

# Ordinance No. 00228 (Removed)

[Council Meeting Minutes 00/02/22](#)

ORDINANCE NO. 228

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, amending Sections 18.45.060 and 18.45.130 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relating to the sign code

WHEREAS, at the time of the incorporation of the City of Lakewood, the City Council put into place sign code regulations, based to a significant extent, upon the preexisting Pierce County Regulations, with some modifications as indicated in the public testimony and through the efforts of members of the community who participated in development of the City's initial sign codes; and,

WHEREAS, several times since incorporation, the City has engaged in a review of its sign code provisions, meeting with members of the public, the Chamber of Commerce and others involved in sign code issues, to develop modifications of the sign code which resulted in further customization of the sign code which resulted in further customization of the sign code to meet the particular needs of the City of Lakewood; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of such review, and in an effort to address concerns identified through such efforts, City Staff has developed proposed changes to the sign code to meet the needs so identified; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed modifications to the City of Lakewood sign code was held before the City of Lakewood Planning Advisory Board on the 2nd day of February, 2000, to consider the proposed changes and to hear the comments and concerns of all persons wishing to speak to said issue, after which the Planning Advisory Board recommended approvals consistent with the provisions herein contained.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN as Follows:

Section 1. That Section 18.45.060 of the Lakewood Municipal Code be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

18.45.060 Prohibited Signs.

Except as indicated by this chapter, the following signs or displays are prohibited:

A. Portable signs.

B. Temporary signs not in compliance with this chapter.

C. Private signs on utility poles or traffic and other public sign posts.

D. Signs which, by reason of their size, location, movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination may be confused with traffic control signs or signals, including, but not limited to signs containing words such as "stop", "look", and "danger".

E. Signs located in the public right-of-way or on City-owned or leased property, except where permitted in this chapter.

F. Poster, pennants, banners or streamers, string of lights, blinking lights or flashing lights, balloons, searchlights, strings of twirlers or propellers, flares, and other displays of a carnival nature; except as architectural features, or on a limited basis as reasonable seasonal decorations or temporary signs as provided for in Section 18.45.140 and Section 18.45.150 of this

chapter.

G. Animated signs, except those displaying message changes at intervals of five (5) seconds or longer, and/or cycling time and temperature.

H. Signs erected at intersections of any streets in such a manner as to materially obstruct free and clear vision.

I. No three-dimensional statue, caricature or representation of persons, animals or merchandise shall be used as a sign or incorporated into a sign structure. Provided that three-dimensional statue, caricature or representation of persons, animals or merchandise may be permitted if approved as temporary signs under Section 18.45.150. Barber shop poles less than four (4) feet in height are excluded from this provision.

J. Vehicle signs.

K. No public address system or sound devices shall be used in conjunction with any sign or advertising device.

L. Obscenity. No sign shall bear or contain statements, words, or pictures in which the dominant theme of the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest in sex or is patently offensive because it affronts the contemporary community standard relating to the description or representation of sexual material which is utterly without redeeming social value.

M. Abandoned signs.

~~N. Blank Signs painted on or attached to bus benches.~~

O. Fence signs. No sign shall be used as a fence nor shall any fence be used as a sign nor shall any sign be attached to a fence, Provided that this prohibition shall not apply to signs of the state, city or public service companies, or property owner indicating or warning of danger; aids to service or safety; traffic control or traffic direction signs; and "no soliciting," "no trespassing" or "tow-away zone" signs.

P. Off premise signs except as permitted in Section 18.45.130.C.4 and temporary signs in accordance with Section 18.45.140.

Q. Billboard signs not addressed in Section 18.45.090.

R. New Roof signs and roof signs which are not considered non-conforming in accordance with Section 18.45.160.A.

S. Emitting signs.

T. A-Frame signs not displayed in accordance with Sections 18.45.050 and 18.45.150.

(Ord. 177 § 1 (part), Ord. 135 § 1 (part), 1997; Ord. 59 § 1 (part), 1996.)

Section 2. That Section 18.45.130 of the Lakewood Municipal Code be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

### **18.45.130 - Signs in the EC, MUC, CC, NC and MUD Zones**

The following signs, when displayed in accordance with this chapter, are allowed within the EC, MUC, CC, NC, MUD, OLB-1, and OLB-2 Zones:

A. Nameplates.

1. Not more than one per building,
2. not greater than two (2) square feet in gross area,
3. not over four (4) feet in height if detached from the building, and

4. non-flashing.

B. Wall signs.

1. Wall, projecting, awning, and permanent window signs are allowed within the zones in accordance with Table 18.45-130A below.

TABLE 18.45.130A

WALL, PROJECTING, AWNING, AND WINDOW SIGNS

	Limitations <sup>1</sup>	Maximum Sign Face Area
Wall Signs	1 primary sign per street frontage -- Max. 18 inches in thickness	Combined area of all wall, awning, projecting, and window signs shall not exceed:  10% of the building street façade
Awning Signs	--	Or
Projecting Signs	Max. area is 16 square feet per face. Max. projection is 4 feet	200 square feet, whichever is less
Window Signs <sup>2</sup>	Max. 30% of each window	

**Table Notes:**

**1. Review Sections 18.45.080 Requirements Applicable to All Signs and 18.45.060 Prohibited Signs for specific limitations and requirements.**

**2. Temporary window signs do not require a Temporary Commercial Sign Permit if the total combined area of all signs does not exceed 10% of the building street facade or 200 square feet, whichever is less.**

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**2. Major Commercial or Employment Centers within the CC, MUC, MUD, and EC zoning districts.**

**a. A major center is an integrated planned development with contiguous ownership larger than twelve (12) acres in size. Contiguous properties under separate control, but which function as an integrated center, and when combined are larger than twelve (12) acres in size, may be considered a major center.**

**b. Major centers may vary from the development standards of this section by obtaining approval of a binding wall sign plan for the center.**

**1) The sign plan for the center shall be reviewed as a Conditional Use Permit.**

**2) In approving the sign plan for the center, the Hearing Examiner must make a finding that the sign plan is proportionate to the intensity of the major commercial or employment center and consistent with the intent of this Sign Code, specifically Sections 18.45.090 and 18.45.160.K.**

**C. Free standing signs.**

**1. Free standing signs are allowed within the zones in accordance with Table 18.45-130B below.**

**TABLE 18.45.130B**

**FREE STANDING SIGNS**

**b. Major centers may vary from the development standards of this section by obtaining approval of a binding wall sign plan for the center.**

**1) The sign plan for the center shall be reviewed as a Conditional Use Permit.**

**2) In approving the sign plan for the center, the Hearing Examiner must make a finding that the sign plan is proportionate to the intensity of the major commercial or employment center and consistent with the intent of this Sign Code, specifically Sections 18.45.090 and 18.45.160.K.**

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**TABLE 18.45.130B**  
**FREE STANDING SIGNS**

Street Frontage <sup>1</sup>		Maximum		Number of Signs Allowed
Street Frontage (feet)	Set Back <sup>2</sup>	Height (feet)	Area (square feet)	Per Each Street Frontage <sup>1</sup>
<35	NA	NA	NA	0
35 - 250	8 feet	Ground: 7	Ground: 30	1 ground
251 - 500	8 feet	Pole: 15 Ground: 7	Pole: 40 Ground: 30	1 pole or 2 ground <sup>3</sup>
>500	8 feet	Pole: 20 Ground: 7	Pole: 48 Ground: 30	1 pole or 1 ground sign per 250 feet of frontage <sup>3</sup> .

Major Commercial & Employment Centers

Conditional Use Permit for signage<sup>3</sup>.

## Employment Centers

### Table Notes:

1. Street frontage does not include frontage dedicated to driveways.
  2. Review Sections 18.45.080 Requirements Applicable to All Signs and 18.45.080 Prohibited Signs for specific limitations and requirements.
  3. Ground signs must be separated a minimum of 200 feet.
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2. Street frontage does not include frontage dedicated to driveways.

3. Landscaping for freestanding signs. All permanent free standing signs shall include landscaping at their base to prevent automobiles from hitting the sign-supporting structure and to improve the overall appearance of the installation. The planting area shall be a minimum of one (1) square foot for each square foot of sign surface area and shall include shrubs and ground cover. The landscaped area shall be maintained.

4. If the landscaping is not installed concurrently with the sign, the applicant for a new sign permit shall provide a performance guarantee in the form of a cash bond, held by the City, amounting to one-hundred and fifty (150) percent of the estimated cost of installing the required landscaping.

5. Major Commercial or Employment Centers within the CC, MUC, MUD, and EC zoning districts.

a. A major center is an integrated planned development with contiguous ownership larger than twelve (12) acres in size. Contiguous properties under separate control, but which functions as an integrated center, and combined are larger than twelve (12) acres in size, may be considered a major center.

b. Major centers may vary from the development standards of this section by obtaining approval of a binding wall sign plan for the center.

1) The sign plan for the center shall be reviewed as a Conditional Use Permit.

2) In approving the sign plan for the center, the Hearing Examiner must make a finding that the sign plan is proportionate to the intensity of the major commercial or employment center and

consistent with the intent of this Sign Code, specifically Sections 18.45.090 and 18.45.160.K.

6. Bus Shelter Signs. To support the provision of transit bus shelters in Lakewood, a free standing on- or off-premise sign is permitted when provided in conjunction with the City approved Pierce Transit Lakewood Bus Shelter Program.

a. A bus shelter sign is an accessory sign which is structurally integrated into a bus shelter approved for design, construction, and location by Pierce Transit and the City.

1) The maximum sign face area is twenty-four (24) square feet.

2) The sign may be off- or on-premise.

3) Free standing sign setback requirements are waived.

4) Free standing sign separation requirements are waived.

5) Bus shelter signage is exclusive of free standing signage limits of a lot(s).

6) A sign permit for a bus shelter sign may be issued where a non-conforming free standing sign exists on the lot(s).



b. Signage is only permitted on shelters in accordance with the City approved Pierce Transit Lakewood Bus Shelter Program.

1) The City may consider a programmatic permitting plan for all or

portions of the Pierce Transit Lakewood Bus Shelter Program.

2) The Sign Code Administrator may develop administrative procedures to plan and implement this Section.

D. Temporary signs in accordance with Sections 18.45.140 and 18.45.150.

E. Entrance and Exit Signs. Entrance and exit signs and/or other similarly worded signs when used for the purpose of controlling mobile traffic shall be limited to the following:

1. One (1) sign per entrance or exit.
2. Sign height shall not to exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height
3. Sign width shall not exceed sixteen(16) inches.
4. The maximum sign area shall be six (6) square feet.

F. Entrance and Exit Ways - Ingress and Egress - Gateways. The use of concrete, wood, stone, brick, steel, masonry and/or other similar materials in constructing entrance and exit ways and/or gateways shall be subject to:

1. Location to be approved by the City Manager or designee.
2. Height shall be limited to three (3) feet above natural grade, except when such structures are twenty-five (25) feet from a secondary highway or thirty-five (35) feet from a primary highway.
3. The incorporation of signs, plaques, emblems and/or other similar items in or on such structures shall be by special permission of the Code Administrator

G Landscaped berms and decorative block edged berms

1. Landscaped berms or decorative block edged berms of two (2) feet or less in height shall not be included in the height calculations of a ground sign.
2. Landscaped berms must have a height-to-width ratio of not more than one-to-three (1:3) to be consider a landscaped berm. Berms with a greater ratio shall be included in the height calculations of the sign.

Figure 18.45.130.G-1

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G Landscaped berms and decorative block edged berms

1. Landscaped berms or decorative block edged berms of two (2) feet or less in height shall not be included in the height calculations of a ground sign.
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Figure 18.45.130.G-1

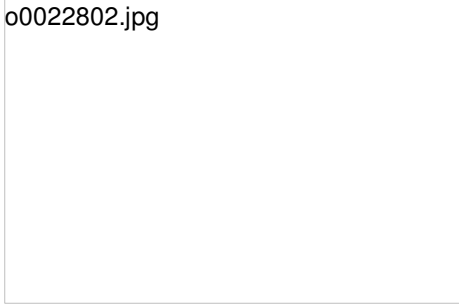
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3. As an option, a monument sign may be placed in a landscaped island enclosed by decorative landscaping block or other City approved retaining material. The maximum height of the landscaping island is two (2) feet. The landscaping island and sign height shall not exceed nine (9) feet nor the sign structure height exceed seven (7) feet above the top of the landscaping island. The required landscaping, equal to the size of the sign face, shall be enclosed within the landscaping island. The landscaping must extend above the top of the landscaping block.

Figure 18.45.130.G-2

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Section 3. That if any provision of this Chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, the remainder of the Chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

Section 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days after publication of the Ordinance Summary.

ADOPTED by the City Council this day of, 2000.

**REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA. FEBRUARY 22, 2000.**

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

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Bill Harrison, Mayor

Attest:

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Alice M. Bush, CMC/AE, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

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Daniel B. Heid, City Attorney