

**SECTION 14.13 SIGNS ALLOWED IN DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS (DI Zone)**

**A. WALL AND WINDOW SIGNS (Subdistricts 1 and 2)**

1. Window and permanent wall signs are allowed for nonresidential uses in this district, subject to the following limits. No wall sign shall extend above the top of the wall of the building, including parapets and architectural extensions. No cabinet-type wall signs are permitted.

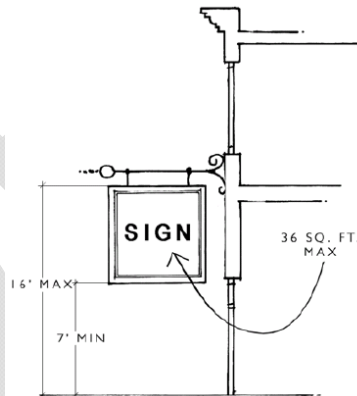
	<b>Window</b>	<b>Wall</b>	<b>Total</b>
Maximum size	25 percent of window area on that building wall	See total	Two (2) square feet of sign area per lineal foot of building width on the side of building on which sign is located
Maximum number	Area limit only	One per street frontage	N/A
Permitted illumination	No separate illumination	Illumination from a concealed source only	N/A
Changeable copy	Not allowed	Not allowed	N/A

2. Wall signs on canopies, awnings, and galleries are permitted subject to the following standards:
  - a. One canopy, awning, or gallery sign is permitted per business;
  - b. The sign must be at least 8 feet above grade;
  - c. The sign must not exceed 2 square feet of sign area per lineal foot of building width on the side of the building that the sign is located;
  - d. If a canopy, awning, or gallery sign is used, then a separate wall sign for the same business is not permitted; and

**B. PROJECTING SIGNS (Subdistricts 1 and 2)**

1. In addition to permitted wall signs, but as an alternative to a ground sign, each business establishment with a ground-floor entrance in these zoning districts shall be allowed a projecting sign, subject to the following standards and limitations:

	<b>Projecting</b>
Maximum size	36 square feet or the maximum size possible in conformance with other standards in this Section, whichever is smaller; measurement is for one face, but sign may have two equal faces
Maximum number	One per business establishment with a ground-floor entrance
Height of bottom of sign	Not less than seven feet or more than nine feet, measured from sidewalk
Maximum height of top of sign	16 feet above sidewalk, or bottom of second-floor window(s) or top of wall, whichever is less
Permitted illumination	Internal, external, direct, indirect, exposed or any combination
Changeable copy	Not permitted
Maximum projection from face of building	Six feet, or two-thirds of the distance from the façade of the building to the street-side edge of the sidewalk, whichever is less



a. Cumulative Area Limitation

- (1) The total area of any wall and/or window signs and any projecting sign on one street frontage of a building shall not exceed two square feet of sign area per lineal foot of building frontage.

b. Other Limitations

- (1) A projecting sign shall be placed on the middle 10 percent of the building face where the sign is to be installed, measured horizontally, provided it does not interfere with any architectural feature of the building, and the sign may not be closer than 15 feet to another projecting sign, except on a corner lot, where a projecting sign may be placed at the corner of the building.
- (2) A projecting sign may not project over a street, alley or driveway.
- (3) An application for a permit for a projecting sign shall bear the seal of an architect or engineer registered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

C. GROUND SIGNS (Subdistrict 2 only)

1. Intent/Purpose

- a. The downtown district generally consists of buildings that are built at or near the sidewalk, leaving no space for a ground sign. This section is intended to apply to those establishments that have lawfully been set back far enough from one or more right-of-way lines, thus making it more difficult for drivers and pedestrians to see wall signs on the building.

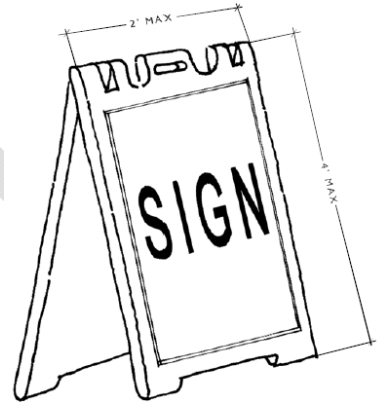
2. Where Allowed

- a. Any site on which the principal building is set back twenty (20) or more feet from a right-of-way line along the entire length of the building facing that right-of-way shall be allowed ground sign in accordance with this Section, except that no site may have both a principal ground sign and a projecting sign on the same street frontage. One ground sign, not exceeding 25 square feet in area and 6 feet in height is allowed per street frontage of a nonresidential building. Such sign shall be set back from the public right-of-way a minimum of five feet, from any other property line a minimum of five feet, and from a residential zoning district a minimum of 50 feet. Such sign may include automatic changeable copy, not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the sign area. Signs not containing changeable copy may be illuminated only from a concealed source.

D. SIDEWALK SIGNS (Subdistrict 1 and 2)

1. Sidewalk signs shall be allowed, subject to the following standards and limitations:

- a. One such sign shall be allowed for each business establishment with a public entrance onto a public sidewalk, provided that such sign can be placed in a way that conforms with the other standards of this subsection;
- b. The sidewalk sign shall be placed only on the sidewalk directly in front of the establishment;
- c. A sidewalk sign shall be an A-frame or other self-supporting design, without separate structural members;
- d. A sidewalk sign shall not be more than four feet in height or two feet in width;
- e. A sidewalk sign shall be placed so that it does not block any public entrance or required emergency exit from a building and so that, when considering the sign in combination with other obstacles such as parking meters, street signs, newspaper vending boxes, fire hydrants, planters and bus stop benches, there is a clear passage of at least six feet;
- f. A sidewalk sign may have two faces, neither of which shall exceed six square feet in area. If a sidewalk sign of this size cannot be placed in front of the establishment in such a way that it meets the requirements of the immediately preceding paragraph, then the sidewalk sign shall be reduced in size to allow such standards to be met, or no sidewalk sign shall be allowed;
- g. A sidewalk sign may contain provisions for manual changing of copy, including blackboards and whiteboards, but shall not include electronic changeable copy;
- h. A sidewalk sign may be placed on the sidewalk only during hours when the establishment to which it pertains is open for business; a sidewalk sign located in front of a business that is not open shall be considered an abandoned sign and may be removed by City of Independence without notice and without liability for its value;
- i. A sidewalk sign may not be separately illuminated or electrified in any way; and
- j. A sidewalk sign may bear any noncommercial message or a commercial message related to goods or services available in the premises that fronts on the sidewalk.



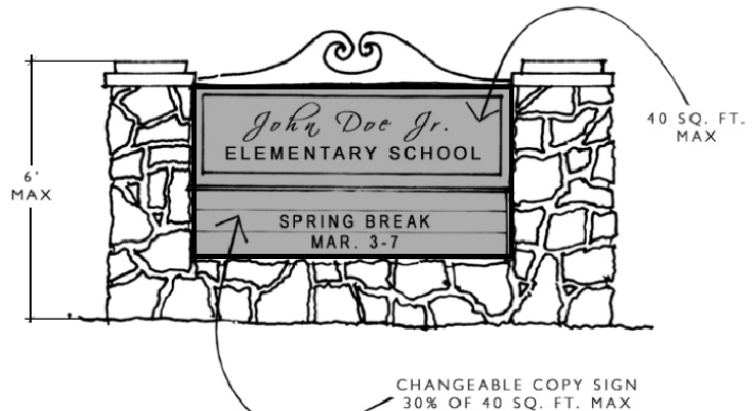
## E. INCIDENTAL SIGNS

1. Additional detached signs, permanent or temporary, of not more than two (2) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height are allowed, provided that such signs contain no commercial message and are not illuminated.

The intent of this regulation is to provide for signs that provide messages like “no parking”, “no dumping”, “beware of dog”, “rest rooms”, but such signs may bear any message that is not a commercial message.

F. INSTITUTIONAL SIGNS

1. Any school, house of worship, recreation center or other institutional use permitted in the zoning district may have one detached sign, not to exceed forty (40) square feet in area. This may include changeable copy signs, not to exceed thirty percent (30%)



of the sign area. Such signs may be illuminated. Where the physical characteristics of the site or the application of setback and clear site triangle provisions do not permit a detached sign, the institutional use shall be allowed an additional wall sign equal in size to the detached sign to which it would otherwise be entitled.

2. Each such use shall also be allowed one wall sign for each public entrance to a building; such wall signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet each and shall not be illuminated.

G. TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS

1. Signs conforming with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and containing no commercial message are allowed in required off-street parking areas.