

Submitted by:  
Prepared by: Planning Department  
For reading: May 31, 2005

CLERK'S OFFICE  
**AMENDED AND APPROVED**  
Date: 6-14-05

Anchorage, Alaska  
AO 2005-61(S)

1 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 21.47  
2 REGARDING SIGN STANDARDS, MAXIMUM LUMINANCE STANDARDS AND  
3 REGULATIONS, NONCONFORMING INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED SIGNS,  
4 CHANGEABLE COPY INTERVAL FOR CERTAIN NON-RESIDENTIAL SIGNS,  
5 MEASUREMENT STANDARDS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL  
6 ZONING DISTRICTS, AND OTHER MINOR REVISIONS TO CLARIFY CODE  
7 PROVISIONS.

8  
9 THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

10  
11  
12 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.020 is hereby amended to read as follows  
13 *(the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore is not set out):*

14  
15 **21.47.20** **Application of this chapter.**

16  
17 \*\*\* \*\*

18  
19 C. The following signs and displays are exempted from this chapter:

20 \*\*\* \*\*

21 **14. Political signs: In all residential zones for a period beginning 45 days**  
22 **before and ending 10 days after any local, state or federal general,**  
23 **primary or special election, candidate and issue signs no larger than 8**  
24 **square feet. In all other zoning districts, for a period beginning 45 days**  
25 **before and ending 10 days after any local, state or federal general,**  
26 **primary or special election, candidate and issue signs no larger than 32**  
27 **square feet.**

28  
29 (AO No. 2003-62(S-1), § 1, 10-1-03)

30  
31 **Section 2 [1].** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.030A. is hereby amended to read as  
32 follows *(the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore is not set out):*

33  
34 **21.47.030** **Computations, rules of measurement, and definitions.**

35  
36 The following regulations shall control the computation and measurement of sign area, sign  
37 height, building frontage and public street frontage:

1  
2 A. Determining sign area or dimension of signs.

3  
4 \*\*\* \*\*

- 5 4. For freestanding and projecting signs the sign area shall be computed by the  
6 measurement of one of the faces when two display faces are joined, are  
7 parallel, or are within 30 degrees of being parallel to each other and are part  
8 of the same sign structure. For any sign that has two display surfaces that do  
9 not comply with the above regulation, or has more than two display surfaces  
10 then each surface shall be included when determining the area of the sign.

11  
12 In determining the area of freestanding signs the following shall be exempted  
13 from being considered as part of the maximum permitted area:

14  
15 \*\*\* \*\*

- 16 b. The portion of a solid sign base or other sign support, up to a maximum  
17 height of four feet that [i] is at least 50 percent screened by landscaping  
18 ~~at the time of installation;~~ and [ii. COMPLIES WITH THE  
19 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION "D" BELOW.]  
20  
21 c. The air space under a freestanding sign between supporting posts, other air  
22 space between a projecting sign and the wall to which it is attached (See  
23 Figure 1).

24  
25 [D. ADDITIONAL BASE AREA, FRAMING OR STRUCTURAL  
26 SUPPORTS OR OTHER PORTIONS OF THE SIGN WHEN SUCH  
27 AREAS ARE DETERMINED TO BE:

- 28 i. CONSTRUCTED AND DESIGNED WITH MATERIALS WHICH  
29 ARE SIMILAR TO, OR COMPATIBLE WITH, THE  
30 ARCHITECTURE OF THE BUILDING OR OTHER SITE  
31 FEATURES;  
32 ii. NOT INTENDED OR DESIGNED TO INCLUDE MESSAGES;  
33 AND  
34 iii. EXCLUSIVE OF COLORS, TRADEMARKS, OR ANY OTHER  
35 DECORATIVE DESIGN FEATURES THAT ARE PRIMARILY  
36 INTENDED TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, RATHER THAN BE  
37 UNOBTRUSIVE OR COMPATIBLE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE  
38 OF THE BUILDING OR OTHER SITE FEATURES.]

39  
40 All other exemptions to the area of a sign may only be approved by the urban  
41 design commission.

- 42  
43 5. Except as provided in schedule 21.47.040 for non-residential uses located  
44 within residential zoning districts, [T]the height of a freestanding sign shall  
45 be measured from the elevation of the edge of the public right-of-way  
46 immediately adjacent to, or nearest the sign structure, to the highest point of  
47 the sign, or decorative features.

\*\*\* \*\*

(AO No. 2003-62(S-1), § 1, 10-1-03)

**Section 3 [2]:** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.040 is hereby amended as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**21.47.040      Signs in residential districts (R-1, R-1A, R-2A, R-2D, R-2M, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-5A, R-6, R-7, R-8, R-9, R-10, R-11<sup>(a)</sup>, D-2 AND D-3).**

<sup>(a)</sup>For the R-11 District, the standards in this section chapter only apply to residential parcels in the R-11 District.

Signs for all residential and nonresidential uses in residential districts shall comply with the standards set forth in this section.

\*\*\* \*\*

B. Supplemental standards for all changeable copy [FREESTANDING] signs.

1. Freestanding signs for permitted non-residential uses may have up to 100 percent of the sign area devoted to changeable copy, except as provided in subsection 3.

[CHANGEABLE COPY. FREESTANDING SIGNS FOR PERMITTED NON-RESIDENTIAL USES MAY HAVE UP TO 100 PERCENT OF THE PERMITTED SIGN AREA SET FORTH IN SCHEDULE 21.47.040 DEVOTED TO CHANGEABLE COPY.

- a. CHANGEABLE COPY MAY ONLY BE CHANGED MANUALLY. ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY IS PROHIBITED.
- b. ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY IS PERMITTED ON PARCELS THAT ARE TEN ACRES OR GREATER BORDERING ON A CLASS II STREET HAVING A MINIMUM OF 500 FEET OF FRONTAGE. ELECTRONIC COPY CANNOT BE CHANGED MORE THAN ONCE PER DAY.
- c. CHANGEABLE COPY IS NOT PERMITTED TO BE PART OF A SIGN THAT IS ON A BUILDING OR PARCEL THAT IS USED FOR ANY RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.]

2. Electronic changeable copy is prohibited for all building signs and is prohibited for freestanding signs except as provided in subsection 3.

3. Electronic changeable copy is permitted for freestanding and building signs on parcels that are nine ten acres or greater with a minimum of 500 feet of frontage on a street of Class II or greater classification in the official streets and highways plan. Electronic changeable copy cannot be changed more than ~~four~~ **twelve** times once per day, nor exceed 50 percent of the sign area. **One Electronic changeable freestanding building signs are permitted up to a maximum of**

**80% of the actual sign area. One electronic changeable copy building sign per 300 linear feet of frontage is permitted up to a maximum size of 20 square feet per sign.**

\*\*\* \*\*

<b>Schedule 21.47.040</b>				
<b>Signs in the Residential Districts (R-1, R-1A, R-2A, R-2D, R-2M, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-5A, R-6, R-7, R-8, R-9, R-10, R-11<sup>(b)</sup>, D-2, and D-3)</b>				
Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Area Per Sign	Standards for Freestanding signs	
			Maximum Height	Minimum Setback from ROW
<b>(A) Signs for Each Single Family Dwelling, Duplex, or Townhomes:</b>				
1. Permanent Signs				
a. Building signplates	1 per dwelling unit	2 sq. ft <sup>(c)</sup>		
b. Freestanding signs	1 per building	2 sq. ft. <sup>(c)</sup>		
* * *			* * *	
<b>(C) Permitted Non-residential Uses</b>				
1. Permanent Signs				
* * *			* * *	
c. Freestanding Signs	1 per 500 feet of public street frontage	40 sq ft <sup>(d)</sup> <sup>(e)</sup>	8 ft <sup>(e)</sup>	10 ft
* * *			* * *	
* * *			* * *	
<sup>(b)</sup> The standards in this section chapter only apply to residential parcels in the R-11 district.				
* * *			* * *	
<sup>(c)</sup> Sign height is measured from the natural grade at the base of the sign.				
<sup>(d)</sup> For parcels larger than one acre located within the R-6, R-7, R-8, R-9, R-10, and R-11 <sup>(b)</sup> residential zoning districts, one freestanding sign no greater than 8 square feet shall be permitted.				

\*\*\* \*\*

**D. Temporary signs.**

1. *For single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, or townhomes:* Two temporary signs are permitted at any given time on any one parcel. These temporary signs may be displayed for an unspecified amount of time provided these signs do not contain any commercial messages except for the sale or leasing of the property on which the sign is located.
2. *For multiple-family developments and nonresidential uses:* Two (2) temporary freestanding signs that do not exceed six (6) square feet each may be erected for an unspecified time.
3. *Vacant parcels.* The following signs are permitted for an unspecified period of time:

- 1  
2 a. For a parcel less than one acre, one temporary sign is permitted up to a  
3 maximum of 16 square feet.  
4  
5 b. For a parcel greater than one acre, one temporary sign is permitted up to 32  
6 square feet. A parcel that also has frontage on a second public street is  
7 entitled to a second sign, not to exceed 32 square feet, provided that the  
8 length of the frontage along the second public street is a minimum of 300  
9 feet.

10  
11 Such signs may not be used to display commercial messages referring to products or  
12 services that are unrelated to current or pending activities on or uses of the property.

13  
14 (AO No. 2003-62(S-1), § 1, 10-1-03)

15  
16 **Section 4 [3].** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.050 is amended to read as follows (*the*  
17 *remainder of the section is not affected and therefore is not set out*):

18  
19 **21.47.050 Signs in the Public Lands and Institutions (PLI) District, the Residential**  
20 **Office (R-O) District, and the Watershed (W) District.**

21  
22 Signs in the Public Lands and Institutions (PLI) District, the Residential-Office (R-O) District,  
23 and the Watershed (W) District shall conform to the standards set forth in this section.

24 \*\*\* \*\*

25  
26 C. *Supplemental Standards for freestanding signs*

27 1. *Number of freestanding signs allowed.*

- 28 a. Lots with less than 300 lineal feet of frontage on any one street may have  
29 only one freestanding sign per that street frontage.  
30 b. Lots with 300 or more lineal feet of frontage on any one street may have  
31 two freestanding signs per that street frontage.

32 \*\*\* \*\*

33  
34 [3. CHANGEABLE COPY. FREESTANDING SIGNS MAY HAVE UP TO 30  
35 PERCENT OF THE PERMITTED SIGN AREA SET FORTH IN  
36 SCHEDULE 21.47.050.B DEVOTED TO CHANGEABLE COPY.

- 37 a. CHANGEABLE COPY MAY ONLY BE CHANGED MANUALLY,  
38 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, IF THE BUSINESS OR INSTITUTION  
39 HAS FRONTAGE ON A CLASS II OR GREATER STREET, THE  
40 COPY MAY BE CHANGED ELECTRONICALLY OR  
41 MECHANICALLY AS WELL AS MANUALLY.  
42 b. THE CHANGEABLE COPY WHICH IS CHANGED  
43 ELECTRONICALLY OR MECHANICALLY, SHALL NOT BE  
44 CHANGED MORE THAN ONE TIME PER 20 SECOND PERIOD.]

45  
46 D. *Supplemental standards for all changeable copy signs.*  
47

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

1. Freestanding signs may have up to 30 percent of the actual sign area devoted to changeable copy. Building signs and projecting signs may have up to 30 percent of the actual sign area or 120 square feet, whichever is less, devoted to changeable copy.
2. Changeable copy may only be changed manually, provided, however, if the business or institution has frontage on a street of Class II or greater classification in the official streets and highways plan, the copy may be changed electronically or mechanically as well as manually.
3. Copy which is changed electronically or mechanically shall not be changed more than one time per 20-second period, however if the business or institution has frontage on a street of Class II or greater classification in the official streets and highways plan, the changeable copy shall not change more than one time per three seconds.

E [D]. *Instructional signs.* Signs that comply with the definition of "instructional sign" shall be permitted as needed provided such signs comply with the following:

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

F [E]. *Temporary signs.* Temporary signs in the PLI, R-O, and W Districts are permitted pursuant to Schedule 21.47.050E. as set forth below:

<i>Schedule 21.47.050 E</i> <i>Temporary Signs in the PLI, R-O, and W Districts</i>	
	<i>Requirement</i>
Maximum Area	100 square feet (32 square feet rigid material)
Maximum Number of Signs Per Principal Use	1
Maximum Number of Display Days	60 <sup>(a)</sup>
Lighting	Internally illuminated or lighted signs are prohibited.
Motion	Animation or flashing is prohibited
Maximum Height (Freestanding)	Same as permanent signs
Yards	Same as permanent signs
<sup>(a)</sup> For temporary signs involving the sale, rent, or lease of the property on which the sign is located, the time limit is unlimited.	

21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

G [F]. *Display of commercial flags.* In the PLI, R-O, and W Districts, a maximum of three flagpoles may be erected on any parcel provided that:

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

H [G]. *Unified sign plan:* To recognize and accommodate irregular site shapes (which are typically characterized by narrow lot frontages resulting in some buildings with extraordinarily large setbacks and limited visibility to a public street) multiple contiguous lots and/or tracts may be considered as a single site for the purposes of determining the size, number, and placement of freestanding signs permitted pursuant

to this chapter. Solely for the purposes of this section:

\*\*\* \*\*

(AO No. 2003-62(S-1), § 1, 10-1-03)

**Section 5 [4].** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.060 is hereby amended to read as follows  
(the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore is not set out):

**21.47.060      Signs in the nonresidential districts (B-1A, B-1B, B-2A, B-2B, B-2C, B-3, B-4, I-1, I-2, I-3, MC, MI, R-11<sup>(a)</sup> AND T).**

Signs in the nonresidential districts (B-1A, B-1B, B-2A, B-2B, B-2C, B-3, B-4, I-1, I-2, I-3, MC, MI, R-11(a) and T) shall conform to the standards set forth in this section.

<sup>(a)</sup>For the R-11 District, the standards in this section chapter only apply to non-residential parcels in the R-11 District.

\*\*\* \*\*

C. *Supplemental standards for freestanding signs.*

1. *Number of freestanding signs allowed.*

- a. Lots with less than 300 lineal feet of frontage on any one street may have only one freestanding sign per that street frontage.

[NO REVISIONS TO TABLE INSET]

- b. Lots with 300 or more lineal feet of frontage on any one street may have two freestanding signs per that street frontage.
- c. No more than two freestanding signs are allowed along any one frontage. Freestanding signs must be separated by a minimum distance of 150 feet. On corner lots, the property frontage on both streets shall be considered when measuring the separation.

2 [3]. *Wrapping structural steel supports.*

- a. Signs that are eight feet or less in height with exposed structural steel support: The structural steel supports shall have a covering that totals at least four times the width of the structural steel at its widest point and is parallel to the sign face.
- b. Signs that are greater than eight feet in height but less than 15 feet in height: All structural steel supports shall have coverings that collectively total at least 33 percent of the width of the sign at its widest point and are parallel to the sign face.
- c. Signs 15 feet or greater in height that have a single structural steel support: The structural steel support shall have a covering that totals at least 25 percent of the width of the sign at its widest point and is parallel to the sign face.
- d. Signs 15 or greater in height that have more than one structural steel support: The structural steel supports shall have coverings that collectively total at least 33 percent of the width of the sign at its widest point.
- e. The width of the covering shall be symmetrical for all supports.  
(See Figure 9)

- f. The depth of the support coverings shall not exceed the depth of the sign. (See Figure 9)
- g. In all circumstances, the covering shall extend from four inches above the ground to the base of the sign face.
- h. The following materials shall not be used for covering structural steel supports:
  - i. T-111,
  - ii. Plywood,
  - iii. Particle board,
  - iv. Sheet metal of less than 24 gauge,
  - v. Aluminum of less than .063 inches.

[CHANGEABLE COPY. FREESTANDING SIGNS MAY HAVE UP TO 30 PERCENT OF THE PERMITTED SIGN AREA SET FORTH IN SCHEDULE 21.47.060.B DEVOTED TO CHANGEABLE COPY.

- a. THE CHANGEABLE COPY SHALL NOT CHANGE MORE THAN ONE TIME PER FIVE-SECOND PERIOD.
- b. CHANGEABLE COPY MAY BE CHANGED ELECTRONICALLY, MECHANICALLY OR MANUALLY.]

3 [4]. *Multi-occupant facilities.* When a freestanding sign is constructed on a site that has more than one occupant, it is the property owner's responsibility to determine if the sign area shall be devoted to identification of the building(s), the anchor occupant, all occupants, or some combination thereof.

D. *Supplemental standards for all changeable copy signs.*

- 1. Freestanding signs may have up to 30 percent of the actual sign area devoted to changeable copy. Building signs and projecting signs may have up to 30 percent of the actual sign area or up to 150 square feet, whichever is less, devoted to changeable copy.
- 2. Copy which is changed electronically or mechanically shall not be changed more than one time per 3-second period.

E [D]. *Instructional signs.* Signs that comply with the definition of "instructional sign" shall be permitted as needed provided such signs comply with the following:

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

F [E]. *Unified sign plan.* To recognize and accommodate irregular site shapes (which are typically characterized by narrow lot frontages resulting in some buildings with extraordinarily large setbacks and limited visibility to a public street) multiple contiguous lots and/or tracts may be considered as a single site for the purposes of determining the size, number, and placement of freestanding signs permitted pursuant to this section. Solely for the purposes of this section:

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

G [F]. *Display of commercial flags.* In a "B" or "I" District a maximum of three flagpoles may be erected on any parcel provided that:



\*\*\* \*\*

H [G]. *Temporary signs.* Temporary signs in nonresidential districts are permitted pursuant to Schedule 21.47.060H [G] as set forth below:

<i>Schedule 21.47.060 G Temporary Signs</i>	
	<i>Requirement</i>
Maximum Area	100 square feet (32 square feet rigid material)
Maximum Number of Signs Per Principal Use	1
Maximum Number of Display Days	60 <sup>(a)</sup>
Lighting	Internally illuminated or lighted signs are prohibited.
Motion	Animation or flashing is prohibited
Maximum Height (Freestanding)	Same as permanent signs
Yards	Same as permanent signs
<sup>(a)</sup> For temporary signs involving the sale, rent, or lease of the property on which the sign is located, the time limit is unlimited.	

(AO No. 2003-62(S-1), § 1, 10-1-03)

**Section 6[5].** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.080 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**21.47.070 Prohibited signs**

The following signs are prohibited

\*\*\* \*\*

E. Flashing, moving, animated, coursing, blinker, racer-type, intermittent, rotating, moving or revolving signs and/or devices, whirligig devices, inflatable signs and tethered balloons, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, and other similar types of attention-getting devices except for changeable copy signs when in compliance with the applicable regulations in this chapter **and signs for a specific event of 30 days or less in a public place, as defined by AMC 10.60.020 and permitted under Section 24.80.010.**

**Section 7 6 [5].** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.080 is amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**21.47.080 Supplemental sign standards.**

A. *Illumination of Permanent and Temporary Signs.*

\*\*\* \*\*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47

3. All internally illuminated building or free-standing signs with the exception of neon-lighted signs with exposed neon tubes shall comply with the following:

- a. Except as provided in c. of this subsection below, the sign shall be constructed with either: an opaque background and translucent letters and symbols; or, a translucent darker colored background with a lighter contrasting color for the letters and symbols. Registered trademarks and logos are exempt from this provision.
- b. No internal lighting shall include exposed incandescent or fluorescent bulbs.
- c. A changeable copy sign with dark colored letters or symbols on a lighter contrasting translucent background may be internally illuminated if the internally illuminated area of the sign does not exceed 20 square feet.
- d. During daylight hours between sunrise and sunset, luminance shall be no greater than 5000 candelas per square meter for LED signs. At all other times, LED luminance shall be no greater than 800 candelas per square meter.

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

7. Light sources for externally illuminated signs must be shielded and directed so that the light shines on the sign and that the light source [ILLUMINATION BEYOND THE SIGN FACE] is not visible beyond the property line [MINIMIZED].

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

D. *Maintenance.* All signs shall be maintained in accordance with the following:

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

3. Whenever any sign, either conforming or nonconforming to these regulations, is required to be removed for the purpose of repair, refurbishing, or repainting, the same may be done without a permit or any payment of fees provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- a. ~~There shall be no alteration or remodeling to the sign base, sign support(s) or the mounting of the sign itself.~~
- a.b. There shall be no enlargement or increase in any of the dimensions of the sign or its structure.
- b.e. The sign shall be accessory to a legally permitted, conditional or nonconforming use.

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

1 **Section 8 7 [6].** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.47.090 is amended by adding a new  
2 subsection F, and renumbering the remaining sections, and other amendments as follows (*the*  
3 *remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

4  
5 **21.47.090**      **Regulations for nonconforming signs.**  
6 \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

7  
8 B. *Termination.* Except as provided in 21.47.080.D, a nonconforming sign shall  
9 immediately lose its legal nonconforming status, and therefore shall be brought into  
10 conformance with this section or removed, when any of the following occur:

- 11  
12 1. The size or shape of the sign is changed.  
13 2. ~~The sign structure is altered. Alteration does not include repairs and/or~~  
14 ~~maintenance.~~ The location of the sign is changed.  
15 3. The nonconforming sign is accessory to a nonconforming use that has lost its  
16 nonconforming status.

17  
18 C. *Amortization of illuminated signs.* Any illuminated sign that does not meet the  
19 requirements of 21.47.080A, with the exception of subsection 21.47.080.A.3.a, shall  
20 be altered to comply with the requirements of this chapter within three years from  
21 the date of adoption of this chapter by May 31, 2008. All **electronic changeable**  
22 **copy LED** signs shall comply with the luminance standards of subsection  
23 21.47.080.A.3.d by November 30, 2005.

24  
25 \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

26  
27 F. ~~*Amortization of luminance standards for internally illuminated signs:* All internally~~  
28 ~~illuminated building or free-standing signs shall comply with the luminance standards~~  
29 ~~of subsection 21.47.080A.3.d. within three (3) years from the effective date of this~~  
30 ~~ordinance. Project applications received prior to such compliance date may choose~~  
31 ~~to conform or to postpone conformance until the three-year deadline.~~

32  
33 G [F]. *Amortization of converted signs:* Any non-conforming sign that was originally portable  
34 or temporary, was subsequently affixed to the ground or a building, and does not  
35 comply with the height, area, or the number of signs permitted requirements of these  
36 regulations shall be removed, altered, reconstructed, or reinstalled to be in compliance  
37 with these regulations within three years from the adoption of this chapter which is  
38 October 1, 2006.

39 H [G]. *Maintenance of nonconforming signs.* Nonconforming signs shall continue to be  
40 maintained in safe condition pursuant to the building regulations of the municipality  
41 until such sign is required to be removed as set forth in this section.

42 I [H]. ~~*Alteration, relocation or replacement of nonconforming signs.* A nonconforming sign~~  
43 ~~shall not be structurally altered, relocated or replaced unless it is brought into~~  
44 ~~compliance with the provisions of this section.~~

45 J [I]. *Reconstruction of damaged sign.* If a sign and/or its support are damaged to the extent  
46 where the repair cost exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the sign, the sign  
47 shall be removed or brought into compliance. If the repair costs do not exceed 50

1 percent of the replacement cost of the sign, the administrative official may authorize the  
2 sign to be repaired, provided all repair work is completed within 90 days, subject to the  
3 administrative official extending the time for good cause, of the date the administrative  
4 official determines the damage requires replacement or permits repair. In no event may  
5 a sign be maintained in an unsafe condition during the process of this determination or  
6 the period necessary for repairs.

7 K [J]. *Historic signs.* The urban design commission may grant exceptions to these standards  
8 whenever a sign or property has been designated a historic sign pursuant to the  
9 guidelines and criteria established and adopted by the urban design commission.

10 L [K]. *Extension of time to comply.* The dates established in this section for a sign to be  
11 brought into compliance with the requirements of these regulations may be appealed to  
12 the zoning board of examiners and appeals by the owner or lessee [LEASEE] of the  
13 nonconforming sign pursuant to section 21.30.110 of title 21. In evaluating the  
14 extension of time for a nonconforming use, the zoning board of examiners and appeals  
15 shall consider, in addition to the criteria of s [S]ection 21.30.160, the following factors  
16 to determine whether the owner of the sign has had reasonable amount of time to  
17 recoup his investment:

18 \*\*\* \*\*

19 (AO No. 2003-62(S-1), § 1, 10-1-03)

20  
21 **Section 8.** Anchorage Municipal Code is amended by adding a new section 21.47.105 .

22  
23 **21.47.105 Procedure for obtaining an administrative variance for signs.**

24  
25 A. The Planning Director may grant an administrative variance from the height  
26 restrictions and/or setback requirements for freestanding signs, provided:

- 27  
28 1. special topographic circumstances exist that would result in a material  
29 impairment of visibility of a conforming sign from the adjacent roadway,  
30 2. there is no reasonable conforming alternative to the variance,  
31 3. any setback variance does not result in an encroachment into a public right-  
32 of-way, and  
33 4. a fee has been received.

34  
35 B. The Director shall make written findings and conclusions for each variance request.

36  
37 C. If the request for an administrative variance is denied, the applicant may apply for a  
38 variance under AMC 21.47.110.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19

**Section 9 [7].** This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2005.

Anna J. Fairclough  
Chair

ATTEST:

Barbara E. Mente  
Municipal Clerk