

THE CITY COUNCIL OF NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO. 08-164

INTRODUCED BY: Willey, McKee, Antoskiewicz

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON PART 12 PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, CHAPTER 1284 SIGNS, SECTIONS 1284.05, 1284.10 AND 1284.17, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS: Numerous changes have been made recently to Chapter 1284 in order to better define the principals and purposes for the code; and

WHEREAS: Additional amendments have been recommended by the Building Commissioner to further improve the code; and

WHEREAS: Council therefore wishes to amend the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Royalton Part 12 Planning and Zoning Code, Chapter 1284 Signs, Sections 1284.05, 1284.10 and 1284.17 as recommended by the Building Commissioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. Section 1284.05 Design Standards of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Royalton is hereby amended to hereinafter read as follows:

1284.05 DESIGN STANDARDS.

Signs, as permitted in the various zoning districts, shall be designed so as to be similar in character with regard to material, color and size to signs designed or located on the same building and on adjoining buildings in order to equalize the attention they are meant to attract and to produce an overall unified effect, and in accordance with the following standards:

(a) Sign Bands Across Multiple Store Fronts. In the case of a strip center-type business building that provides an unbroken "sign band" across multiple store fronts, the Architectural Review Board may, for reasons of aesthetics and balance, approve signs that may not comply with the requirement that a sign shall be set back three feet from the party wall of the business to which it pertains.

(b) The elements of the sign shall create an overall cohesive design, reflect simplicity, avoid visual clutter and ensure legibility. To that end, each sign shall:

- (1) Be consolidated into a minimum number of elements, whether words, symbols or graphics.
- (2) Have a simple shape.
- (3) Have appropriate contrast.
- (4) Be designed with a limited number of, and harmonious use of, color.
- (5) Be constructed with a minimum number of materials.
- (6) The number of items of information displayed shall be limited to ten items. An "item of information" includes a symbol, geometric shape, logo, word, abbreviation or number, or a grouping of letters or numbers which together convey meaning.

(c) Window signs shall have a clear background. A maximum of eight window signs is allowed.

(d) No part of a sign is allowed to extend above parapet, eave or gutter line.

~~(e) Sign Bands Across Multiple Store Fronts. In the case of a strip center type business building that provides an unbroken "sign band" across multiple store fronts, the Planning Commission may, for reasons of aesthetics and balance, approve signs that may not comply with the requirement that a sign shall be set back three feet from the party wall of the business to which it pertains.~~

(e) (f) Projecting Signs. Projecting signs may be attached to the building wall or canopy and project at an angle of approximately 90 degrees for a distance of not more than three feet. Projecting signs shall be located not less than five feet from a party wall line, and the lowest member of a projecting sign shall be at least eight feet above a public sidewalk. Signs shall not project into any dedicated right-of-way or private drive.

(f) (g) Ground Signs. Permanent ground signs shall not extend higher than seven feet above the finished grade. Ground signs are not permitted in TCD-1 through TCD-5 except as provided in Section 1284.17(s).

(g) (h) Vertical Dimensions. The lowest member of all signs, with the exception of ground signs, which project or are supported on posts, shall be not less than eight feet above the finished grade of a sidewalk or any other pedestrian way. If located over a pavement used for vehicular traffic or within 18 inches of the vertical projection of the edges of such pavement, the lowest member of the sign shall be not less than 15 feet above the finished pavement.

(h) (i) Relation to Windows, Doors and Emergency Means of Egress. Signs shall not project over or obstruct the required windows or doors of any building, shall not be attached to or obstruct a fire escape, and shall not interfere with other safety provisions as may be further regulated in the Building and Housing Code or the Fire Prevention Code of the City.

(i) (j) Relation to Traffic Devices. Signs shall not be erected so as to obstruct sight lines along any public way, traffic control lights, street name signs at intersections, street sight lines or signals at railroad

grade crossings. Signs visible from the sight lines along a street shall not contain an arrow or words such as "stop", "go", "slow", etc., and the movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination shall not resemble highway traffic signs.

(j) (~~k~~) **Corner Lots.** No sign shall be allowed within a triangle formed between points on the front and side lot lines within 35 feet from their intersection.

(k) (~~l~~) **Changeable Copy.** Signs displaying electronically changeable copy shall ~~not~~ be permitted. "Electronic changeable copy signs" are defined to include but are not limited to animated, LED, scrolling, holographic or projected words, symbols or images. ~~Allowance is made for "open" signs and time/temperature messages only.~~ Manual changeable copy signs shall be limited in size to not more than 25% of the area of a permitted pylon or ground sign.

(l) (~~m~~) **Movement Restrictions.** No sign shall employ any parts or elements or lights which revolve, rotate, whirl, spin, flash or otherwise make use of motion to attract attention. ~~, excepting any sign performing a public service function indicating time, temperature or similar service.~~ Posters, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or other similar devices for the purpose of advertising or attracting attention are prohibited.

(m) (~~n~~) **Continuity.** Signs and their placement shall be considered in relation to their surroundings and, if seen in series on a building wall, shall have continuity of design with respect to shape, materials and colors.

(n) (~~o~~) **Style and Color.** The style or design of signs shall be consistent throughout a particular building. The colors of signs shall be compatible with the color of the building facade and other existing and proposed signs.

(o) (~~p~~) **Graphics.** The lettering on a sign shall be clearly legible and in scale with the sign surface upon which it is placed.

(p) (~~q~~) **Materials.** Signs shall be constructed of materials which are of appropriate quality and durability and which are compatible with the materials of the building upon which such signs are placed.

(q) (~~r~~) **Construction Specifications.**

(1) Compliance with Building Code. All signs shall comply with the appropriate detailed provisions of the Ohio Building Code relating to construction, design, structural members and connections. Signs shall also comply with the provisions of the National Electrical Code and the additional construction standards hereinafter set forth in this section.

(2) Construction of Signs, Auxiliary Specifications.

(a) Identification and marking. Each sign hereafter erected or remodeled shall bear, in a permanent position thereon a clearly legible identification plate stating the name and address of the owner of the sign, and the person, firm or corporation responsible for its construction, erection and the date of erection.

(b) Obstruction to exits. No sign shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window or door opening used as a means of egress.

(c) Obstruction to ventilation. No sign shall be attached in any form, shape or manner which will interfere with any opening required for ventilation, except that such signs may be erected in front of and may cover transom windows when not in violation of the provision of the building or fire prevention code.

(d) Signs shall be located in such a way as to maintain horizontal and vertical clearance of all overhead electrical conductors in accordance with National Electrical Code specifications, depending on voltages concerned. In no instance shall a sign be installed closer than twelve inches, horizontally or vertically, from any conductor or public utility guy wire.

(3) Free-Standing Signs—Materials. All free-standing sign structures shall be self-supporting structures erected on and permanently attached to concrete foundations. Foundations shall be designed to carry weight and wind load of the sign, in soil which it is placed. Such structures shall be fabricated only from painted or galvanized steel, or such other materials as may provide equal strength.

(4) Electric Signs. The full number of illuminating elements thereof shall be kept in safe and working condition or immediately repaired or replaced, if faulty. Signs that are only partially illuminated shall meet all electrical requirements for that portion directly illuminated. All electric signs shall have a disconnect switch located in accordance with the provisions of the Ohio building code.

(5) Glass. When glass is used for sign letters or transparent or translucent panels, it shall be at least double strength thickness for sign areas up to and including three hundred square inches. When glass is used for sign letters or transparent or translucent panels for sign areas in excess of three hundred square inches at least one-quarter inch wire glass shall be used and the maximum span between supports shall be four feet.

(6) Plastic. Plastic shall be of thickness and shape necessary to withstand wind loadings specified in Paragraph 9 below. Proper allowance or provision shall be made in connections to provide for thermal contraction and expansion.

(7) Strength of Parapet, Wall. A parapet wall must be designed for and have sufficient strength to support any sign which is attached thereto.

(8) Supports and Braces. Metal supports or braces shall be adequate for wind loadings, specified in Section 9. Wire or cable supports shall have a safety factor of four. All metal, wire cable supports and braces and all bolts used to attach sign to bracket or brackets and signs to the supporting building or structure shall be of galvanized steel or of an equivalent material. All sign supports shall be an integral part of the sign design.

(9) Wind Loads. Wind loads shall comply with the Ohio Building Code.

(10) Sign Anchoring. Signs shall be anchored to prevent any lateral movement that would cause wear on supporting members or connections. No sign shall be suspended by chains or other devices that

will allow the sign to swing due to wind action, unless specifically designed by means of bearings or other methods approved, to allow for movement.

(r) (s) Landscaping requirements for allowed ground signs are as follows:

- (1) Salt or drought-resistant plants shall be stressed for inclusion into project
 - (2) Plant material that displays year-round interest shall be used around the base of the sign.
 - (3) Plant material shall be designed to screen light fixtures from view.
 - (4) Whenever possible, landscaping should extend around all four sides of permissible ground signs.
 - (5) Within TCD-1 through TCD-5, where ground signs are permitted, landscaping must be irrigated.
- (s) (t) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, no sign shall be subject to any limitation based on the content of the message contained on such sign.

Section 2. Section 1284.10 Location and Supplementary Area Regulations for Signs in Business Districts, Paragraph (h) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Royalton is hereby amended to hereinafter read as follows:

1284.10

(h) Other temporary signs **including but not limited to temporary banners** announcing sales, new products or special business events may be permitted in addition to the maximum gross area of a permanent business sign, and such signs may be placed on the inside of windows and doors and on the exterior of the building, provided that the gross area of all the temporary signs does not exceed twenty percent of the maximum area of permanent signs permitted for each establishment and provided that such temporary signs are not displayed more than **ninety** ~~thirty~~ consecutive days.

Section 3. Section 1284.17 Prohibited Signs, Paragraph (m) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Royalton is hereby amended to hereinafter read as follows:

1284.17

(m) Flashing, animated, rotating or moving signs ~~(with the exception of time, date and temperature information signs);~~

Section 4. Chapter 1284 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Royalton is hereby amended as provided for herein and all other provisions of Chapter 1284 shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall supersede all previously adopted Ordinances in direct conflict herewith.

Section 6. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 7. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the city, and for the further reason that Council has determined that it is immediately necessary to better define the principals and purposes of the sign code.

THEREFORE, provided this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

/s/ Vincent A. Gentile
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: /s/ Robert A. Stefanik
MAYOR

DATE PASSED: July 15, 2008

DATE APPROVED: July 16, 2008

ATTEST: /s/ Laura J. Haller
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

First reading suspended
Second reading suspended
Third reading July 15, 2008
Amended July 15, 2008

YEAS: Gentile, Nickell, Petrusky, Willey,
McKee, Antoskiewicz, Kasaris

NAYS: none