

1 **“Sec. 20.5-4 Words Defined.**

2
3 *Activated sign.* Any sign which contains or uses for illumination any light, lighting device or
4 lights which change color, flash or alternate, or change appearance of said sign or any part
5 thereof automatically, except electronic message signs; and sign which contains moving parts as
6 part of its normal operation, except revolving signs, shall be considered an activated sign.
7 Additionally, a sign which depicts or contains a copy which moves or appears to be moving.
8

9 *Changeable copy sign.* Any framed sign, illuminated or not, which is principally devoted to, and
10 designed for change or replacement of sign face or lettering or graphics, including electronic
11 message signs., ~~including electronic controlled public service time, temperature and date signs,~~
12 ~~message centers or reader boards where different copy changes are shown on the same lamp~~
13 ~~bank.~~
14

15 *Change of use.* When the principal use of all or part of a structure and/or property is altered from
16 one use to another or altered from a vacant structure or property to a new use, as provided for in
17 Chapter 27.
18

19 *Commercial district.* A commercial district is any property which is zoned CN, CG, YC-1, YC-3,
20 YC-5, YC-6, YC-7, M-AP-1, M-AP-2, M-AP-3, M-AP-4, CD-1, CD-2, CD-3, CBD-1, CBD-2,
21 PD and PD-A (approved primarily for commercial uses), CI, U-C and any site plan controlled
22 districts approved primarily for any of the aforementioned districts.
23

24 *Electronic message sign.* A sign emitting an illuminated message, image or design created
25 electronically by any light source, LED (light emitting diodes), bare electric bulbs, luminous
26 tubes, fiber optics, or any other combination of light sources creating a message. Maximum
27 lighting levels shall be limited to two (2) foot candles of illumination measured twenty-five (25)
28 feet from the base of the sign. The electronic message center and associated copy shall not
29 change, flash or employ motion more than once in a twenty-four (24) hour period.
30

31 *Freestanding sign.* Those signs that are supported by structures or supports in or upon the
32 ground and independent of the support of any building.
33

34 *Sign face.* The part of the sign that is or can be used to identify, display, advertise, communicate
35 information, or for visual representation which attracts or intends to attract the attention of the
36 public for any purpose.
37

38 *Sign structure.* Any structure which is designed specifically for the purpose of supporting a sign,
39 has supported or is capable of supporting a sign. This definition shall include any decorative
40 covers, braces, wires, supports or components attached to or placed around the Sign structure.
41

42
43 *Sign surface area.* The surface area of a sign shall be computed for the entire area within the
44 periphery of a rectangular geometric form, or combination of rectangular geometric forms,
45 comprising all of the display area of the sign and including all of the elements of the matter
46 displayed, but not including structural elements of the sign bearing no advertising matter. The
47 surface area of the sign shall be measured from the outside edges of the sign or the sign frame,
48 whichever is greater. The sign area shall include the total of a single side of a sign surface upon
49 which copy could be placed.
50

1 Sign surface area. The surface area of a sign shall be computed for the entire area within the
2 periphery of a rectangular geometric form, or combination of rectangular geometric forms,
3 comprising all of the display area of the sign and including all of the elements of the matter
4 displayed, but not including structural elements of the sign bearing no advertising matter. The
5 surface area of the sign shall be measured from the outside edges of the sign or the sign frame,
6 whichever is greater. The sign area shall include the total of a single side of a sign surface upon
7 which copy could be placed. The total area of each sign face which may be used to display copy,
8 including background, but not including the frame and structural supporting elements. The
9 surface area of a sign shall be computed for the entire area within the periphery of a geometric
10 form, or combination of geometric forms. The surface area of the sign shall be measured from
11 the outside edges of the sign or the sign frame, whichever is greater. The sign area shall include
12 the total of a single side of a sign surface upon which copy could be placed. Where a sign is
13 composed of individual letters, characters or symbols applied directly to a building, canopy,
14 marquee, mansard, fascia, façade, parapet, awning, or wall of fence, the area of the sign shall be
15 the smallest geometric shape which will enclose all of the letters, characters or symbols. The
16 area of a double-faced sign shall be the total area of each sign face. (See Diagram 1)”
17

18
19
20 **Section 3.** That Section 20.5-7 of the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances be amended by
21 deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language as follows:

22 **“Sec. 20.5-7 Allowable Signs; permits; when not required.**

- 23
24
25 (a) Allowable Signs exempt from permit requirements, unless otherwise stated:
- 26
27 (1) Government signs. No permit is required if a government sign is necessary for the
28 purposes of public health and safety. Otherwise a government sign must comply with
29 requirements of this chapter.
- 30
31 (11) Window signs which comprise, in aggregate, twenty five (25) percent of the total
32 window area or less. One (1) Window sign, not to exceed a total of five (5) square feet,
33 shall be allowed for each establishment with a main door entrance facing a public street.
- 34
35 (17) One (1) temporary on-site banner shall be allowed provided that all other requirements of
36 this chapter are met. One (1) temporary banner or pennant may be displayed for a
37 period not to exceed thirty (30) consecutive calendar days, nor more than sixty (60) days
38 in a single year, provided:
- 39 (i) no such banner or pennant may be displayed at a height of more than 15 feet;
40 (ii) the banner or pennant shall be displayed only in non-residential zoning
41 districts, as well as within non-residential designated areas of planned
42 development districts;
43 (iii) the banner or pennant shall be attached to the building in a manner as
44 provided for in Chapter 5 of the City Code and shall not be affixed to vehicles or
45 utility poles except as provided for in Chapter 22 of the City Code;
46 (iv) the banner or pennant shall be made of mylar material; and
47 (v) the banner or pennant shall be maintained in a state of good repair, and
48 pennants or banners that are frayed, torn or otherwise in disrepair are prohibited.
49 A permit is required prior to the installation of any temporary pennant or banner.
50

1 (19) A permit is not required to change or replace the advertising copy, message or sign face
2 on changeable copy sign or electronic message sign. Provided, however, that said change
3 or replacement of advertising copy, message or sign face does not enlarge or increase the
4 sign surface area nor adversely affect the original design integrity. If, in order to change
5 or replace the advertising copy, message or sign face, the supporting sign structure must
6 be unfastened, loosened or removed, then and in that case, a sign permit shall be required.
7 Copy cannot be replaced such that the sign changes from an on-site sign to an off-site
8 sign. Copy cannot change more than once in a twenty-four (24) hour period unless
9 otherwise allowed in the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances or for a Government sign as
10 necessary for the public health and safety.

11
12
13 (20) One (1) address sign of no more than two (2) square feet of total sign face area in
14 residential zoning districts and no more than three (3) square feet of total sign face area in
15 office, commercial or industrial zoning districts shall be allowed. The square footage for
16 the address sign shall be allowed in addition to the total Sign surface area allowed for
17 Freestanding and/or Building signs.”

18
19 **Section 4.** That Section 20.5-13 of the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances be amended
20 by repealing Section 20.5-13 (C)(1) in its entirety and replacing it by adding the underlined
21 language as follows:

22
23 “(1) *Regulations for Freestanding Signs.* Freestanding signs shall be allowed in office,
24 commercial and industrial districts, provided the following specific regulations are met, in
25 addition to the general regulations stated above.

26
27 a. Number: One (1) Freestanding sign is permitted for each parcel having street
28 frontage.

29
30 i. If a parcel is a corner lot, as defined in 27-100 (d)(1), then one (1)
31 additional Freestanding sign is permitted to be located adjacent to the second
32 street frontage provided that the second street frontage is a minimum of three
33 hundred (300) feet of continuous, lineal public street frontage; or

34
35 ii. Three hundred (300) feet, one (1) additional Freestanding sign is permitted
36 for each additional three hundred (300) feet of continuous, lineal street frontage.

37
38 b. Placement (See Diagram 2):

39
40 i. The placement and orientation of a Freestanding sign, as permitted by this
41 section, shall be limited to arterial and/or collector street roadways (as identified
42 in the City of Tampa Department of Public Works “Roadway Functional
43 Classification System”), unless either of the following situations exist:

44
45 1. The zoning lot has street frontage only on local street, or

46
47 2. The zoning lot has street frontage on a local street where the entire
48 block face on the local street, on both sides of the local street, has no
49 residentially zoned parcels.

1 ii. Freestanding signs shall be placed no closer than one hundred fifty (150)
2 feet apart on the same parcel.

3
4 c. Size:

5
6 i. The allowable sign area for a Freestanding sign shall be one (1) square
7 foot of Sign surface area for each lineal foot of street frontage on an abutting
8 public street as follows:

9
10

<u>Feet of Frontage</u>	<u>Sign Surface Area</u>
<u>< 20 feet</u>	<u>20 feet per Sign Face</u>
<u>20 feet to 50 feet</u>	<u>20 feet to 50 feet per Sign Face, one foot</u> <u>per foot of street frontage</u>
<u>> 50 feet</u>	<u>50 feet maximum, per Sign Face</u>

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18 ii. If a parcel is entitled to more than one (1) Freestanding sign under this
19 section, then two (2) or more allowable Freestanding signs may be combined into
20 a single Freestanding sign, not to exceed a maximum allowable Sign surface area
21 of one hundred (100) square feet per Sign face.

22 iii. The allowable Sign surface area shall not include any decorative
23 elements surrounding the Sign face. However the decorative elements
24 shall not protrude more than three (3) feet beyond the Sign face.

25
26
27 d. Height: The maximum height of a Freestanding sign at the five (5) foot
28 setback line shall be ten (10) feet measured from the crown of the roadway
29 on which the parcel has access to that portion of the Freestanding sign
30 closest to the right-of-way at the leading edge of the Freestanding sign.
31 For every one (1) foot of additional setback, the height of the Freestanding
32 sign may be increased by one (1) foot to a maximum height of twenty (20)
33 feet. In no event may the Freestanding sign interfere with the visibility
34 triangle as provided in Section 27-240 of the City Code.

35
36 e. Design: The Sign face shall be supported by a Sign structure which shall
37 consist of a single pier or pillar with a minimum diameter or horizontal
38 dimension of thirty (30) inches or, alternatively, by two piers or pillars,
39 each with a minimum diameter or horizontal dimension of twelve (12)
40 inches. The Sign structure shall have materials and architectural details
41 consistent with the principal building it serves or in a manner shown in Diagram 3 and
42 4 below.”

43
44 **Section 5.** That Section 20.5-13 of the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances be amended
45 by repealing Section 20.5-13 (C)(2) in its entirety and replacing it by adding the underlined
46 language as follows:

47
48 “(2) Regulations for Building signs. Building signs shall be allowed in office, commercial
49 and industrial districts, provided the following specific regulations are met, in addition to the
50 general regulations stated above:

1 a. Number:

2
3 i. Single Occupancy Parcels. One (1) Building sign shall be permitted for
4 each single-occupancy parcel having street frontage. Corner parcels or double-
5 frontage parcels shall be allowed one (1) sign per street frontage.

6
7 ii. Multi-Occupancy Parcels. One (1) Building sign shall be permitted for
8 each establishment with a main door entrance which faces a public street in a
9 multiple-occupancy parcel. Establishments located at a corner shall be allowed
10 one (1) wall sign for each side of the establishment which faces a public street.
11 Building signs displayed on a multi-occupancy parcel shall be uniformly
12 designed.

13
14 b. Size: The maximum allowable Sign surface area for each Building sign shall
15 be one and one-quarter (1 ¼) square feet per linear foot of building frontage
16 abutting
17 public street, excluding parking garages that abut a public street.

18
19 c. Design:

20
21 i. One (1) Projecting sign may be substituted for each Building sign,
22 provided that the Sign surface area of the Projecting sign shall not exceed the
23 maximum allowable display area of the Building sign which the projecting sign
24 replaces.

25
26 ii. Building signs shall not project beyond the roofline or side walls of the
27 establishment to which the sign is attached, nor shall the Building sign project
28 more than twelve (12) inches out from the wall to which it is attached.

29
30 iii. Building signs may contain a six (6) inch decorative border which shall
31 not be counted as part of the Sign surface area calculation.

32
33 d. Awning Signs: Copy contained on an awning attached to a building shall be
34 considered a Building sign for purposes of calculating the maximum allowable Sign surface
35 area. The awning upon which the copy is displayed must be a single color, made of opaque
36 materials for the portion of the awning which is not used as the Sign surface area. Down lighting
37 shall be encouraged.”

38
39
40
41 **Section 6.** That Section 20.5-16 of the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances be repealed in
42 its entirety and replaced by adding the underlined language as follows:

43
44 **“Sec. 20.5-16 Nonconforming Signs**

45
46 (1) Any sign which did not conform to the City of Tampa Sign Code on the day before
47 the adoption of the amendments to this City of Tampa Sign Code, _____, 2006, and which
48 should have been removed or modified under prior law is an illegal nonconforming sign.

1 (2) Unless otherwise subject to the provisions of Section 70.20 F.S. or subject to the
2 provisions of Section 20.5-11, any sign made nonconforming by this Sign Code shall be
3 considered a nonconforming sign and shall be made to conform to this Sign Code as provided for
4 herein. In connection with any billboard sign, if any conflict exists between the terms of this
5 section and section 20.5-11 of this City of Tampa Sign Code, then Section 20.5-11 shall control.
6

7 (3) A nonconforming sign may not be enlarged or altered in a way which increases its
8 degree of nonconformity, but any sign or portion thereof may be altered to decrease its degree of
9 nonconformity, except as provided for herein.
10

11 (4) A nonconforming sign shall not be structurally altered to prolong the life of the
12 sign. Reasonable repair and maintenance of nonconforming signs, including change of copy, is
13 permitted, as provided for herein. Reasonable repair and maintenance means the work necessary
14 to keep the sign, including the Sign Structure, in a good state of repair, but does not include
15 replacement of materials in the Sign Structure. Reasonable repair does not include:

- 16 a. any modification that changes the structure, or type of structure, such as
17 conversion of a wooden sign structure to a metal sign structure;
- 18 b. any modification, including the addition of embellishments, that changes
19 the sign area or the height above ground level;
- 20 c. any modification that enhances the visibility of the sign's copy, or the
21 period of time that the copy is visible;
- 22 d. any modification that adds changeable faces; or
- 23 e. any modification that adds artificial lighting, or changes the existing
24 lighting such that illumination is increased.

25
26 (5) Should a nonconforming sign become damaged, destroyed or deteriorated by any
27 means to the extent that it requires more than reasonable repair and maintenance, as defined in
28 subsection (d) above, then the sign shall not be reconstructed except in compliance with the Sign
29 Code. In the event that a nonconforming sign was approved as part of a site plan zoning
30 approval, then the nonconforming sign may be reconstructed in accordance with the site plan
31 zoning approval.
32

33 (6) Should a nonconforming sign be moved for any reason, it shall thereafter conform
34 to the regulations for the district in which it is located after it is moved.
35

36 (7) A nonconforming sign shall be considered an abandoned sign and shall be removed
37 if either the sign or the sign structure has not been used, or if the parcel or parcels upon which
38 the Sign is located becomes vacant or unoccupied for a period of ninety (90) consecutive
39 calendar days or more, unless the parcel or parcels upon which the Sign is located undergo a
40 Change of Use, as defined herein.
41

42 (8) If the parcel or parcels upon which the non-conforming sign is located undergoes a
43 Change of Use, as defined herein, then any freestanding sign upon the parcel or parcels must
44 comply with the current Sign Code unless it can be demonstrated the freestanding sign or signs
45 comply with current wind-load standards as set forth in Chapter 5 of this Code of Ordinances.
46

47 (9) When the City acquires, or is in the process of acquiring property, pursuant to its
48 power of eminent domain, and the acquisition would result in the creation of a nonconformity to
49 the size or location of signs, the size and location of the sign shall not be considered
50 nonconforming.

1 (10) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section relating to non-conforming
2 signs, non-conforming Window signs must come into conformance with this Sign Code within
3 one (1) year of the adoption of this Sign Code.”
4

5 **Section 7.** That all ordinances and conflicts herewith are appealed to the extent of any
6 conflict.

7 **Section 8.** That if any part of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid
8 by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions at the City of Tampa’s election
9 shall remain in full force and effect.
10

11 **Section 9.** That this ordinance shall take effect within thirty (30) days upon becoming a
12 law.
13

14
15 PASSED AND ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAMPA,
16 FLORIDA, ON _____.
17

18 ATTEST:
19

20
21
22 _____
23 CHAIRMAN\CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM
24 CITY COUNCIL
25

26 _____
27 CITY CLERK\DEPUTY CITY CLERK
28

29 APPROVED BY ME ON _____
30

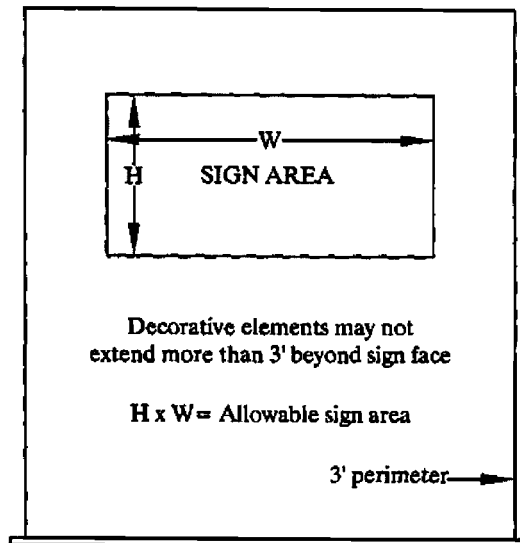
31
32 _____
33 PAM IORIO, MAYOR
34
35
36

37 PREPARED BY AND APPROVED
38 AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:
39

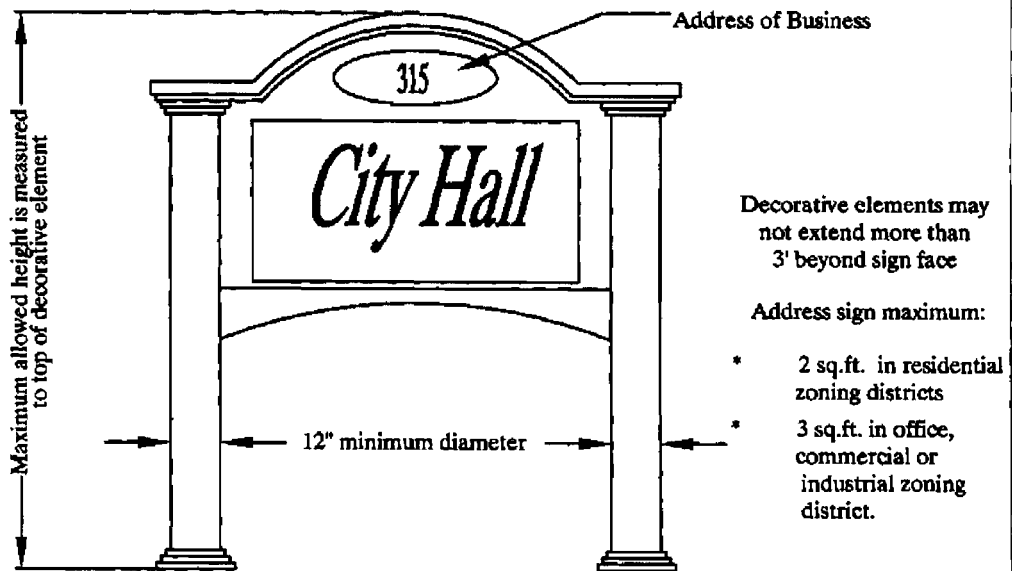
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41 E/S _____
42 JULIA MANDELL COLE
43 ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
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46 K:\JColeFiles\Resolutions and Ordinances\Ord Amending Ch 20.5 - 9-25-06
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Freestanding Sign Structure Design



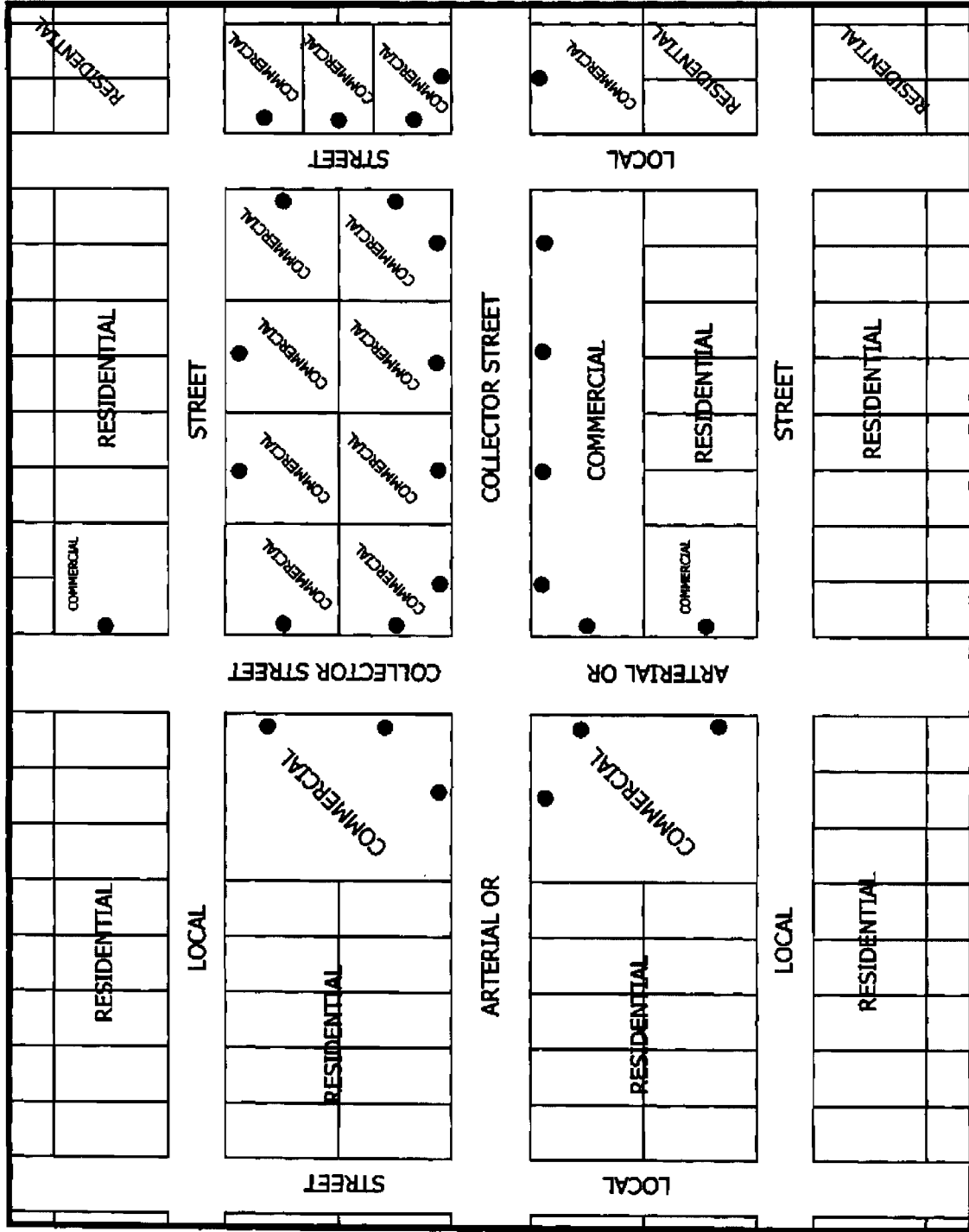
Two Pier or Pillar Sign



Sign structure must have materials and architectural details consistent with the principal structure.

Free Standing Sign Placement

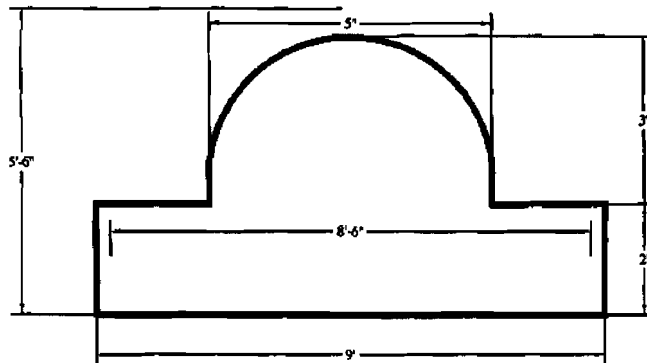
● - Possible Sign Locations



*Placement & Orientation of a free standing sign shall be limited to arterial and/or collector streets unless either of the following situations exists:

1. The zoning lot has frontage only on a local street, OR
2. The zoning lot has frontage on a local street where the entire block faces a local street, on both sides of the local street, has no residentially zoned parcels.

SIGN SURFACE AREA ILUSTRATION

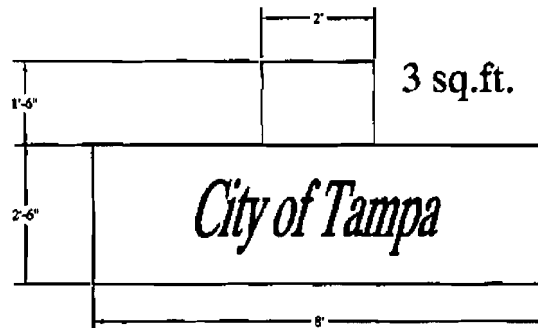


15sq.ft.

TOTAL
32sq.ft.

17sq.ft.

* Sign surface area does not include the frame or structural supporting elements.



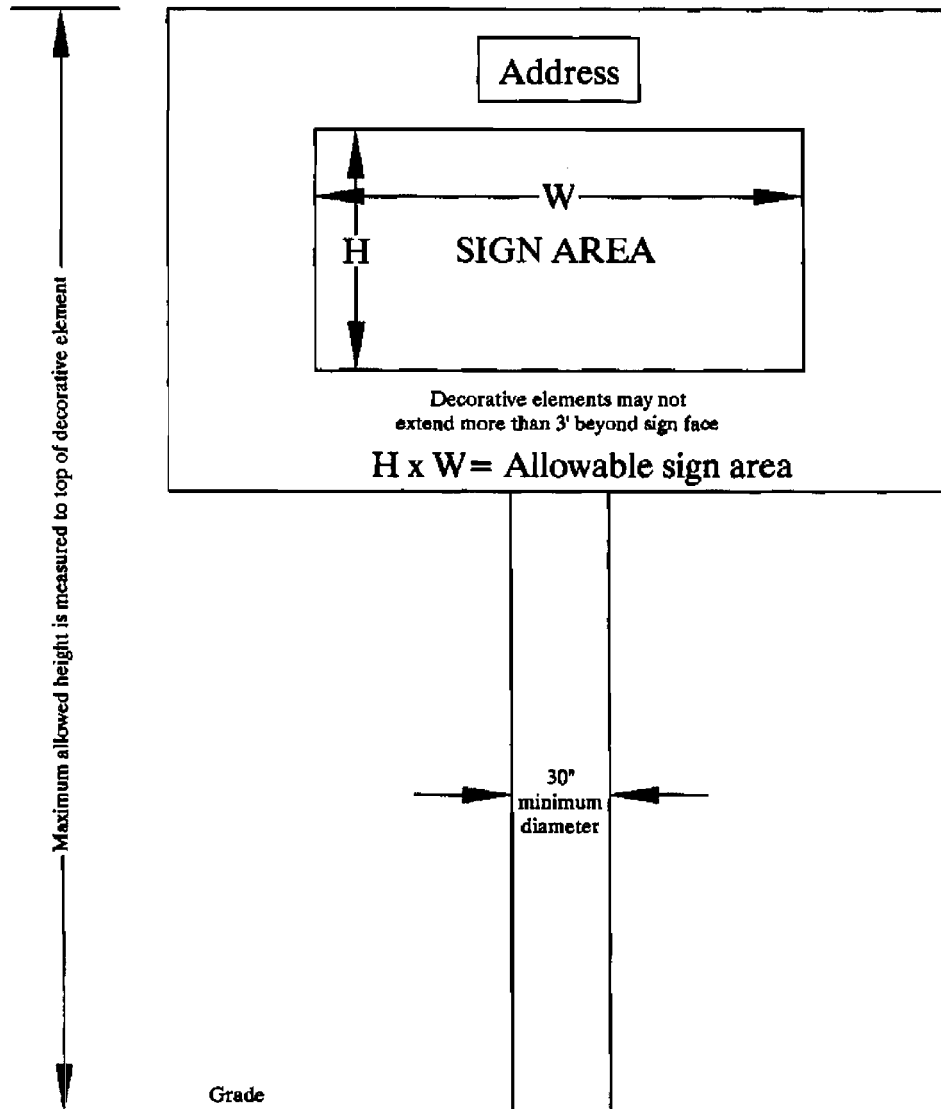
3 sq.ft.

TOTAL 23 sq.ft.

20sq.ft.

* Where sign is composed of individual letters, characters or symbols the area of the sign shall be the smallest geometric shape which will enclose all of the letters, characters or symbols.

SINGLE PIER OR PILLAR SIGN



- Sign structure must have materials and architectural details consistent with the principal structure.
- Address sign shall not exceed 2sq.ft. in a residential zoning district and shall not exceed 3 sq.ft. in an office, commercial or industrial zoning district.