

ORDINANCE NO. 517, 1993

An ordinance of the Board of Clallam County Commissioners establishing sign regulations and repealing the Clallam County Sign Ordinance, Chapter 9.26

CLALLAM COUNTY SIGN ORDINANCE

9.26

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SECTION 9.26.010 - GOALS AND INTENT. Clallam County is characterized by scenery considered by some to rival that of any other state. Preservation and restoration of these views and their aesthetic impressions are the underlying intentions of this code.

Signage has been named a contributor to the degradation of scenic views offered along our county and state road systems. In response to public demand, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners dictated that a sign code be developed. Protection of the aesthetic quality is a pertinent interest of Clallam County and this code. Additional attributes of the sign code include increased traffic safety and positive promotion of tourism by providing for aesthetic quality. It is the goal of Clallam County to maintain, and in some instances restore, the aesthetic scenic qualities found along the roadways of the County.

SECTION 9.26.020 - DEFINITIONS. Except where specifically defined herein, all words used in this Ordinance shall carry their customary meanings. Words used in the present tense include the future, and the plural includes the singular. The word "shall" is mandatory; the word "may" denotes a use of discretion in making a decision. The words "used" or "occupied" shall be considered as though followed by the words "or intended, maintained, arranged or designated to be used or occupied."

1. ABANDONED SIGN means a sign that no longer correctly identifies, exhorts, or advertises any person, business, lessor, lessee owner, product or activity conducted or available on or off the premises on which sign is located.
2. ADMINISTRATOR means the Director of Clallam County Department of Community Development or his/her designee.
3. ADVERTISING means to announce publicly especially by emphasizing a printed notice or to call public attention to desirable qualities so as to arouse a desire to buy or patronize. This also includes logos, borders, backgrounds and accents.
4. AWNING SIGN means a rooflike cover extended over a place as a shelter.
5. BANNER means a piece of man-made or natural cloth or fabric displaying a distinctive design, attached by one or more edges to a pole or staff or other device intended for such display.
6. BILLBOARDS See Off-Premises Signage.
7. BUILDING FRONTAGE means the linear frontage of a building facing an abutting public street.
8. CANOPY means a temporary or fixed shelter supported entirely from the exterior wall of a building without other means of support to the ground.
9. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE means a memorial plaque, sign, plate or tablet which is permanently affixed to or near the structure, object or event it is intended to commemorate and which displays no advertising.
10. COMMUNITY EVENT SIGN means a temporary informational or directional sign pertaining exclusively to a specific upcoming event sponsored by a governmental entity or non-profit organization.
11. CONSTRUCTION SIGN means a sign which is temporarily erected on premises undergoing construction and which identifies the architect, engineers, contractors, suppliers or other individuals or firms involved with the construction, or announces the character of the building or enterprise.

12. DIRECTIONAL SIGN means a single or double-faced sign which contains specific directional information and contains no advertising other than the business name and logo. A directional sign is designed to guide or direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic to a place, area or convenience.
13. DIRECTORY SIGN means a sign which displays exclusively the names, logos and locations of occupants or uses of a building or complex; which includes, but may not be limited to signs for office buildings, church directories and signs for malls, arcades, and similar commercial buildings. No advertising other than the name, logo and locations of occupants or uses is included.
14. FACADE SIGN means a sign which is attached parallel to and within nine (9) inches of the wall of a building, or vertical face of an awning or parapet which is supported by and confined within the limits of such wall, awning or parapet and which displays only one sign surface.
15. FLAG means a piece of cloth or fabric with a distinct design left free to fly in the breeze.
16. FLASHING SIGN means a sign or a portion thereof which changes light intensity or switches on and off in a repetitive pattern, or uses electrical energy to provide motion or the optical illusion of motion. This definition does not include devices which display the time and/or temperature only.
17. FREESTANDING SIGN means a sign which is supported by uprights or braces connected permanently to the ground and which is not connected to a building.
18. GRADE means the average elevation of the natural ground surface immediately below the sign before construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.
19. GRAND OPENING means the celebration or promotional period beginning on or shortly after the date when a new, permanent business is open for business in a permanent, fixed building. Grand opening events must be related to: opening of a new business; a change of business location; construction of a new business structure; major remodeling or expansion; change of ownership or change of name.
20. ILLUMINATED SIGN means any sign illuminated in any manner by an artificial light source.
21. INCIDENTAL SIGN means a small, information sign of a noncommercial nature, which pertains to services or facilities which are available on the premises where the sign occurs, and intended primarily for the convenience of the public while on such premises. Included are signs designating restrooms, address numbers, hours of operation, entrances to buildings, directions, help wanted, public telephone, etc.
22. MONUMENT SIGN means a ground-related, freestanding sign which is attached to the ground or to its base on grade by a solid sign structure and which structure extends from the ground or base to the sign face at the same or greater width as the sign face.
23. MULTIPLE-BUSINESS COMPLEX means a group of structures housing at least two separate businesses or agencies, or a single structure containing more than one business with separating walls and at least one outside or inside access for each business which shares a common lot, access and/or parking facility.

24. MULTIPLE BUSINESS COMPLEX SIGN shall mean a sign which is designed to identify a multiple business complex including directory signs for businesses within the complex.
25. MURAL means an outdoor wall painting which consists exclusively of paint applied to the wall or to framework attached within 6 inches of the wall and which contains no advertising.
26. NONCONFORMING SIGN means any sign in existence within the county on the date of adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter which does not conform with the provisions of this chapter, but which did conform to all applicable laws in effect on the date the sign was originally erected.
27. OFF-PREMISES SIGNAGE means a sign relating, through its message and content, to an activity, use, product, or service which is not available on the premises on which the sign is erected.
28. PARAPET means that portion of a building wall which extends above the roof of the building.
29. POLE SIGN means any freestanding sign composed of a sign cabinet, backboard, frame or base and the sign pole, or pylon by which it connects to the ground.
30. POLITICAL SIGN means any sign which serves to influence, is intended to influence, or appears to be of the type which is commonly erected to influence, an election or ballot proposition.
31. PORTABLE SIGN means any moveable sign, which is capable of being moved and is not permanently affixed to the ground or a structure or building.
32. PREMISES means the real property on which the business or other entity advertised by the sign or signs mentioned in this chapter is situated.
33. PROJECTING SIGN means a sign which is attached to and projects from a structure, wall or building face further than nine (9) inches.
34. READER BOARD means that portion of a sign on which copy may be easily changed by manual/mechanical means or by lighting effects without reworking, repainting, or otherwise altering the physical composition of the sign.
35. REAL ESTATE SIGN means a temporary or freestanding sign erected by the owner, or his/her agent, advertising the real estate for rent, lease or sale.
36. ROOF SIGN means a sign erected above or which projects in any way above the roof of the building or structure.
37. SIGN means any object, structure or portion thereof, including any letters, figures, design, symbol, trademark or device intended to attract attention to any message, activity, service, place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine or merchandise other than a flag or government symbol, which contains advertising and which is visible from any right-of-way open to the public.
38. SIGN AREA means the surface area of a sign on which the copy is to be placed and shall be measured by multiplying the maximum width of the copy by the maximum length of the copy.

Sign areas may also be calculated by measuring the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the advertising copy, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed including an awning. Supportive framework, bracing, architectural embellishments, decorative features, fences or walls which contain no written copy or other advertising and when any such fences or walls meet the requirements of this ordinance and are clearly incidental to the display itself shall not be included in sign area calculations. For the purpose of this ordinance the total sign area of any two-faced sign with parallel faces or V-type sign having an interior angle of forty-five (45) degrees or less shall be calculated as the area of the larger of the two faces or one face if equal in size. All other multiple-faced or paneled signs shall be the total area of all faces or panels. See Appendix 'A'.

39. SIGN SURFACE means any surface of a sign upon which there is lettering or other advertising.
40. SIGN HEIGHT means the vertical distance from grade to the highest point of a sign or any projection thereof.
41. SIGN STRUCTURE means any structure which supports or is capable of supporting any sign as defined in this chapter. A sign structure may be a pole or poles, or may be an integral part of a building. Structures which perform a separate use, such as a telephone booth, bus shelter, recycling or used goods container, etc., shall not be considered a sign structure.
42. STREET means a public or private way open to the general public, including all classes of roadways and easements excepting alleys and driveways and including major internal circulation corridors within parking lots.
43. SYMBOL sign means a sign consisting exclusively of a symbol, picture or object which represents the specific products or services available on the premises and which sign does not include any lettering, numerals or registered trademarks.
44. TEMPORARY SIGN means a non-permanent sign intended for use for a short period of time; which includes any type of special signs such as: construction signs, grand opening displays, real estate signs, and residential yard sale signs.

SECTION 9.26.030 - COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL OR RESIDENTIAL/ FORESTRY STANDARDS. On-premise signs within Commercial/Industrial or Residential/Forestry zones shall be limited to the following standards:

1. On-premise facade signs within a commercial or industrial zone shall be limited to 1 square foot of sign area per every linear foot of building frontage to a street right-of-way for facade signs.
2. On-premise signs, within a commercial or industrial zone, consisting of a free-standing sign or monument sign, shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 32 square feet of sign area and shall not exceed 10 feet in height above grade.

3. For Multiple Business Complexes, one free-standing sign or one monument sign may be used to advertise the plaza or complex name. This sign shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 100 square feet of sign area and shall not exceed 10 feet in height above grade. Each business within the plaza may have one on-premise sign attached to the commercial structure that is limited to one square foot of sign area per linear foot of building frontage to a street right-of-way. A multiple business complex may have one directory sign located at the entrance to the complex.
4. On-premise signs within residential or forestry zones, whether free-standing or facade type shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 12 square feet in sign area. If a free-standing sign is used, it must be a monument type sign not exceeding 5 feet in height above grade.
5. Signs which rotate or have a part or parts which move or revolve shall not be permitted in any zone except that movement of the hands of a clock or digital changes indicating time and temperature or national market indices which do not advertise a specific company or commodity are permitted.
6. Signs or advertising displays consisting of clusters of posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, strings of lights, spinners, twirlers or propellers, flashing, rotating or blinking lights, chasing or scintillating lights, flares, balloons, bubble machines and similar devices of carnival nature, or containing elements creating sound shall not be permitted in any zone.
7. Directional signs located in any zone shall be limited in area to 6 square feet and 8 feet in height above grade. Directional signs located within state or county right-of-way shall be administered by state standards for directional signs and, if within Clallam County right-of-way, shall be administered by the Motorist Informational Sign Ordinance, Chapter 9.21.
8. Signs meeting the definition of roof signs shall not be permitted in any zone.

SECTION 9.26.040 - TEMPORARY AND SPECIAL SIGNS STANDARDS. - All temporary and special signs within the unincorporated area of Clallam County shall comply with the following minimum standards.

1 - REAL ESTATE SIGNS Real Estate signs shall be permitted in all zones, provided that all such signs shall be located upon the property to which they apply, except as provided in Special Signs of this Section.

- a. **Residential "For Sale" or "For Rent Signs"** Signs advertising residential property "for sale" or "for rent" in any residential zone shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 6 square feet in sign area. Such sign must be placed wholly on the property for sale or rent and be limited to one per street frontage. The "for sale" or "for rent" sign may remain until the property is sold or rented after which time the sign must be removed within 10 days.
- b. **Residential "Open House" Signs** - Signs advertising "open house" shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 6 square feet in sign area located on the premises for sale. Directional signs to an "open house" may be placed along the periphery of a public right-of-way and limited to an adequate number of off-premise signs to direct traffic to the site. Such signs

are permitted only during daylight hours and/or when the seller or an agent is in attendance at the property for sale.

- c. **Developed and Undeveloped Commercial or Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs.** Signs advertising developed or undeveloped commercial or industrial property "For Sale or Rent" shall be limited to one sign, per street frontage, not exceeding 32 square feet in sign area. Signs may be displayed while the property is actually for sale or rent. If freestanding or monument type, the sign may not exceed 8 feet in height above grade, and shall be located wholly on the property for sale or rent. If the "for sale or rent" sign is attached to a structure, the sign shall be displayed on the ground level or lower story.
- d. **Residential, Agricultural and Forestry Land Division "For Sale or For Rent" Signs.** Signs advertising residential subdivisions or survey divisions shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 32 square feet in sign area. Such signs shall not exceed 8 feet in height above grade.
- e. **Directional Signs Designating New Developments.** Directional signs to a new land division shall not exceed 6 square feet in sign area and shall bear the name of the land division and a direction arrow (name of agency or seller shall be permitted on a division direction sign) and shall be limited to an adequate number to direct traffic.

2 - CONSTRUCTION SIGNS

- a. **Construction signs.** These signs identify the architects, engineers, contractors or other individuals or firms involved with the construction of a building and announce the character of the building, or the purpose for which the building is intended. Such signs may be displayed only after a building permit is obtained and during the period of construction on the construction site. Only one such sign is permitted per construction project for each street upon which the project fronts and shall not exceed 16 square feet in sign area in a residential and forestry zones and 32 square feet in sign area in a commercial or industrial zone and shall not exceed a height above grade of 8 feet.

3 - SPECIAL SIGNS

- a. **Sale and grand opening signs.** Signs advertising special sales or grand openings shall be permitted in all zones provided that such signs are displayed no more than 15 days during a three month period. Such signs shall be removed immediately upon termination of the sale or event that they advertise. All such signs must be attached to the facade, wall or window of the building occupying or conducting the sale or event which they advertise. No business shall have more than one such sign for each facade or wall of the building facing a public right-of way.
- b. **Seasonal Temporary Roadside Signs.** Signs advertising agricultural, aquacultural or other products on a temporary basis for sale that are located along a street must remain on-site, shall be limited to one sign not exceeding 16 square feet in sign area and shall be displayed only during business hours.

- c. **Community Event Signs.** Signs advertising community events are permitted in all zones and shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area and shall be displayed no longer than twenty-one days before the event and removed within 7 days after the event.
- d. **Subdivision Identification Signs.** Signs identifying the name of a subdivision or survey division shall be allowed at the entrance point of such a division and shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area and shall not exceed a height above grade of 8 feet.
- e. **Silvicultural Crop Identification Signs.** One sign per street frontage may be used to identify the type of crop being cultivated on the specific site. This sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area and shall not exceed 8 feet in height.
- f. **U-pick "U-Pick" operation signs** shall be allowed only during harvest season and shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area and 8 feet in height above grade. U-Pick operations may display a reasonable number of off-premise directional signs to direct traffic to the site as prescribed by section 9.26.030(7).
- g. **Agricultural Crop Identification Signs.** Signs used to identify agricultural field crops shall be limited to one sign per street frontage and shall not exceed 16 square feet in sign area and shall be limited in height to 8 feet above grade.

SECTION 9.26.050 - EXEMPT SIGNS. The following types of signs shall be exempt from the standards established within this code.

- 1. Official notices authorized by a court, public body or public safety official provided they are removed within 7 days after conclusion of the subject of notification;
- 2. Directional warning or information signs authorized by federal, state or municipal governments or signs required by law not exceeding 200 square feet of sign area and 20 feet in height;
- 3. Memorial plaques, building identification signs and building cornerstones which are cut or carved into a masonry surface or when made of noncombustible material and made an integral part of the building or structure. Plaques, tablets, or inscriptions indicating the name of a building, its date of erection, or other commemorative information, which are an integral part of the building structure or are attached flat to the face of the building, which are not illuminated, and which do not exceed three square feet in surface area;
- 4. Sculptures, fountains, mosaics, religious symbols and design features which do not incorporate advertising or identification;
- 5. The flag of a government or noncommercial institution such as a school;
- 6. The flag of a commercial institution. No more than one flag is permitted per business premises, the flag shall not exceed twenty square feet in surface area, and shall be left loose to fly in the breeze;

7. Traffic or pedestrian control signs or signals, or signs indicating scenic or historic points of interest which are erected by, or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his/her public duty.
8. Exterior signs or displays not visible from streets or ways open to the public;
9. "No trespassing," "no dumping," "no parking," "private," and other informational warning signs, which shall not exceed 4 square feet in surface area and 8 foot maximum height above grade;
10. Commercial address signs not exceeding 12 inches in height;
11. Incidental signs two square feet or less in area;

SECTION 9.26.060 - PROHIBITED SIGNS. The following signs or displays are prohibited, except as otherwise specifically allowed within this ordinance. Prohibited signs are subject to removal by the County at the owner's or user's expense.

1. Billboards;
2. Signs which, by reason of their size, location, movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination may be confused with or construed as a traffic control sign, signal, or device, or the light of an emergency or radio equipment vehicle; or which obstruct the visibility of any street sign or signal device;
3. Signs identifying, or window signs advertising, activities, products, businesses or services which have been discontinued for more than sixty days on the premises upon which the signs are located;
4. Private signs on public utility poles;
5. Portable signs, which includes vehicles or vehicular trailers parked or painted in such a manner imitating a permanent sign, but not including signs specifically allowed in Section 040;
6. Signs erected, altered or relocated without a permit issued by the County or any other governmental agency which requires a permit under law;

SECTION 9.26.070 - NONCONFORMING SIGNS. It is the intent of this section to ensure that the elimination of nonconforming signs occurs as expeditiously and fairly as possible and avoids any unreasonable invasion of established property rights. The following standards apply to nonconforming signs:

1. All existing signs, lawfully established prior to the adoption of this ordinance, may be continued and maintained as a legal non-conforming structure.

2. All on-premise advertising comprised of prohibited signs shall be removed within 1 year from the effective date of this ordinance.
3. A pre-existing, nonconforming, sign may be continued, maintained, provided the sign is not enlarged, intensified or altered in any way which increases its nonconformity provided that such maintenance does not exceed fifty (50%) percent of the replacement cost of the sign. If total replacement is required, replacement must comply with the standards of this ordinance.
4. A sign or sign structure removed by the County shall be held not less than thirty days by the County during which period it may be recovered by the owner upon paying the County for cost of removal and storage, and upon payment of any imposed fine. If not recovered within the thirty day period, the sign or sign structure is hereby declared abandoned and title thereto shall be vested in the County for disposal in any manner permitted by law.
5. Existing off-premise signs prohibited by this ordinance and located along federal aid primary road systems within Clallam County shall be removed provided just compensation is provided in compliance with RCW 47.42.107 and when sufficient funds are appropriated by the Board of Clallam County Commissioners for removal.

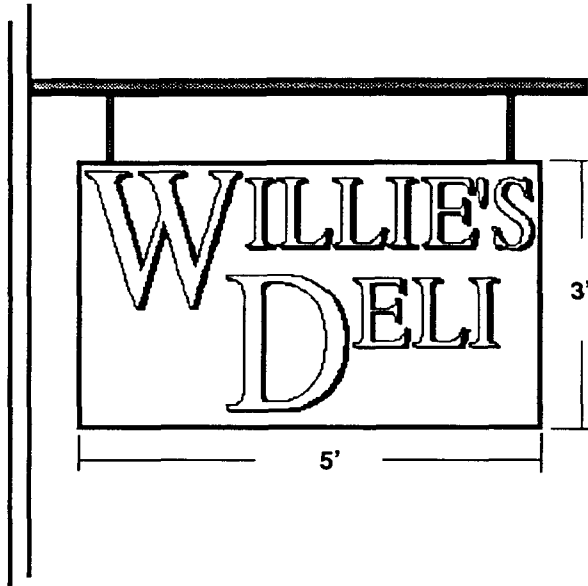
SECTION 9.26.080 - VARIANCES. Applications for a variance from the standards established by this code shall be administered under the same procedures and review criteria outlined in CCC 33.43.

SECTION 9.26.090 REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATOR'S ACTION (APPEALS). Any person aggrieved by the granting, denying or rescinding of a decision of the Administrator made under this ordinance may seek review from the Board of Clallam County Commissioners by filing a request for the same within thirty days of the date of the final decision of Clallam County. The request must be in writing setting forth the basis of the appeal and must be accompanied by the appropriate fees outlined in CCC 3.30.

SECTION 9.26.100 SEVERABILITY. If any provision of the ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance or the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

SECTION 9.26.110 - REPEALER - The following ordinances are hereby repealed as of the effective date of this ordinance: Ordinance No. 446, 1992; Ordinance No. 449, 1992; Ordinance No. 480, 1992 and Ordinance No. 506, 1993.

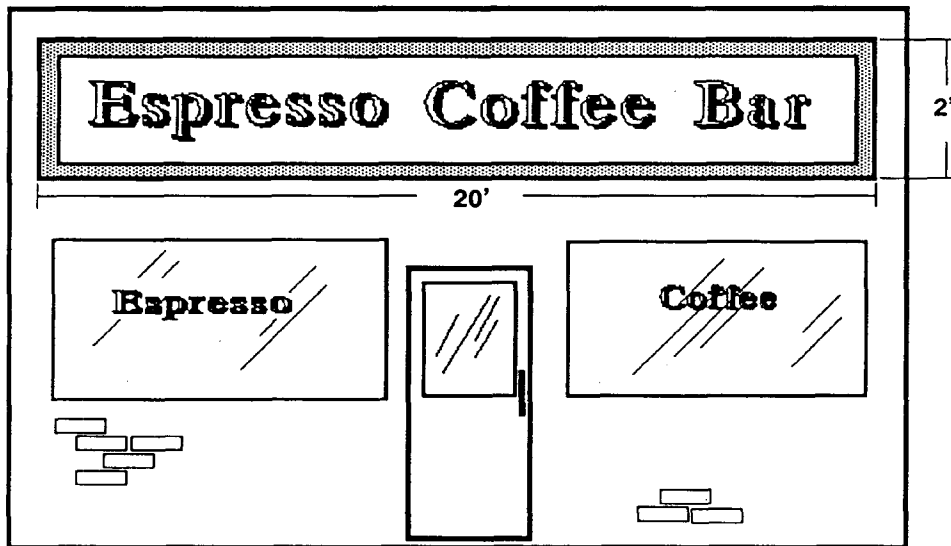
APPENDIX A



FREESTANDING SIGNS
The area of freestanding signs shall be calculated by multiplying the length of the face by the height. In this example, the length, 5 feet, multiplied by the height, 3 feet, produces an area of 15 square feet.

FACADE SIGNS, A and B.

A.



B.



FACADE SIGNS shall be calculated based upon the total mounted area, including border, if any. In example A, the length, 20 feet, is multiplied by the height, 2 feet, to produce a total area, including the border, of 40 square feet. Where the mounted area includes only letters, as in example B, the area shall be calculated based on the whole letter block, including any elevated or dropped letter blocks.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24 DAY OF August, 1993

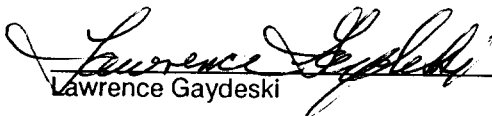
BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Dave Cameron, Chair



Dorothy Duncan



Lawrence Gaydeski

ATTEST:



Kafon Flores
Clerk of the Board

cc: Community Development
Minutes
File