

CHAPTER 1165
Sign Regulations

1165.01	Purpose	1165.09	General Requirements for All Signage
1165.02	Zoning Permit Required	1165.10	Signage at Commercial, Industrial Or Institutional Complexes.
1165.03	Signs In R And O-R Districts	1165.11	Regulations Pertaining to Temporary, Special Event Signage
1165.04	Signs In R-C And U Districts	1165.12	Construction
1165.05	Signs In C, IC-R and C-R Districts	1165.13	Illumination
1165.06	Signs In I-R And I Districts	1165.14	Maintenance
1165.07	Signs In C-D and N-C Districts	1165.15	Removal of Signs
1165.08	Signs in Any Zoning District	1165.16	Drive-In Window Menu Signs
		1165.17	Non-Conforming Signage

1165.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide for the use, location and size of signs, canopies, marquees and awnings as well as to regulate their installation, repair, alteration and maintenance.

1165.02. ZONING PERMIT REQUIRED

Unless otherwise provided herein, a Zoning Permit shall be required for all signs erected within the City of Kent. Such permit shall be secured in conformance with the provisions set forth in Chapter 1111 and by payment of the fees as specified in Section 1111.14(7) (a-f).

1165.03. SIGNS IN R AND O-R DISTRICTS

The following signs are permitted in all "R" (excluding R-C) and "O-R" Districts:

- (a) A church, school, community center, institution, or other public or quasi-public building may have signage which publicizes the name of the facility. Such sign may have an announcement or bulletin board attached to it.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1)
 - (2) Permitted Placement: Building, or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: Twenty (20) square feet.
 - (4) Minimum setback from street right-of-way: Ten (10) feet
 - (5) Maximum pole or ground sign height: Six (6) feet from ground to top of sign.

- (b) Signage related to the advertisement of home occupations as regulated in this Ordinance. Such signage may not be illuminated.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted Placement: Building, ground or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: One (1) square foot.
 - (4) Minimum setback from street right-of way: Ten (10) feet.
 - (5) Maximum pole or ground sign height: Two (2) feet from ground to top of sign.

- (c) Signage related to the operation of a "roadside stand". Such signage shall relate to the sale of items produced on the premises. Such signage shall not be illuminated and shall be removed at the end of seasonal sales.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Building, ground or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: Twenty (20) square feet.
 - (4) Minimum setback from street right-of- way: Ten (10) feet.
 - (5) Maximum pole or ground sign height: Six (6) feet from ground to top of sign.

1165.04. SIGNS IN R-C AND U DISTRICTS

The following signs are permitted in the "R-C" and "U" Districts:

- (a) A church, school, community center, institution or other public or quasi-public building may have signage which publicizes the name of the facility. Such sign may have an announcement or bulletin board attached to it.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Building, ground or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: Twenty (20) square feet.
 - (4) Minimum setback from street right-of-way: Ten (10) feet.
 - (5) Maximum pole or ground sign height: Six (6) feet from ground to top of sign.

- (b) Signage related to the advertisement of a business or service conducted on the premises. Such signage shall be of permanent construction and installation.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1) per each street right-of-way on which the property abuts.

-
- (2) Permitted placement: Building.
 - (3) Maximum area: Twenty-five (25) square feet or five percent (5%) of the area of the face of the building to which the sign is affixed, whichever is larger, and in no case shall exceed fifty (50) square feet.
- (c) Temporary, special event signage related to the advertisement of a business or service conducted on the premises. Special provisions for the use of such signage is identified in Section 1165.11 of this Chapter.

1165.05. SIGNS IN C, IC-R AND C-R DISTRICTS

The following signs are permitted in all "C", "IC-R" and "C-R" Districts, provided that no sign shall be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any residential zoning district boundary line:

- (a) A church, school, community center, institution, or other public or quasi-public building may have signage which publicizes the name of the facility. Such sign may have an announcement or bulletin board attached to it.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Building, ground or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: Twenty (20) square feet.
 - (4) Minimum setback from street right-of-way: Ten (10) feet.
 - (5) Maximum pole or ground sign height: Six (6) feet from ground to top of sign.
- (b) Signage located on the structure in which a business or service is conducted and advertises the business, service, products, merchandise or commodities provided, stocked or sold on the premises.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Building
 - (3) Maximum area: Two (2) square feet per lineal foot of building frontage or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is less.
- (c) Free-standing signage which is detached from the structure in which a business or service is conducted and advertises the business, service, products, merchandise or commodities provided, stocked or sold on the premises.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Ground or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: One (1) square foot per lineal foot of lot frontage or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is less

- (4) Minimum setback from street right-of-way: Ten (10) feet.
 - (5) Maximum pole or around sign height: Twenty-five (25) feet from ground to top of sign. (Ord. 1985-26. Passed 5-15-85; Ord. 1986-37. Passed 6-11-86.)
- (d) Temporary, special event signage related to the advertisement of a business or service conducted on the premises. Special provisions for the use of such signage is identified in Section 1165.11 of this Chapter.

1165.06. SIGNS IN I-R AND I DISTRICTS

The following signs are permitted in all "I-R" and "I" Districts provided that no sign shall be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any residential zoning district boundary line:

- (a) Signage located on the structure in which a business or service is conducted and advertises the business, service, products, merchandise or commodities provided, stocked or sold on the premises.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Building.
 - (3) Maximum area: Two (2) square feet per lineal foot of building frontage, or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is less.

- (b) Free-standing signage which is detached from the structure in which a business or service is conducted and advertises the business, service, products, merchandise or commodities provided, stocked or sold on the premises.
 - (1) Maximum number: One (1).
 - (2) Permitted placement: Ground or pole.
 - (3) Maximum area: One (1) square foot per lineal foot of lot frontage or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is less.
 - (4) Minimum setback from street right-of-way: Ten (10) feet.
 - (5) Maximum pole or ground sign height: Twenty-five (25) feet from ground to top of sign.

- (c) Temporary, special event signage related to the advertisement of a business or service conducted on the premises. Special provisions for the use of such signage is identified in Section 1165.11 of this Chapter.

1165.07. SIGNS IN C-D AND N-C DISTRICT.

The following signs are permitted in the “C-D” and “N-C” Districts provided that no sign shall be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any residential zoning district boundary line:

(a) General Requirements

- (1) Except as provided for in Subsection 3 hereof, the maximum area of all signs shall be limited to two (2) square feet per lineal foot of building frontage or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is less.
- (2) As part of the maximum permitted sign area, a business may erect the following types of signs:
 - (a) No more than one (1) wall sign.
 - (b) No more than one (1) projecting sign. Projecting signs shall be exempt from the requirement of 1165.08 (a).
 - C. No more than one (1) permanent window sign.
- (3) Additional signage beyond that permitted by Subsections (1) and (2) hereof shall be permitted if any of the following conditions are met:
 - A. If a business has a secondary customer entrance facing a public street or alley, an additional wall or projecting sign not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area shall be permitted.
 - B. If a business has a secondary customer entrance from a parking lot, an additional wall or projecting sign not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area shall be permitted.
 - C. Any use located on a floor other than at street level shall be permitted one (1) window sign not to exceed fifteen (15) square feet, provided however, that if such use is one of several uses served by one entrance, all uses shall be identified by one (1) common wall or window sign not to exceed twenty-five (25) square feet.
- (4) Permanent freestanding signs shall not be permitted in the “C-D” and “N-C” Districts.

(b) Requirements for Specific Types of Signs

- (1) The maximum sign area for a projecting sign shall be twelve (12) square feet. The maximum horizontal or vertical dimension shall be four (4) feet provided that no part of the sign shall extend nearer than one (1) foot to a curb line. The lowest point of any part thereof shall be at least ten (10) feet above a sidewalk or other walkway.
- (2) Permanent window signs, which shall be any window sign displayed for more than thirty (30) days, shall have a maximum area not greater than twenty percent (20%) of the total window area of the space occupied by the activity. Temporary window signs must be attached to the inside of the window and may be displayed for thirty (30) days or less. The total area of permanent and temporary signage shall not exceed the maximum sign area or twenty-five percent (25%) of the total window area of the space occupied by the activity, whichever is less.
- (3) Temporary or special event signage shall be permitted subject to the provisions of Section 1165.10.

1165.08. SIGNS IN ANY ZONING DISTRICT

The following signs are permitted in any and all Zoning Districts set forth within this Zoning Ordinance:

- (a) Permanent signs which do not require a Zoning Permit:
 - (1) Signs incidental to legal process and necessary to the public safety and welfare.
 - (2) Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and dates of erection. Memorial signs or tablets shall have an area not to exceed six (6) square feet facing each street. Signs under this subsection shall not be illuminated.
 - (3) Awnings and canopies are permitted for public convenience. No advertising shall be placed on any awning or canopy, except that the name of the owner and/or the business, industry or pursuit conducted within the premises may be painted or otherwise permanently placed in a space not exceeding eight (8) inches in height on the front and side portions thereof.
 - (4) Nameplates not exceeding one (1) square foot in area, containing only the name of the resident, title of the person practicing a profession, name of the building and the name of the agent.
 - (5) Any sign painted or lettered directly on a window except that no such sign shall be permitted in any residential zoning district.

- (6) Private traffic directional signs not exceeding three (3) square feet in area for each sign directing traffic movement into or from premises. Horizontal directional signs on, below or flush with paved areas are exempt from these standards but must be on private property.
- (b) Temporary signs which do not require a Zoning Permit:
 - (1) One (1) unlighted real estate sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area pertaining only to the sale, lease, or rent of the particular building, property or premises upon which displayed. Such sign shall not be closer than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way line.
 - (2) One (1) sign denoting the architect, engineer or contractor when placed upon work under construction. Such sign shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area.
 - (3) Signs concerning candidates for public office or any and all ballot issues. Such signs shall not be placed on or over public property or right-of-way. Such signs shall be placed no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election to which they relate and shall be removed by no later than ten (10) days after the date of the election.
- (c) Temporary signs which require a Zoning Permit but do not require the payment of an associated fee:
 - (1) One (1) sign which advertises activities or functions sponsored by social, fraternal, charitable or other such community organizations. Such signage shall not be erected for a period to exceed thirty (30) days and shall be removed within five (5) days subsequent to said thirty (30) day period. Such sign shall not be located closer than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way line.
- (d) Temporary signs which require a Zoning Permit and the payment of an associated fee as specified in Chapter 1111 of this Ordinance:
 - (1) One (1) temporary real estate sign advertising the development of the premises upon which it stands or the opening of a new subdivision within which such sign is located. Such sign may be located and maintained upon the issuance of a temporary, six (6) month, renewable Zoning Permit and shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days of the sale or rental there-of. Such sign shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet in area nor shall it be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet from any street right-of-way line. (Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.09 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SIGNAGE

In addition to the requirements of this Chapter, the following general requirements shall apply for all signs:

- (a) No sign mounted on any wall of any building shall project more than one (1) foot beyond the face surface of the building.
- (b) Where signs are permitted to project over public property, they shall not be supported from the public property in any way.
- (c) All signs shall be rigidly secured and no sign shall swing from any bar, crane, awning or other sign nor shall all or part of any sign be permitted to flash, revolve or oscillate for the purpose of attracting attention.
- (d) No sign shall project above or beyond the wall of any building nor shall a sign be erected upon the roof of any building.
- (e) No sign shall be so erected as to obstruct any window, door, fire escape, balcony, platform, stairway, ladder, vent or other means of ingress or egress to any building.
- (f) Signs shall be erected as to not obstruct traffic sight lines or traffic control lights at street intersections, or signals at railroad grade crossings.
- (g) Signs visible from a street shall not contain an arrow or words such as "stop", "go", "slow", etc, or otherwise resemble highway traffic, directional signals or emergency vehicle devices.
- (h) No awning or canopy shall be permitted to extend closer than one (1) foot from the outside edge of the street curb, nor shall the lowest portion of such structure be less than eight (8) feet above the level of the sidewalk.
- (i) No sign shall be used to advertise an accessory or secondary use of a building.
- (j) All wiring that serves a free-standing sign shall be permanently installed underground and meet N.E.C. standards.
- (k) On a lot with building frontage or property frontage along more than one street, the maximum area of a proposed sign shall be computed based on the lineal footage of the frontage along which the sign is to be erected. In no case shall the maximum area be computed using the lineal footage of more than one frontage.
- (l) The erector of every sign or outdoor advertising display shall place on each of the same an imprint or metal tag showing the name of the erector, re-erector or hanger as well as the address and telephone number of such person or firm.

(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.10 SIGNAGE AT COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR INSTITUTIONAL**COMPLEXES**

In the event that two or more separate commercial, industrial or institutional uses occupy the same building, property or integrated facility the following requirements shall apply in addition to those set forth in the various sections of this Chapter:

(a) Signage located upon the building face:

- (1) Each separate use shall be entitled to a maximum of one (1) building sign.
- (2) The maximum area of each separate building sign shall be determined by the lineal footage of building frontage leased or owned. In the event that this dimension cannot be firmly established, the maximum area of such a sign shall not exceed ten (10) feet.

(b) Free-standing signage:

- (1) Only one (1) free-standing sign shall be permitted on a property having two (2) or more commercial, industrial or institutional uses on the premises.
- (2) Advertising for each separate facility shall be integrated as a single sign unit. The maximum area of the total sign shall not exceed the total maximum area prescribed in the requirements of this Chapter.

(c) Temporary, special event signage:

- (1) Only one (1) temporary, special event sign shall be permitted on a lot at a given time where two (2) or more commercial, industrial or institutional uses occupy a property.
- (2) The Zoning Inspector shall not issue a Zoning Permit for such a sign during the calendar period for which a previous special event sign was issued a permit, in the event that both signs would be placed on the same property.
- (3) All other requirements for temporary, special event signs as stipulated in Section 1165.11 of this Chapter shall also apply. (Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.11. REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO TEMPORARY, SPECIAL EVENT SIGNAGE

The following regulations shall apply to temporary, special event signage where it is permitted as set forth within this Chapter:

- (a) A temporary, special event sign shall be erected only after making application for and receiving a Zoning Permit from the Zoning Inspector.

- (b) An individual business, company, corporation or property owner shall be entitled to employ temporary, special event signage for a time period not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days per calendar year. Permits shall be issued in thirty (30) day increments and may be issued for consecutive thirty (30) day terms.
- (c) No temporary, special event sign shall employ any flashing lights or moving parts.
- (d) Any and all temporary, special event signs, when connected to an electrical service shall not employ the use of a household extension cord for the purpose of making such connection. All wiring and connections must N.E.C. standards.
- (e) Any and all temporary, special event signs shall be securely anchored so as to minimize danger of wind damage, theft or vandalism.
- (f) All temporary, special event signs shall be removed by no later than two (2) calendar days after the date of expiration on the Zoning Permit.
- (g) The Zoning Inspector, may by written order, demand the immediate removal of any temporary, special event sign in violation of this or any other section of this Zoning Ordinance or amendments thereto.
(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.12. CONSTRUCTION

All signs, awnings and canopies shall be constructed in conformance with the City of Kent Building Code and other applicable requirements of the Kent City Ordinances.

(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.13. ILLUMINATION

Any and all illuminated signs shall comply with the following:

- (a) The source of light shall not be visible from the street and shall be shaded. No sign nor outside lighting shall flash, be animated, rotate or have the appearance of moving, except that non-rotating signs which depict the time, temperature, current weather and/or news shall be permitted.
- (b) Any business sign illuminated with electric lights (including neon or other gaseous type tubes or incandescent lamps) erected within 100 feet of an intersection where an illuminated device has been provided for the control of traffic shall not duplicate in the electric light of any such sign any colors appearing in the traffic control signal.
- (c) Lighting shall be permitted on signs which are permissible under this Chapter provided that illumination is concentrated upon the area of the sign so as to prevent glare upon the street or adjacent property.

(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.14. MAINTENANCE

The Zoning Inspector may order any sign to be painted or refurbished at least once each year; all supports, guys, braces and anchors for each sign shall be maintained in a safe condition. The Zoning Inspector may order removed any such sign that is not so maintained, and it shall be unlawful for the owners or persons having charge of such sign to not remove the same after receiving notice from the Zoning Inspector. (Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.15. REMOVAL OF SIGNS

- (a) Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bonafide business shall be removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure upon which such sign may be found within ten (10) days after written notification from the Zoning Inspector, and upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, the Zoning Inspector is hereby authorized to cause removal of such sign, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the property on which the sign is located.
- (b) If the Zoning Inspector shall find that any sign or other advertising structure regulated herein is unsafe or insecure, is a menace to the public or has been constructed, erected or is maintained in violation of the pro-visions of this Ordinance, notice shall be given in writing by the Zoning Inspector to the permittee thereof. If the permittee fails to remove or alter the structure so as to comply with the standards herein set forth within ten (10) days after such notice, such sign or other advertising structure may be removed or altered to comply with this ordinance at the expense of the permittee or owner of the property upon which it is located. The Zoning Inspector shall refuse to issue a permit to any permittee or owner who refuses to pay costs so assessed. The Zoning Inspector may cause any sign or other advertising structure which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed summarily and without notice.

(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.16. DRIVE-IN WINDOW MENU SIGNS

Drive-In window menu signs shall be permitted upon the approval of the Planning Commission in those districts which permit restaurant and restaurant-type uses subject to the following:

- (a) Such sign shall not exceed six (6) feet in height and shall not exceed six (6) feet in width.
- (b) Such sign shall be placed in an area which is contiguous to the side or rear of the structure which is utilizing said drive-in window menu sign.

(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)

1165.17. NON-CONFORMING SIGNAGE

The lawful use of any sign or advertising structure existing at the effective date of this Zoning Ordinance or amendments thereto may be continued although such sign does not conform with the provisions of this Chapter. Such nonconforming signage shall be subject to the following provisions:

- (a) No non-conforming sign shall be expanded or enlarged unless it meets any and all applicable provisions set forth within this Chapter.
- (b) Whenever a non-conforming sign and associated support structure is removed, any new or replacement signage shall be erected to comply with any and all requirements of this Chapter and other sections of this Ordinance.
- (c) The face of a non-conforming sign may be replaced for alternative advertising so long as the face area is not increased.
- (d) An existing sign with a non-conforming status shall not be exempt from the conditions, procedures, or responsibilities set forth in Section 1165.15(a) and (b) regarding the removal of signs.

(Ord. 1998-32. Passed 5-6-98)