

# OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT & FIRE MARSHAL

BOROUGH OF BELLEVUE

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## **PERMIT REQUIREMENTS – Signs**

Any erection, rehabilitation or enlargement of signage shall be required to have a permit before work can commence.

### **APPLICATION:**

A completed Building Permit application shall be submitted along with a drawing of the proposed signage. The signage shall comply with the requirements set forth in Ordinance 18-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VIII OF THE AVALON-BELLEVUE-BEN AVON JOINT ZONING ORDINANCE TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS. The ordinance can be found online at <https://www.bellevuepa.org/code-enforcement>. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to ensure all signage comply with Bellevue's signage ordinance. If the signage is an electrical sign, an electrical permit is also required.

### **DRAWING OF SIGN:**

A drawing of the proposed signage shall be included with the application. The drawing may be hand drawn or professionally done. The drawing shall include the dimensions of the signage and any additional information requested by the BCO. If affixing signage to a building, the method of securing the signage to the building should also be described on the drawing.

### **FEE:**

There is a \$50.00 permit fee as well as an additional charge of \$2 per sq ft of the area of the signage. An additional fee of \$60.00 will also be required for all electrical signs. Fees can be paid by credit card over the phone or by check. Checks should be made payable to Bellevue Borough. All fees must be paid prior to the permit being issued.

### **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE:**

If using a contractor or builder, a Certificate of Insurance must be submitted from their insurance carrier verifying their coverage for workers' compensation. The builder's insurance carrier and policy number as well as Federal/State I.D. No. is also required for the application.

### **REVIEW PROCESS:**

The Building Code Official (BCO) shall review the application and drawing to determine compliance with all building and zoning requirements. Upon satisfaction of the BCO that all requirements have been met, a permit will be issued, and the applicant notified. Please allow up to 10 days to complete the permit process.

[AVALON, BELLEVUE, BEN AVON] BOROUGH

ORDINANCE NO. 18-04

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VIII OF THE AVALON-BELLEVUE-BEN AVON JOINT ZONING ORDINANCE TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Avalon-Bellevue-Ben Avon Joint Zoning Ordinance ("Joint Zoning Ordinance") at Section 2000-420 regulates Signage requirements for all Zoning Districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council wishes to amend the Joint Zoning Ordinance to update Section 2000-420, regulating signage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Avalon-Bellevue-Ben Avon Joint Planning Commission, pursuant to the provisions of the Joint Zoning Ordinance, has drafted and reviewed the following amendment and made a recommendation to the Councils of the Boroughs of Avalon, Bellevue and Ben Avon regarding the same; and

**WHEREAS**, The Councils of the Boroughs of Avalon, Bellevue and Ben Avon did hold a public hearing on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018, after giving due public notice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Allegheny County Economic Development has had the opportunity to review the proposed amendment.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Borough of [Avalon, Bellevue or Ben Avon], pursuant to the authority conferred by 1984 Pa. Laws 164, codified at 74 Pa. Cons. Stat. §§ 5912, *et seq.*, and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, that the Joint Zoning Ordinance be amended as follows:

- I. The Joint Zoning Ordinance, Article III, Definitions, § 2000-300(B), Definitions listed under signs, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following defined terms:

**SIGN:**

**A-FRAME**

Any sandwich board or sign structure with a triangular cross-section.

**ABANDONED SIGN.**

A sign structure that has ceased to be used, and the owner intends no longer to have used, for the display of sign copy, or as otherwise defined by state law.

#### ADA Signs

Any sign needed for a facility or building to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and displaying no advertising.

#### ADVERTISING SIGN

A sign relating to commercial, industrial, private, recreational, public utility, or other similar business conducted on the premises in which the sign is located

#### ANIMATED SIGN.

A sign employing actual motion or the illusion of motion. Animated signs, which are differentiated from changeable signs as defined and regulated by this code, include the following types:

##### Electrically activated.

Animated signs producing the illusion of movement by means of electronic, electrical or electro-mechanical input and/or illumination capable of simulating movement through employment of the characteristics of one or both of the classifications noted below:

1. Flashing. Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by a repetitive cycle in which the period of illumination is either the same as or less than the period of non-illumination. For the purposes of this ordinance, flashing will not be defined as occurring if the cyclical period between on-off phases of illumination exceeds 4 seconds.
2. Patterned illusionary movement. Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by simulated movement through alternate or sequential activation of various illuminated elements for the purpose of producing repetitive light patterns designed to appear in some form of constant motion.

##### Environmentally activated.

Animated signs or devices motivated by wind, thermal changes or other natural environmental input. Includes spinners, pinwheels, pennant strings, and/or other devices or displays that respond to naturally occurring external motivation.

##### Mechanically activated.

Animated signs characterized by repetitive motion and/or rotation activated by a mechanical system powered by electric motors or other mechanically induced means.

#### ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTION.

Any projection that is not intended for occupancy and that extends beyond the face of an exterior wall of a building, but that does not include signs as defined herein. See also "Awning"; "Backlit awning"; and "Canopy, attached and freestanding."

#### AWNING.

An architectural projection or shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building and composed of a covering of rigid or non-rigid materials and/or fabric on a supporting framework that may be either permanent or retractable, including such structures that are internally illuminated by fluorescent or other light sources.

**AWNING SIGN.**

A sign displayed on or attached flat against the surface or surfaces of an awning. See also "Wall or fascia sign."

**BACKLIT AWNING.**

An awning with a translucent covering material and a source of illumination contained within its framework.

**BANNER.**

A flexible substrate on which copy or graphics may be displayed.

**BANNER SIGN.**

A sign utilizing a banner as its display surface.

**BILLBOARD.**

See "Off-premises sign" and "Outdoor advertising sign."

**CANOPY (Attached).**

A multisided overhead structure or architectural projection supported by attachments to a building on one or more sides and either cantilevered from such building or also supported by columns at additional points. The surface(s) and/or soffit of an attached canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light. See also "Marquee."

**CANOPY (Free-standing).**

A multisided overhead structure supported by columns, but not enclosed by walls. The surface(s) and or soffit of a free-standing canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light.

**CANOPY SIGN.**

A sign affixed to the visible surface(s) of an attached or free-standing canopy.

**CHANGEABLE SIGN.**

A sign with the capability of content change by means of manual or remote input, including signs which are:

Electrically activated.

Changeable sign whose message copy or content can be changed by means of remote electrically energized on-off switching combinations of alphabetic or pictographic components arranged on a display surface. Illumination may be integral to the components, such as characterized by lamps or other light-emitting devices; or it may be from an external light source designed to reflect off the changeable component display. See also "Electronic message sign or center."

Manually activated.

Changeable sign whose message copy or content can be changed manually.

**COMBINATION SIGN.**

A sign that is supported partly by a pole and partly by a building structure.

**COPY.**

Those letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, excluding numerals identifying a street address only.

**DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX SIGN.**

A free-standing sign identifying a multiple-occupancy development, such as a shopping center or planned industrial park, which is controlled by a single owner or landlord.

**DIRECTIONAL SIGN.**

Any sign that is designed and erected for the purpose of providing direction and/or orientation for pedestrian or vehicular traffic, and displaying no advertising.

**DIRECTORY.**

A sign listing business or occupants of a building. A directory is commonly, but not always, located at or near the building entrance.

**DOUBLE-FACED SIGN.**

A sign with two faces, back to back.

**ELECTRIC SIGN.**

Any sign activated or illuminated by means of electrical energy.

**ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SIGN OR CENTER.**

An electrically activated changeable sign whose variable message capability can be electronically programmed.

**EXTERIOR SIGN.**

Any sign placed outside a building.

**FASCIA SIGN.**

See "Wall or fascia sign."

**FESTOON LIGHTING**

Festoon lighting is a directly illuminated sign including either a group of incandescent light bulbs hung or strung overhead or used to outline a sign or other structure, but not including holiday lighting. Festoon lighting is not permitted.

**FLAG**

A piece of cloth or bunting varying in size, color, and design, used as a symbol, sign, signal, emblem, or advertisement.

**FLASHING SIGN.**

See "Animated sign, electrically activated."

**FREE-STANDING SIGN.**

A sign principally supported by a structure affixed to the ground, and not supported by a building, including signs supported by one or more columns, poles or braces placed in or upon the ground.

**GROUND SIGN.**

See "Free-standing sign."

**IDENTIFICATION SIGNS.**

Signs identifying schools, churches, hospitals, or similar institutions and for lodges, clubs, residential developments, parks, recreation areas, and other public assets

**ILLUMINATED SIGN.**

A sign characterized by the use of artificial light, either projecting through its surface(s) (internally illuminated); or reflecting off its surface(s) (externally illuminated).

**INTERIOR SIGN.**

Any sign placed within a building, but not including "window signs" as defined by this ordinance. Interior signs, with the exception of window signs as defined, are not regulated by this chapter.

**MANSARD.**

An inclined decorative roof-like projection that is attached to an exterior building facade.

**MARQUEE.**

See "Canopy (attached)."

**MARQUEE SIGN.**

See "Canopy sign."

**MENU BOARD.**

A free-standing sign orientated to the drive-through lane for a restaurant that advertises the menu items available from the drive-through window, and which has no more than 20 percent of the total area for such a sign utilized for business identification.

**MOBILE SIGN**

See "Portable Sign."

**MULTIPLE-FACED SIGN.**

A sign containing three or more faces.

**NO-IMPACT HOME BASED BUSINESS SIGN**

A sign permitted in association with an occupation conducted in the premises within a dwelling unit occupied by the operator of the business.

**OFF-PREMISE SIGN.**

See "Outdoor advertising sign."

**ON-PREMISE SIGN.**

A sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of messages appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.

**OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGN.**

A permanent sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of commercial or noncommercial messages not appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.

**PARAPET.**

The extension of a building facade above the line of the structural roof.

**POLE SIGN.**

See "Free-standing sign."

**POLITICAL SIGN.**

A temporary sign intended to advance a political statement, cause or candidate for office. A legally permitted outdoor advertising sign shall not be considered to be a political sign.

**PORTABLE SIGN.**

Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or to a building or building surface.

**PROJECTING SIGN.**

A sign other than a wall sign that is attached to or projects more than 18 inches from a building face or wall or from a structure whose primary purpose is other than the support of a sign.

**REAL ESTATE SIGN.**

A temporary sign, whether or not embedded in the ground, advertising the sale, lease, development, or rental of the property or premises upon which it is located.

**REVOLVING SIGN.**

A sign that revolves 360 degrees (6.28 rad) about an axis. See also "Animated sign, mechanically activated."

**ROOF LINE.**

The top edge of a peaked roof or, in the case of an extended facade or parapet, the uppermost point of said facade or parapet.

**ROOF SIGN.**

A sign mounted on, and supported by, the main roof portion of a building, or above the uppermost edge of a parapet wall of a building and which is wholly or partially supported by such a building. Signs mounted on mansard facades, pent eaves and architectural projections such as canopies or marquees shall not be considered to be roof signs.

**SIGN.**

Any device visible from a public place that displays either commercial or noncommercial messages by means of graphic presentation of alphabetic or pictorial symbols or representations. Noncommercial flags or any flags displayed from flagpoles or staffs will not be considered to be signs.

**SIGN AREA.**

The area of the smallest geometric figure, or the sum of the combination of regular geometric figures, which comprise the sign face. The area of any double-sided or "V" shaped sign shall be the area of the largest single face only. The area of a sphere shall be computed as the area of a circle. The area of all other multiple-sided signs shall be computed as 50 percent of the sum of the area of all faces of the sign.

**SIGN COPY.**

Those letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, exclusive of numerals identifying a street address only.

#### SIGN FACE.

The surface upon, against or through which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, not including structural supports, architectural features of a building or sign structure, nonstructural or decorative trim, or any areas that are separated from the background surface upon which the sign copy is displayed by a distinct delineation, such as a reveal or border.

1. In the case of panel or cabinet type signs, the sign face shall include the entire area of the sign panel, cabinet or face substrate upon which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, but not open space between separate panels or cabinets.
2. In the case of sign structures with routed areas of sign copy, the sign face shall include the entire area of the surface that is routed, except where interrupted by a reveal, border, or a contrasting surface or color.
3. In the case of signs painted on a building, or individual letters or graphic elements affixed to a building or structure, the sign face shall comprise the sum of the geometric figures or combination of regular geometric figures drawn closest to the edge of the letters or separate graphic elements comprising the sign copy, but not the open space between separate groupings of sign copy on the same building or structure.
4. In the case of sign copy enclosed within a painted or illuminated border, or displayed on a background contrasting in color with the color of the building or structure, the sign face shall comprise the area within the contrasting background, or within the painted or illuminated border.

#### SIGN STRUCTURE.

Any structure supporting a sign.

#### TEMPORARY SIGN.

A sign intended to display either commercial or noncommercial messages of a transitory, seasonal, or temporary nature. Portable signs or any sign not permanently embedded in the ground, or not permanently affixed to a building or sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground, are considered temporary signs. A temporary sign or banner advertising a sale or providing information about a special event sponsored by an institutional, public, civic, charitable organization,)

#### UNDER CANOPY SIGN OR UNDER MARQUEE SIGN.

A sign attached to the underside of a canopy or marquee.

#### V SIGN.

Signs containing two faces of approximately equal size, erected upon common or separate structures, positioned in a "V" shape with an interior angle between faces of not more than 90 (1.57 rad) degrees with the distance between the sign faces not exceeding 5 feet (1524 mm) at their closest point.

#### WALL OR FASCIA SIGN.

A sign that is in any manner affixed to any exterior wall of a building or structure and that projects not more than 18 inches from the building or structure wall, including signs affixed to architectural projections from a building provided the copy area of such signs remains on a parallel plane to the face of the building facade or to the face or faces of the architectural projection to which it is affixed.



#### WINDOW SIGN.

A sign affixed to the surface of a window with its message intended to be visible to and readable from the public way or from adjacent property.

- II. The Joint Zoning Ordinance, Article IV, Section 2000-420 is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

#### **2000-420. Signage**

##### **A) Purpose.**

Signage regulations shall govern and control the erection, rehabilitation, enlargement, illumination, animation and maintenance of all signs which are listed as permitted uses within the Tri-Borough communities. These regulations are intended to:

- a) Encourage sound practices with respect to size, spacing, lighting, type and placement of signs for the purpose of safeguarding and enhancing properties in each of the various types of zoning districts;
- b) Provide an environment which will promote the orderly growth and development of business and industry in communities;
- c) Protect public investment in public structures, open spaces and thoroughfares;
- d) Promote the safety and welfare of the community;
- e) Promote achievement of the purpose and intention of this Ordinance; and
- f) Where standards may conflict, the more restrictive standard shall apply.

#### **SECTION 2000-420.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**420.1.1 Conformance to codes.** Any sign hereafter erected shall conform to the provisions of this ordinance and the provisions of the International Building Code and of any other ordinance or regulation within this jurisdiction.

**420.1.2 Signs in rights-of-way.** Signs other than an official traffic sign or similar sign shall not be erected within 2 feet (610 mm) of the lines of any street, or within any public way, unless specifically authorized by other ordinances or regulations of this jurisdiction or by specific authorization of the code official.

**420.1.3 Projections over public ways.** Signs projecting over public walkways shall be permitted to do so only subject to the projection and clearance limits either defined herein or, if not so defined, at a minimum height of 8 feet (2438 mm) from grade level to the bottom of the sign. Signs, architectural projections or sign structures projecting over vehicular access areas must conform to the minimum height clearance limitations imposed by the jurisdiction for such structures.

**420.1.4 Traffic visibility.** Signs or sign structures shall not be erected at the intersection of any street in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision, nor at any location where by its position, shape or color it may interfere with or obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device.

**420.1.5 Computation of frontage.** If premises contain walls facing more than one property line or encompasses property frontage bounded by more than one street or other property usages, the sign area(s) for each building wall or property frontage will be computed separately for each building wall or property line facing a different frontage. The sign area(s) thus calculated shall be permitted to then be applied to permitted signs placed on each separate wall or property line frontage.

**420.1.6 Computation methodology.**

a) Computed Area of a Sign

- 1) The computed area for a sign with more than one face shall be determined by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point. When two identical sign faces area placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than 42 inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the faces.
- 2) In computing square foot area of a double-faced sign, only one side shall be considered, provided both faces are identical. If the interior angle formed by the two faces of the double-faced sign is greater than 45 degrees, then both sides of such sign shall be considered in calculating the sign area.

b) Computation of frontage

- 1) If premises contain walls facing more than one property line or encompasses property frontage bounded by more than one street or other property usages, the sign area(s) for each building wall or property frontage will be computed separately for each building wall or property line facing a different frontage. The sign area(s) thus calculated shall be permitted to then be applied to permitted signs placed on each separate wall or property line frontage.

**420.1.7 Animation and changeable messages.** Animated signs, except as prohibited in Section 2000-420.3, are permitted in commercial and industrial zones only. Changeable signs, manually activated, are permitted for nonresidential uses in all zones. Changeable signs, electrically activated, are permitted in all nonresidential zones.

**420.1.8 Maintenance, repair and removal.** Every sign permitted by this ordinance shall be kept in good condition and repair. Where any sign becomes insecure, in danger of falling or is otherwise deemed unsafe by the code official, or if any sign shall be unlawfully installed, erected or maintained in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance, the owner thereof or the person or firm using same shall, upon written notice by the code official forthwith in the case of immediate danger, and in any case within not more than 10 days, make such sign conform to the provisions of this ordinance, or shall remove it. If within 10 days the order is not complied with, the code official shall be permitted to remove or cause such sign to be removed at the expense of the owner and/or the user of the sign.

**420.1.9 Obsolete sign copy.** Any sign copy that no longer advertises or identifies a use conducted on the property on which said sign is erected must have the sign copy covered or removed within 30 days after written notification from the code official; and upon failure to comply with such notice, the code official is hereby authorized to cause removal of such sign copy, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building, structure or ground on which the sign is located.

**420.1.10 Nonconforming signs.** Any sign legally existing at the time of the passage of this ordinance that does not conform in use, location, height or size with the regulations of the zone in which such sign is located, shall be considered to be a legal nonconforming use or structure and shall be permitted to continue in such status until such time as it is either abandoned or removed by its owner, subject to the following limitations:

1. Structural alterations, enlargement or re-erection are permissible only where such alterations will not increase the degree of nonconformity of the signs.
2. Any legal nonconforming sign shall be removed or rebuilt without increasing the existing height or area if it is damaged, or removed if allowed to deteriorate to the extent that the cost of repair or restoration exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the sign as determined by the code official.
3. Signs that comply with either Item 1 or 2 need not be permitted.

**Section 2000-420.2**  
**EXEMPT SIGNS**

The following signs shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Signs shall not be exempt from Section 420.1.4.

1. Official notices authorized by a court, public body or public safety official.
2. Directional, warning or information signs authorized by federal, state or municipal Governments.
3. Memorial plaques, building identification signs and building cornerstones where cut or carved into a masonry surface or where made of noncombustible material and made an integral part of the building or structure.
4. The flag of a government or noncommercial institution, such as a school.
5. Religious symbols and seasonal decorations within the appropriate public holiday season.
6. Works of fine art displayed in conjunction with a commercial enterprise where the enterprise does not receive direct commercial gain.
7. Street address signs and combination nameplate and street address signs that contain no advertising copy and that do not exceed 6 square feet (0.56 m<sup>2</sup>) in area.

**SECTION 2000-420.3**  
**PROHIBITED SIGNS**

The following devices and locations shall be specifically prohibited:

1. No signs may be erected and maintained in any District unless in compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance and any and all other ordinances and regulations of joint ordinances or regulations of the Tri-Borough communities.
2. No sign shall exist unless kept in good condition and repair, and not allowed to become dilapidated. Each sign shall be removed within thirty (30) days when the circumstances leading to its erection no longer apply.
3. Advertising signs are prohibited except in C-HC, as hereafter regulated.
4. Business signs are prohibited except MV, C-NC and C-HC as hereinafter regulated.
5. No sign shall be erected closer than five (5) feet from any underground utility line. Underground utilities shall be confirmed through PA-One Call prior to erection.
6. Signs located in such a manner as to obstruct or otherwise interfere with an official traffic sign, signal or device, or obstruct or interfere with a driver's view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic.
7. Except as provided for elsewhere in this code, signs encroaching on or overhanging public right-of-way. Signs shall not be attached to any utility pole, light standard, street tree or any other public facility located within the public right-of-way.

8. Signs that blink, flash, or are animated by lighting in any fashion that would cause such signs to have the appearance of traffic safety signs and lights, or municipal vehicle warnings from a distance.
9. Portable signs except as allowed for temporary signs.
10. Any sign attached to, or placed on, a vehicle or trailer parked on public or private property, except for signs meeting the following conditions:
  - a. The primary purpose of such a vehicle or trailer is not the display of signs.
  - b. The signs are magnetic, decals or painted on an integral part of the vehicle or equipment as originally designed by the manufacturer, and do not break the silhouette of the vehicle.
  - c. The vehicle or trailer is in operating condition, currently registered and licensed to operate on public streets where applicable, and actively used or available for use in the daily function of the business to which such signs relate.
11. Vehicles and trailers are not used primarily as static displays, advertising a product or service, nor utilized as storage, shelter or distribution points for commercial products or services for the general public.
12. Balloons, streamers or pinwheels except those temporarily displayed as part of a special sale, promotion or community event. For the purposes of this subsection, "temporarily" means not more than 20 days in any calendar year.

**SECTION 2000-420.4  
PERMITS AND FEES**

Permits and fees related to signage should be obtained and paid through consultation with the administration office of the applicable Borough.

**SECTION 2000-420.5  
SPECIFIC SIGN REQUIREMENTS**

**420.5.1 Identification signs.** Identification signs shall be in accordance with Sections 420.5.1.1 through 420.5.1.3.

**420.5.1.1 Wall signs.** Every single-family residence, multiple-family residential complex, commercial or *industrial* building, and every separate nonresidential building in a residential zone may display wall signs per street frontage subject to the limiting standards set forth in Table 1008.1.1(1). For shopping centers, planned *industrial* parks or other multiple-occupancy nonresidential buildings, the building face or wall shall be calculated separately for each separate occupancy.

TABLE 1008.1.1(1) IDENTIFICATION SIGN STANDARDS—WALL SIGNS

LAND USE	AGGREGATE AREA (square feet)
Single-family residential	3
Multiple-family residential	5
Nonresidential in a residential zone	5
Commercial and industrial	See Table 1008.1.1(2)

TABLE 1008.1.1(2) SIGN AREA

DISTANCE OF SIGN FROM ROAD OR ADJACENT COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL ZONE	PERCENTAGE OF BUILDING ELEVATION PERMITTED FOR SIGN AREA
0 to 100 feet	5
101 to 300 feet	10
Over 301 feet	15

**420.5.1.2 Free-standing signs.** In addition to any allowable wall signs, every single-family residential subdivision, multiple-family residential complex, commercial or *industrial* building, and every separate nonresidential building in a residential zone shall be permitted to display free-standing or combination signs per street frontage subject to the limiting standards set forth in Table 1008.1.2.

TABLE 1008.1.2 IDENTIFICATION SIGN STANDARDS—FREE-STANDING SIGNS a,b,c

LAND USE	NUMBER OF SIGNS	HEIGHT (feet)	AREA (square feet)	SPACING
Single-family residential	see SPACING	8	20	1 per subdivision entrance a
Multiple-family residential	see SPACING	12	32	1 per driveway a
Nonresidential in a residential zone	1 per lot	8	20	300 a
Commercial and industrial	1 per street frontage	32	180	150b

- a) For subdivision or apartment identification signs placed on a decorative entry wall approved by the code official, two identification signs shall be permitted to be placed at each entrance to the subdivision or apartment complex, one on each side of the driveway or entry drive.
- b) For shopping centers or planned industrial parks, two monument-style free-standing signs not exceeding 50 percent each of the permitted height and area, and spaced not closer than 100 feet to any other free-standing identification sign, shall be permitted to be allowed in lieu of any free-standing sign otherwise permitted in Table 1008.1.2.
- c) For any commercial or industrial development complex exceeding 1,000,000 square feet of gross leasable area, or 40 acres in size, such as regional shopping centers, auto malls or planned industrial parks, one free-standing sign per street front shall be permitted to be increased in sign area by up to 50 percent.

**420.5.1.3 Directional signs.** Not more than two directional signs shall be permitted per street entrance to any lot. There shall be no limit to the number of directional signs providing directional information interior to a lot. In residential zones, the maximum area for directional signs shall be **four** square feet. For all other zones, the maximum area for any directional sign visible from adjacent property or rights-of-way shall be **sixteen** square feet. Not more than 25 percent of the area of any directional sign shall be permitted to be devoted to business identification or logo, which area shall not be assessed as identification sign area.

**420.5.2 Temporary signs.**

**420.5.2.1 Real estate signs.** Real estate signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts, subject to the following limitations:

- a) Real estate signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts, subject to the following limitations:
- b) Real estate signs located on a single residential lot shall be limited to one sign, not greater than 6 feet in height and 6 square feet in area.
- c) Real estate signs advertising the sale of lots located within a subdivision shall be limited to one sign per entrance to the subdivision, and each sign shall be no greater than 35 square feet in area nor 10 feet in height. All signs permitted under this section shall be removed within 10 days after sale of the last original lot.
- d) Real estate signs advertising the sale or lease of space within commercial or industrial buildings shall be no greater than 6 square feet in area nor 8 feet in height, and shall be limited to one sign per street front.
- e) Real estate signs advertising the sale or lease of vacant commercial or industrial land shall be limited to one sign per street front, and each sign shall be no greater than 12 feet in height, and 20 square feet for property of 10 acres (40 470 m<sup>2</sup>) or less, or 100 square feet (9.3 m<sup>2</sup>) for property exceeding 10 acres (40 470 m<sup>2</sup>).
- f) Real estate signs shall be removed not later than 10 days after execution of a lease agreement in the event of a lease, or the closing of the sale in the event of a purchase.

Use	Aggregate Area (s.f.)	Max Height	Number of Signs	Other Restrictions
Single Residential	6	6'	1 Real Estate Sign	Removed not later than 2 days after execution of a lease agreement in the event of a lease, or the closing of a sale in the event of a purchase.
Subdivision	35	10'	1 Per Entrance	Removed within 10 days of last original lot.
Sale or Lease, Commercial or Industrial	6	8'	1 Per Store Front	Removed not later than 2 days after execution of a lease agreement in the event of a lease, or the closing of a sale in the event of a purchase.
Sale or Lease of Vacant Commercial or Industrial	20 (10 acres or less), 100 s.f.>100 acres	12'	1 Per Store Front	
Development & Construction				
Single Residential	12	8'		Development and construction signs may not be displayed until after the issuance of construction permits by the building official, and must be
Subdivision	35	10'	1 Per Entrance	
Sale or Lease, Commercial or Industrial	20	12'		

Sale or Lease of Vacant Commercial or Industrial	35	12'		removed not later than 36 hours following issuance of an occupancy permit for any or all portions of the project.
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**420.5.2.2 Development and construction signs.** Signs temporarily erected during construction to inform the public of the developer, contractors, architects, engineers, the nature of the project or anticipated completion dates, shall be permitted in all zoning districts, subject to the following limitations:

- a) Such signs on a single residential lot shall be limited to one sign, not greater than 8 feet in height and 12 square feet in area.
- b) Such signs for a residential subdivision or multiple residential lots shall be limited to one sign, at each entrance to the subdivision or on one of the lots to be built upon, and shall be no greater than 10 feet in height and 35 square feet in area.
- c) Such signs for nonresidential uses in residential districts shall be limited to one sign, and shall be no greater than 10 feet in height and 20 square feet in area.
- d) Such signs for commercial or industrial projects shall be limited to one sign per street front, not to exceed 12 feet in height and 20 square feet for projects on parcels 5 acres (20 235 m2) or less in size, and not to exceed 12 feet in height and 35 square feet for projects on parcels larger than 5 acres (20 235 m2).
- e) Development and construction signs may not be displayed until after the issuance of construction permits by the building official, and must be removed not later than 24 hours following issuance of an occupancy permit for any of all portions or the project.

**420.5.2.3 Special promotion, event and grand opening signs.** Signs temporarily displayed to advertise special promotions, events and grand openings shall be permitted for nonresidential uses in a residential district, and for all commercial and *industrial* districts subject to the following limitations:

1. Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street front.
2. Such signs shall be displayed for not more than 30 consecutive days in any 3-month period, and not more than 60 days in any calendar year. The signs shall be erected not more than 5 days prior to the event or grand opening, and shall be removed not more than 1 day after the event or grand opening.

**420.5.2.4 Special event signs in public ways.** Signs advertising a special community event shall not be prohibited in or over public rights-of-way, subject to approval by the code official as to the size, location and method of erection. The code official may not approve any special event signage that would impair the safety and convenience of use of public rights-of-way, or obstruct traffic visibility.

**420.5.2.5 Portable signs.** Portable signs shall be permitted only in the Commercial, Mixed-Use, and Transportation districts, as designated in this code, subject to the following limitations:

1. Not more than one such sign shall be displayed on any property.
2. Such signs shall be displayed not more than 20 days in any calendar year.
3. Any electrical portable signs shall comply with NFPA 70, as adopted in this jurisdiction.
4. Portable signs shall not be displayed prior to obtaining a sign permit.

**420.5.2.6 Political signs.** Political signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts, subject to the following limitations:

1. Such signs for election candidates or ballot propositions shall be displayed only for a period of 60 days preceding the election, primary election or general election, and shall be removed within 10 days after the election.
2. Such signs shall not be placed in any public right-of-way or obstruct traffic visibility.

**420.5.3 Requirements for specific sign types.**

**420.5.3.1 Canopy and marquee signs.**

1. The permanently-affixed copy area of canopy or marquee signs shall not exceed an area equal to 25 percent of the face area of the canopy, marquee or architectural projection on which such sign is affixed or applied.
2. Graphic striping, patterns or color bands on the face of a building, canopy, marquee or architectural projection shall not be included in the computation of sign copy area.

**420.5.3.2 Awning signs.**

1. The copy area of awning signs shall not exceed an area equal to 25 percent of the background area of the awning or awning surface to which such a sign is affixed or applied, or the permitted area for wall or fascia signs, whichever is less.
2. Neither the background color of an awning, nor any graphic treatment or embellishment thereto such as striping, patterns or valances, shall be included in the computation of sign copy area.

**420.5.3.3 Projecting signs.**

1. Projecting signs shall be permitted in lieu of freestanding signage on any street frontage limited to one sign per occupancy along any street frontage with public entrance to such an occupancy.
2. Such sign shall not extend vertically above the highest point of the building facade on which it is mounted in accordance with signage ordinance provisions.
3. Such signs shall not extend over a public sidewalk.

**420.5.3.4 Under canopy signs.**

1. Under canopy signs shall be limited to not more than one such sign per public entrance to any occupancy.
2. Such signs shall maintain a clear vertical distance above any sidewalk or pedestrian way.

**420.5.3.5 Window signs.** Window signs shall be permitted for any nonresidential use in a residential district, and for all commercial and industrial districts, subject to the following limitations:

1. The aggregate area of all such signs shall not exceed 25 percent of the window area on which such signs are displayed. Window panels separated by muntins or mullions shall be considered to be one continuous window area.
2. Window signs shall not be assessed against the sign area permitted for other sign types.

**420.5.3.6 Menu boards.** Menu board signs shall not be permitted to exceed 50 square feet (4.6 m<sup>2</sup>).

**SECTION 2000-420.6  
SIGNS FOR DEVELOPMENT COMPLEXES**



**420.6.1 Master sign plan required.** Landlord or single-owner controlled multiple-occupancy development complexes on parcels exceeding 8 acres (32 376 m<sup>2</sup>) in size, such as shopping centers or planned industrial parks, shall submit to the code official a master sign plan prior to issuance of new sign permits. The master sign plan shall establish standards and criteria for all signs in the complex that require permits, and shall address, at a minimum, the following:

1. Proposed sign locations.
2. Materials.
3. Type of illumination.
4. Design of free-standing sign structures.
5. Size.
6. Quantity.
7. Uniform standards for nonbusiness signage, including directional and informational signs.

**420.6.2 Development complex sign.** In addition to the freestanding business identification signs otherwise allowed by this ordinance, every multiple-occupancy development complex shall be entitled to one free-standing sign per street front, at the maximum size permitted for business identification free-standing signs, to identify the development complex. Business identification shall not be permitted on a development complex sign. Any free-standing sign otherwise permitted under this ordinance may identify the name of the development complex.

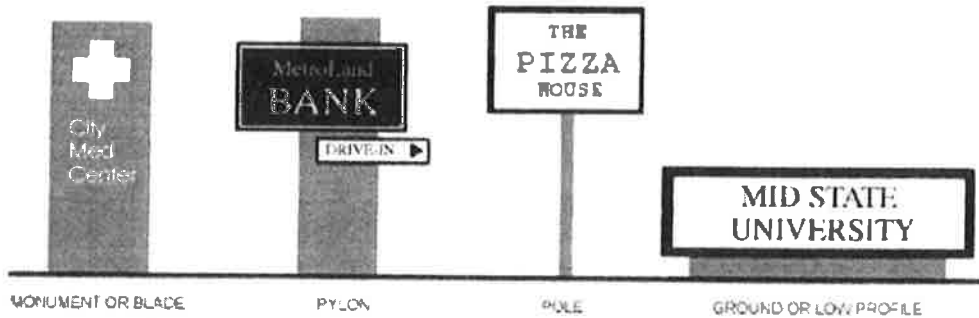
**420.6.3 Compliance with master sign plan.** Applications for sign permits for signage within a multiple-occupancy development complex shall comply with the master sign plan.

**420.6.4 Amendments.** Any amendments to a master sign plan must be signed and approved by the owner(s) within the development complex before such amendment will become effective.

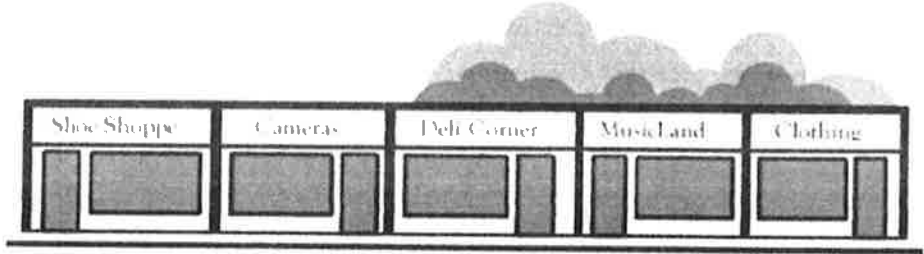
## **SECTION 2000-420.6**

### **General Sign Types - Figures**

Sign types and the computation of sign area shall be as depicted in Figures 1003.1(1) through 1003.1(4).



MONUMENT OR BLADE PYLON POLE GROUND OR LOW PROFILE  
COMMON FREESTANDING SIGN TYPES



WALL OR FASCIA SIGNS ON STOREFRONTS



ROOF SIGN



CANOPY SIGN  
OR FREESTANDING CANOPY



PROJECTING SIGN

**FIGURE 1003.1(1) COMPARISON OF ROOF SIGNS AND NON-ROOF SIGNS**

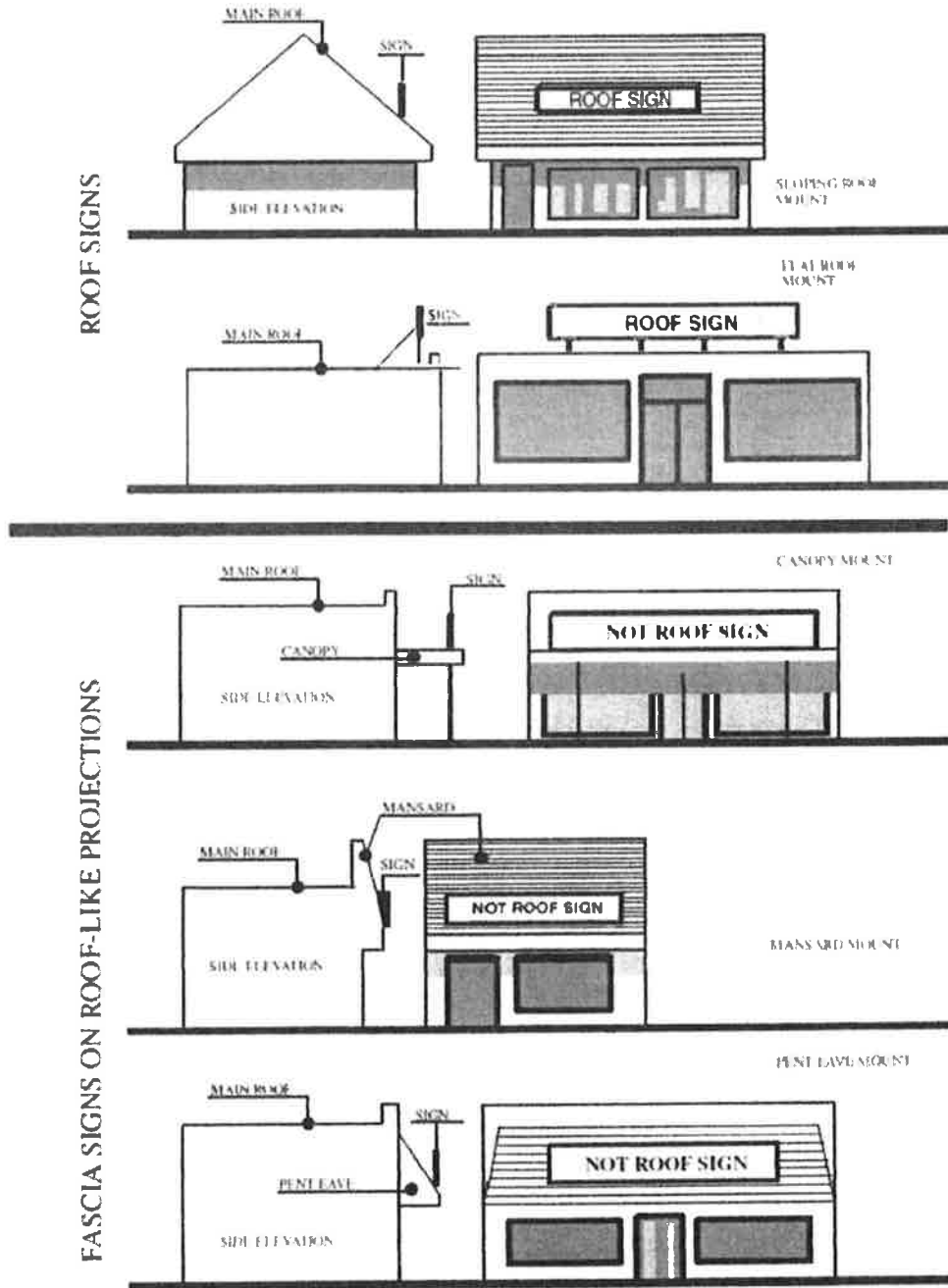
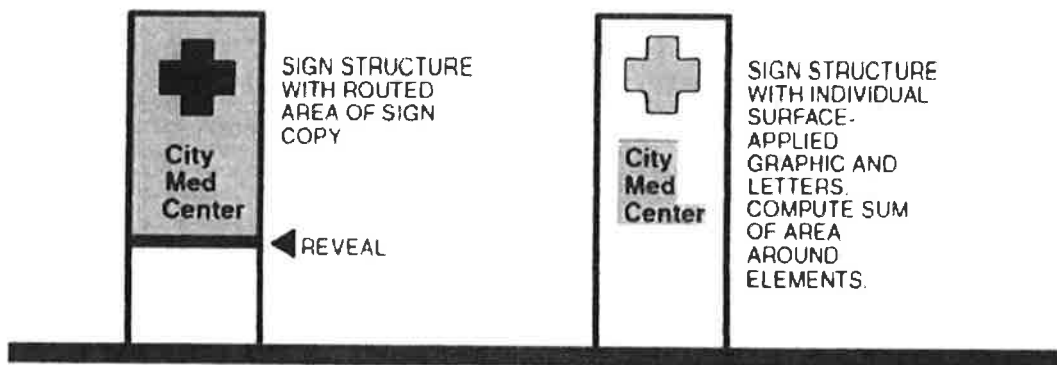


FIGURE 1003.1(2) COMPARISON—ROOF AND WALL OR FASCIA SIGNS

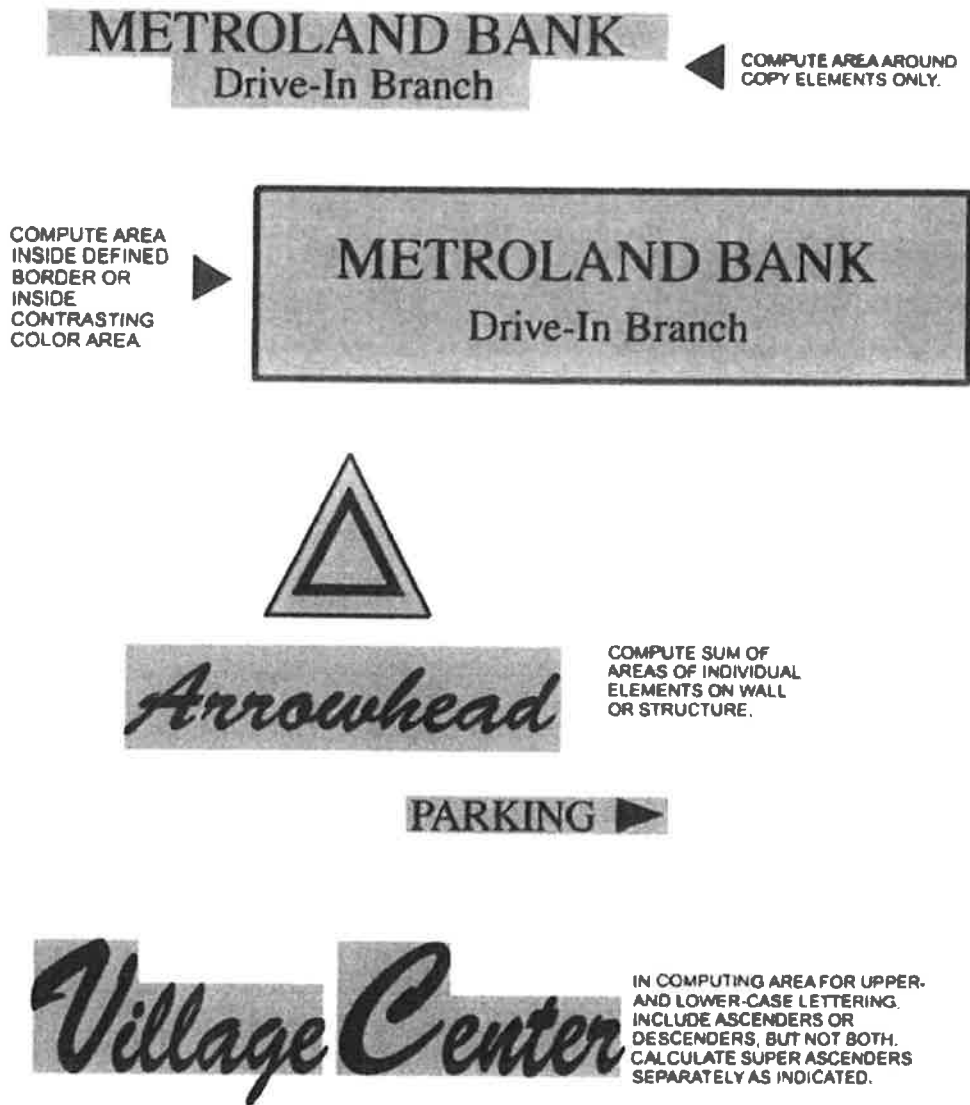


SIGN STRUCTURES



*Notes: Sum of shaded areas only represents sign area. Sign constructed with panels or cabinets.*

**FIGURE 1003.1(3) SIGN AREA—COMPUTATION METHODOLOGY**



*Notes: Sum of shaded areas only represents sign area for code compliance purposes. Examples of signs consisting of individual letters, elements or logos placed on building walls or structures.*

- III. This Ordinance repeals any inconsistent prior ordinances or portion thereof to the extent of such inconsistency.
- IV. This Ordinance shall be effective upon recordation in the Borough ordinance book, or upon the thirtieth day after passage by the Council, whichever comes first, provided further, the foregoing notwithstanding, that this amendment will not be effective until such time as it has also been approved by all of the Boroughs participating in the Joint Zoning Ordinance.
- V. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. Should any part of this Ordinance be invalidated by a court of law, it is the intention of the Council that the remainder of the Ordinance be in full force and effect.

DULY ORDAINED AND ENACTED at a public meeting of the Council of the Borough of [Avalon, Bellevue or Ben Avon], this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF [AVALON, BELLEVUE or BEN AVON]

  
\_\_\_\_\_

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_

Borough Secretary

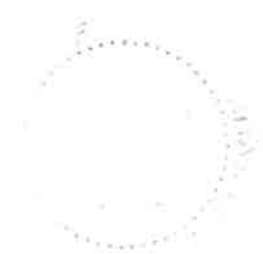
Council President

APPROVED:


 12/27/18

Mayor

Date



This Ordinance recorded in the Borough Ordinance book on December 27, 2018 by the undersigned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Borough Secretary