmental signs, shall be placed, displayed, or erected in the public right-of-way or on public property without prior written approval from the city manager. Any sign placed in the public right-of-way or on public property without city manager authorization is hereby declared to be abandoned property, and the placer of such sign retains no cognizable property interest in such sign as against the city. Any unauthorized sign in the public right-of-way or on public property may be immediately removed and disposed of by the zoning inspector, code enforcement officer, or their authorized designees.

without prior notice and without any obligation to store, hold, or return the sign. Any sign placed in the public right-of-way pursuant to written city manager approval shall bear the name and telephone number of the responsible party in a location visible without moving the sign; signs lacking this identification found in the right-of-way shall be presumed unauthorized and subject to immediate removal and disposal. The city manager may, upon identification of the responsible party, recover actual costs of removal and disposal as a civil debt. Any person who knowingly places an unauthorized sign in the public right-of-way or on public property is subject to the penalty provisions of Section 1157.99.

- (j) No snipe signs shall be placed, erected, or displayed within the city.
- (k) No light source for illuminated signs shall be of such brightness or orientation as to constitute a hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- (l) Unless otherwise specified by this chapter, any sign herein allowed may use manual or automatic changeable copy.
- (m) Clearance of overhead utilities shall be in conformance with the National Electric Code and all local utility standards.
- (n) Window signs are permitted provided that the window sign is located in a building where a commercial or industrial use is permitted as a principal use. No window sign shall advertise products or services not provided or for sale on the premises. Window signs bearing non-commercial messages are permitted in the same buildings and subject to the same size and placement standards as commercial window signs.
- (o) No sign shall be erected or placed on any property without the consent of the owner.
- (p) No sign shall be placed where it blocks or impedes sight lines for any person, pedestrian, or operator of a vehicle on a public right-of-way, driveway, or sidewalk.
- (q) No sign shall imitate or resemble official traffic or governmental signs or signals.
- (r) No sign shall be erected so as to have less than eight (8) feet of vertical clearance between such sign and the public sidewalk.
- (s) No sign, A-frame, display, or other object placed on a sidewalk or pedestrian way pursuant to this chapter shall reduce the accessible passage width to less than sixty (60) inches, or thirty-six (36) inches where space constraints are established and approved in writing by the city manager. All sidewalk signs shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.) and applicable Ohio accessibility standards.
- (t) Electronic message signs and digital displays permitted under this chapter shall comply with all of the following standards: (1) Brightness — shall not exceed 0.3 foot-candles above ambient light levels as measured from a distance of fifty (50) feet; (2) Message Dwell Time — in non-residential districts, messages shall not change more frequently than once every eight (8) seconds; (3) Animation and Motion — no animation, scrolling text, or video is permitted in any district unless expressly permitted under Section 1157.09 of this chapter; (4) Malfunction Fail-Safe — electronic message signs shall default to a static off-state in the event of a malfunction; (5) Nighttime Curfew — Residential Districts: all electronic message signs and digital displays located in any Residential District (R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-3) shall

display a static, dark (blank) screen between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.; no illumination, motion, animation, scrolling, or message change of any kind is permitted during curfew hours; this standard applies regardless of the message displayed and operates in addition to the brightness, dwell-time, and fail-safe standards of this subsection.

- (u) No person shall attach, affix, staple, nail, wire, tape, or otherwise secure any sign, banner, poster, handbill, or advertisement to any electric distribution, transmission, or service pole owned or operated by Clyde Light and Power (CLP) or any other electric utility; any telecommunications, cable, or fiber distribution pole owned or operated by any provider; any street light pole, decorative light pole, or traffic signal pole owned by the city or any other governmental entity; or any other utility pole, mast, or similar vertical structure within the public right-of-way, regardless of ownership. This prohibition does not apply to identification numbers, warning notices, safety labels, or equipment tags affixed by the pole's owner or operator in the ordinary course of utility operations; governmental signs, traffic control devices, or emergency notices erected by or under the authority of a governmental entity; or banners or signs installed as part of the city's officially-administered light pole banner program under Section 1157.06(o). Any sign found attached to a utility pole or city-owned pole in violation of this section shall be subject to immediate removal and disposal without prior notice. Any person who attaches a sign to a pole in violation of this section is subject to the penalty provisions of Section 1157.99.
- (v) The prohibition on snipe signs in subsection (j) of this section applies to all temporary signs affixed, stapled, nailed, or attached to any tree, fence, utility pole, sign pole, or other structure in the public right-of-way or on public property, as well as on private property visible from a public right-of-way. Such signs are subject to immediate removal and disposal under subsection (i) of this section when located in the public right-of-way or on public property.

Sec. 1157.06. – Signs permitted in all districts without a permit.

The following signs are permitted in all zoning districts of the City of Clyde without the requirement of a zoning or building permit, subject to the general regulations of Section 1157.03 and the specific limitations of this section. All regulations in this section are based solely on the physical and temporal characteristics of the sign and are content-neutral. No sign shall be denied or removed under this section based on the subject matter or viewpoint expressed.

- (a) **Address and Identification Signs.** One (1) address numeral sign per structure not exceeding four (4) square feet per sign face displaying only the street address or name of the occupant, and one (1) nameplate sign per dwelling unit not exceeding two (2) square feet per sign face, are permitted without a permit.
- (b) **Real Estate Signs.** One (1) real estate sign per street frontage advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the premises on which the sign is displayed, not to exceed six (6) square feet per sign face in any Residential District, and not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per sign face in any other district. Such signs shall be removed within seven (7) days of the transfer of title, execution of lease, or withdrawal of the property from the market.

- (c) **Construction Signs.** One (1) construction sign per construction site not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet per sign face. Such signs shall be removed within fourteen (14) days of the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or completion of work.
- (d) **Institutional Signs.** One (1) sign per entrance identifying a governmental body, public school, religious institution, or nonprofit organization lawfully occupying the premises, not to exceed twelve (12) square feet per sign face.
- (e) **Temporary Signs — General.** Temporary signs are permitted in all districts without a permit, subject to all of the following content-neutral standards:
 - (1) Size — not to exceed eight (8) square feet per sign face in any Residential District, and not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per sign face in any other zoning district, regardless of the message displayed;
 - (2) Quantity — no more than two (2) temporary signs per lot in any Residential District, and no more than four (4) per lot frontage in any non-residential district;
 - (3) Duration — no continuous display exceeding ninety (90) days; a minimum thirty (30)-day lapse is required before the same sign may be re-displayed on the same lot;
 - (4) Portable and Wheeled Signs — permitted as temporary signage in conformance with size limits and setback requirements; not illuminated in any Residential District;
 - (5) Illumination — no temporary sign in any Residential District shall be illuminated; temporary signs in non-residential districts may be illuminated with a fully shielded light source with no glare onto the public way or adjacent residential property, in compliance with Section 1157.03(t);
 - (6) Electronic and Digital Displays — subject to Section 1157.03(t) and Section 1157.09; not permitted as temporary signs in any Residential District;
 - (7) Setback — minimum five (5) feet from the edge of any public right-of-way; not within any vision clearance triangle.
- (f) **Directional and Wayfinding Signs for Community Events.** One (1) or more temporary off-site directional signs may be posted to guide the public to a community event, provided that: each such sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet per sign face; no more than four (4) such signs per event may be posted at any one time; signs shall be located only on private property with the written consent of the property owner; signs shall be posted no earlier than thirty (30) days before the event and removed no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the conclusion of the event; and these standards apply to all community events uniformly, regardless of the type, message, or sponsoring organization of the event.
- (g) **Holiday and Seasonal Decorative Displays.** Non-commercial decorative displays customarily associated with recognized civic, cultural, or seasonal observances are permitted in all districts without a permit, provided they do not constitute a sign under Section 1157.02 and do not obstruct sight lines or the public right-of-way.
- (h) **Flags and Emblems.** Flags, pennants, or emblems of any nation, state, county, municipality, or civic organization displayed on a flagpole or bracket affixed to a structure

are exempt from permit requirements and size limitations. Decorative flags or banners used for commercial advertising are subject to Section 1157.07.

- (i) **Garage, Estate, and Yard Sale Signs.** Not to exceed two (2) signs per lot, each not exceeding four (4) square feet per sign face. Signs shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the sale.
- (j) **A-Frame Signs and Sidewalk Sandwich Boards.** A-frame signs (sandwich boards) are permitted without a sign permit in the Central Business District and all commercial (B-1, B-2) and mixed-use districts, subject to all of the following:
 - (1) one (1) A-frame per ground-floor business entrance; one per storefront in multi-tenant buildings;
 - (2) not to exceed two (2) feet in width and four (4) feet in height;
 - (3) placed within five (5) feet of the building face; not affixed to street furniture, trees, poles, or parking meters; removed and stored indoors when the business is closed;
 - (4) minimum sixty (60) inches unobstructed pedestrian passage at all times, or thirty-six (36) inches minimum where constrained upon written approval of the city manager;
 - (5) must not reduce any accessible route below ADA minimum widths;
 - (6) durable outdoor materials only — no cardboard, paper, foam board, or similar non-weather-resistant materials;
 - (7) no internal illumination;
 - (8) a Public Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit is required when the sign is placed within the public right-of-way; no fee shall be charged for the initial permit; the permit is revocable upon thirty (30) days written notice for good cause;
 - (9) not permitted in Residential Districts, Industrial Districts, or on state route right-of-way without ODOT approval.
- (k) **Blade Signs and Projecting Signs.** Blade signs (projecting signs) are permitted in the Central Business District and all commercial (B-1, B-2) and mixed-use districts with a zoning permit, subject to all of the following:
 - (1) one (1) blade sign per business per street frontage; corner buildings may display one per street facade;
 - (2) not to exceed eight (8) square feet total sign area per face; maximum depth eighteen (18) inches;
 - (3) not more than four (4) feet from the building face;
 - (4) minimum eight (8) feet above public sidewalk grade;
 - (5) not above the second-story windowsill or eighteen (18) feet above grade, whichever is lower;
 - (6) perpendicular to building face; corner buildings may use a forty-five (45) degree angle;

(7) durable materials — wood, metal, painted glass, or similar; no paper, foam, cardboard, or vinyl-banner-only construction;

(8) external illumination permitted; backlit box signs not permitted in the CBD; exposed neon tube and halo-lit lettering permitted;

(9) a Public Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit is required for projections over the public right-of-way, together with proof of commercial general liability insurance naming the City as additional insured in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence;

(10) blade sign area shall be counted toward total permitted sign area under Section 1157.07.

(l) **Murals and Architectural Art.** Murals applied to exterior building walls are permitted in all non-residential districts, subject to all of the following:

(1) a mural that does not identify, advertise, or promote a specific business, product, or service by name, logo, or slogan is not a "sign" under this chapter and requires only a zoning review approval with no sign permit fee;

(2) a mural that incorporates a business name, logo, or identifying information is treated as a wall sign and counted toward total permitted sign area under Section 1157.07;

(3) murals on walls facing a Residential District require written consent of abutting residential property owner(s);

(4) murals on buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places or within a locally designated historic district require review in consultation with applicable State Historic Preservation Office standards;

(5) an approved mural does not require re-application unless the building owner changes or the mural is substantially altered;

(6) Maintenance — all murals shall be maintained in good repair; a mural exhibiting peeling, flaking, or delaminating paint, fading, or damage affecting more than twenty-five percent (25%) of its surface area, or exposed deteriorated substrate, shall be restored or repainted within ninety (90) days of written notice from the zoning inspector, or, if removal is elected in lieu of restoration, removed within seventy-two (72) hours of written notice, consistent with the removal period established in subsection (f)(4) of this section; graffiti or defacement applied to a mural shall be removed or remediated within thirty (30) days of written notice;

(7) The approval and enforcement of mural provisions under this subsection shall be administered in a content-neutral manner; no mural shall be denied, required to be removed, or treated differently from other murals based on the viewpoint, subject matter, or message depicted, except as required to apply the objective standards of this subsection.

(m) **Awning and Canopy Signs.** Signs incorporated into awnings and canopies are permitted in all commercial and mixed-use districts, subject to all of the following:

(1) lettering and logos on awning valances shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches in height;

- (2) logos and graphics on the sloped shed portion shall not exceed four (4) square feet per awning panel;
 - (3) minimum eight (8) feet of vertical clearance from the lowest point of the awning to the sidewalk grade;
 - (4) maximum projection of six (6) feet from the building face, or one-half the adjacent sidewalk width, whichever is less;
 - (5) awning signs permitted for first- and second-story occupancies only;
 - (6) no internally illuminated (backlit) awnings in the Central Business District; external downward lighting permitted;
 - (7) awning sign area counted toward total permitted sign area under Section 1157.07;
 - (8) a Public Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit and liability insurance as specified in subsection (k)(9) of this section are required for awnings projecting over the public right-of-way;
 - (9) No internally illuminated plastic or vinyl awnings in the Central Business District.
- (n) **Under-Canopy Signs.** Signs suspended from the underside of an awning, canopy, or architectural overhang are permitted in all commercial and mixed-use districts without a sign permit, subject to all of the following:
- (1) one (1) per business entrance;
 - (2) not to exceed four (4) square feet in sign area;
 - (3) minimum seven (7) feet vertical clearance above the sidewalk;
 - (4) display only the business name, address, logo, or hours of operation.
- (o) **Public Right-of-Way Light Pole Banners — City-Administered Program Only.** Decorative banners mounted on City-owned light poles or other City-approved poles within the public right-of-way are permitted solely as part of a City-administered banner program, subject to all of the following:
- (1) Exclusive City Administration — the program is administered exclusively by the City of Clyde through the city manager or the city manager's designee; no outside organization, business, association, individual, or other entity is authorized to hang, attach, or display any banner or sign on City-owned light poles or other poles within the public right-of-way except through the City-administered program; the city manager has sole discretion over the program's design standards, scheduling, installation, and removal;
 - (2) banners shall promote general civic identity, seasonal themes, community events of general public interest, or downtown district identity; banners shall not promote the commercial products, services, or interests of any specific private business;
 - (3) to the extent the program accepts outside civic event submissions, eligibility criteria shall be objective and uniformly applied, and the City shall not reject a submission based on the viewpoint of a civic or non-commercial message;

(4) Banners shall be mounted only on City-approved pole hardware and shall not interfere with street lighting, traffic signals, or utility equipment; banners shall not be attached to CLP poles, telecommunications poles, or any pole not specifically approved by the City Manager;

(5) Banners shall be constructed of durable, UV-resistant materials; faded, torn, or damaged banners shall be replaced or removed within thirty (30) days of written notice;

(6) Any banner or sign attached to a City light pole or other public pole without City Manager authorization is subject to immediate removal and disposal under Section 1157.03(i).

(p) **Historic Sign Preservation.** Signs determined to be historic signs pursuant to Section 1157.02 may be designated as historically significant by resolution of City Council. Upon designation:

(1) a designated historic sign shall be deemed in compliance with this chapter regardless of its size, materials, colors, or location, provided it is maintained in structurally safe condition;

(2) removal or substantial alteration of a designated historic sign shall require zoning review approval;

(3) the zoning inspector shall develop and maintain an inventory of potentially historic signs within the City as an ongoing function of code administration.

(q) **General Compliance.** All signs permitted under this section remain subject to the general prohibitions of Section 1157.03, including the unauthorized right-of-way sign removal authority of Section 1157.03(i) and the pole sign prohibition of Section 1157.03(u); ADA and Ohio accessibility requirements of Section 1157.03(s); digital sign brightness, animation, and nighttime curfew standards of Section 1157.03(t); any applicable State of Ohio or federal requirements; and the enforcement and penalty provisions of Section 1157.99.

EXHIBIT B

CHAPTER 1157. – SIGNS

Sec. 1157.02. – Definitions. [New definitions — insert alphabetically]

Publisher instruction: Insert each definition below in alphabetical order within the existing Section 1157.02. Assign subsection numbers consistent with existing numbering conventions. Do not renumber existing definitions; insert new definitions in their correct alphabetical position only.

A-Frame Sign (Sandwich Board Sign) means a freestanding, self-supporting, double-faced portable sign that is not permanently attached to the ground or to any structure and that is designed to be placed on a sidewalk or other pedestrian area. Also known as a sidewalk sign or sandwich board sign.

Codification note: *Insert alphabetically between existing definitions. Suggested location: after "Abandoned sign" or at the beginning of the "A" entries.*

Awning Sign means a sign incorporated into or displayed on an awning, canopy, or similar architectural projection that is attached to the face of a building, including lettering, logos, or graphics on the valance (vertical front panel) or the sloped shed portion of the awning.

Codification note: *Insert alphabetically between existing definitions.*

Blade Sign means a sign attached to and projecting perpendicularly or at an angle from the face of a building wall, oriented so as to be visible from both directions of pedestrian travel along the adjacent sidewalk. Also known as a projecting sign, hanging sign, or bracket sign.

Codification note: *Insert alphabetically between existing definitions.*

Central Business District (CBD) means for purposes of this chapter, all properties fronting on, or within one hundred (100) feet of, McPherson Highway (US-20), Buckeye Street, Main Street, and Vine Street within the original platted boundaries of the City of Clyde, until such time as a Downtown Overlay District is formally adopted and depicted on the official zoning map of the City.

Codification note: *Insert alphabetically. Note: this is an interim geographic definition. Council may wish to formally adopt a Downtown Overlay District zoning map amendment concurrent with or following adoption of this ordinance, at which time this definition should be updated to reference the overlay district.*

Historic Sign means a sign that is at least fifty (50) years old, constitutes an on-premise sign for the property on which it is located, and has been determined by resolution of the City Council to possess unique cultural, historical, or aesthetic significance to the City of Clyde. A sign designated as a historic sign is subject to the preservation provisions of Section 1157.06(p).

Codification note: *Insert alphabetically.*

Mural means a work of visual art that is painted, tiled, or otherwise applied directly to an exterior building wall. A mural that does not identify, advertise, or promote a specific business, product, or service by name, logo, or slogan does not constitute a "sign" as defined in this chapter and is regulated under Section 1157.06(l). A mural that incorporates a business name, logo, or identifying information is treated as a wall sign for purposes of this chapter.

Codification note: *Insert alphabetically. Also referenced in Municode as "Architectural Art." Either heading is acceptable; suggest adding a cross-reference entry under "Architectural Art" pointing to this definition.*

Public Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit means a revocable administrative permit issued by the City Manager, or the City Manager's designee, that authorizes a sign, awning, blade sign, A-frame, or other structure to extend into or be placed within the public right-of-way, subject to the physical, insurance, and operational standards of this chapter. A Public Right-of-Way

Encroachment Permit does not confer a property interest in the right-of-way and may be revoked as provided in this chapter.

Codification note: Insert alphabetically under "P." This definition supports Sections 1157.06(j)(8) (A-frame signs), 1157.06(k)(9) (blade signs), and 1157.06(m)(8) (awnings).

Under-Canopy Sign means a sign that is suspended from or attached to the underside of an awning, canopy, or architectural overhang and that is oriented to be read by pedestrians walking beneath the canopy. Under-canopy signs are regulated under Section 1157.06(n).

Codification note: Insert alphabetically under "U."