



CITY OF WALKER  
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
 4243 REMEMBRANCE RD NW  
 WALKER, MI 49534  
 (616) 791-6858  
 (616) 791-6881 FAX

**APPLICATION FOR SIGN PERMIT**

**1.) LOCATION OF SIGN(S)**

ADDRESS		PPN#	
CITY	COUNTY	ZIP CODE	
BETWEEN (cross street)		AND	(cross street)
ZONING OF PARCEL:			

**2.) PROPERTY OWNER OR LESSEE - CONTACT PERSON:**

BUSINESS NAME		TELEPHONE NO.	
ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	
FAX	EMAIL		

**3.) SIGN CONTRACTOR - CONTACT PERSON:**

FIRM NAME		TELEPHONE NO.	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
BUSINESS LICENSE NO.			EXPIRATION DATE
FAX	EMAIL		

**SIGN PERMIT FEES:**

1. \$60.00 for the first \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the value of the work, plus \$6.00 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof
2. 25% Plan Review fee for commercial/industrial

**TEMPORARY SIGN:**

**1. NO PERMIT FEE REQUIRED**

START DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE TO REMOVE THE SIGN)

**4.) SIGN PERMIT CHECKLIST:**

**ATTACH PLANS SHOWING ALL SETBACKS, DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS AND SUPPORTING MECHANISMS**

**FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH SIGN REQUESTED - ATTACH ONE COPY PER SIGN**

SIGN TYPE: PYLON / GROUND / WALL / DIRECTIONAL	HEIGHT _____
WIDTH _____	ILLUMINATION _____
LENGTH _____	TOTAL AREA _____
BASE MATERIAL _____	SETBACKS _____
FOUNDATION TYPE _____	ANCHORING SYSTEM _____

ARTICLE XIV. - SIGN REGULATIONS<sup>61</sup>*Footnotes:*

-- (6) --

*Editor's note— Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, adopted July 9, 2007, amended art. XIV in its entirety and enacted similar provisions as set out herein. The former art. XIV derived from Ord. No. 72-164, adopted Feb. 22, 1972; Ord. No. 83-313, §§ 1—5, adopted Aug. 9, 1983; Ord. No. 85-321, §§ 5, 6, adopted April 9, 1985; Ord. No. 87-356, §§ 5—7, adopted Jan. 12, 1988; Ord. No. 88-368, §§ 2, 3, adopted Jan. 10, 1989; Ord. No. 91-392, §§ 4, 5, adopted March 12, 1991; Ord. No. 91-394, § 2, adopted June 11, 1991; Ord. No. 92-406, § 1—3, adopted April 14, 1992; Ord. No. 92-406, §§ 8—10, adopted July 14, 1992; Ord. No. 98-511, § 1, adopted April 13, 1998; Ord. No. 02-489, § 1, adopted Oct. 14, 2002; and Ord. No. 04-515, § 1, adopted July 12, 2004.*

## Sec. 94-406. - Purpose, intent and general.

- (a) *Purpose and intent.* This article is intended to regulate the size, number, location and manner of display of signs in the city in a manner consistent with the following purposes:
- (1) To protect and further the health, safety and welfare of city residents, property owners and visitors.
  - (2) To reduce traffic and pedestrian accidents caused by signs which obstruct vision, distract, disorient or confuse drivers or pedestrians, or are improperly secured or constructed.
  - (3) To conserve and enhance community character by reducing visual clutter which can arise due to excessive signage, temporary signage or other signage that is improperly located or unreasonably distracting.
  - (4) To promote uniformity in the size, number and placement of signs within districts.
  - (5) To promote the economic viability of commercial areas by minimizing visual clutter and allowing for proper placement of signs to safely direct motorists to their destination.
  - (6) To promote the use of signs that are safe, aesthetically pleasing, compatible with their surroundings and legible in the circumstances in which they are seen.

The regulations contained in this article involve a determination by the city that the sign owner's or user's right to convey a message must be balanced against the public's right to be free of signs which unreasonably compete for attention, distract drivers and pedestrians, or produce confusion. In balancing the sign owner's or user's desire to attract attention with the public's right to be free of unreasonable distractions, it is recognized that sign regulations should afford businesses a reasonable opportunity to communicate. It is also determined, however, that oversized, projecting, distracting, cluttered or crowded signs can lead to pedestrian and driver confusion, disorientation and distraction, and endanger the public health, safety and welfare. To lessen such adverse consequences, reasonable limitations and restrictions are appropriate with respect to the placement, construction, size, type, and design of signs in relation to the location of buildings and uses and the availability of other means of communication.

It is further the purpose and intent of this article to regulate, in a manner appropriate to the city, signs which utilize advancements in technology. These newer technologies pose additional risks of impacting adjacent areas and adversely dominating the environment in which they operate unless regulated in a reasonable fashion, particularly in the case of larger signs. On-site signs utilizing these newer technologies are found to be different in kind and character from larger off-site signs. While reasonable regulations are likely to minimize adverse secondary effects from on-site digital and similar signage in terms of preserving the character and repose of adjacent areas, protecting property values, and reducing traffic hazards caused by undue distractions, those same regulations regarding similar off-site signs will not sufficiently minimize such adverse secondary effects due to the latter's sheer size, visibility, and nature.

- (b) *Permits required.* A sign permit shall be required for the erection, use, construction or alteration of all signs except those exempted herein. For purposes of this section, "alteration" shall not mean changing the sign copy to promote, advertise, or identify another use, the normal maintenance of a sign, or changing the text of reader boards.
- (c) *Sign measurement.* Except as otherwise expressly provided for in this article, all signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) The area of a sign shall be measured as the area within a single, continuous perimeter composed of any straight-line geometric figure which encloses the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem, logo, or any other figure of similar character, together with any frame, architectural feature or other material or color forming part of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the background against which it is placed.
  - (2) The area of a freestanding sign that has two or more faces shall be measured by including the area of all sign faces. However, if two such faces are placed back to back and are no more than two feet apart at any point, the area of the two back-to-back faces shall be counted as one face with the larger of the two sign faces to be counted as the relevant sign face for sign area measurement purposes.
  - (3) The height of a freestanding sign shall be measured as the vertical distance from the highest point on the sign to the grade of the adjacent street or parking lot, whichever is spatially closer to the sign.
- (d) *Design, construction and location standards.* Except as otherwise expressly provided in this article, all signs shall comply with all of the following requirements:
- (1) All signs shall be properly maintained so as not to become unsightly through disrepair or as a result of the weather.
  - (2) Sign supports, braces, guys, and anchors shall be maintained in such a manner as not to cause a public safety hazard.
  - (3) Signs shall be constructed to withstand all wind and vibration forces that can be normally expected to occur in the vicinity, per the standards of the Michigan Building Code.
  - (4) Subject to subsections (8) and (9), illuminated signs shall ensure that the source of any illumination is enclosed, shielded and directed so as to prevent light from shining towards adjacent parcels or spaces.
  - (5) A light pole or other supporting member shall not be used for the placement of any sign unless the building official determines that such pole or

supporting member is specifically designed for such use and all building code and other applicable structural and safety requirements are satisfied.

- (6) A sign shall not be erected in any place where it may, by reason of its position, shape, color, or other characteristics, interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device, or constitute a nuisance per se.
- (7) No sign or its supporting mechanism shall project into or be placed within the right-of-way of a street.
- (8) There shall be no flashing, blinking, scrolling, strobe, or intermittent illumination on or from any sign.
- (9) Except as otherwise provided herein, electronic reader boards are permitted as on-site signs so long as no part of the display shall scroll, move or change more often than once every 30 seconds. Background graphics or displays are also subject to this restriction. Electronic reader boards, as accessory components of on-site signs, may not exceed 50 percent of the permitted sign area allowed for that sign. An electronic reader board must have installed a fully operational ambient light monitor, which shall continuously monitor and automatically adjust the brightness level of the display based on ambient light conditions consistent with the following:
  - a. The maximum brightness levels shall not exceed 0.2 foot candles over ambient light levels measured at 150 feet of the source, consistent with subsection (B), below. Certification must be provided to the city demonstrating that the sign has been preset to automatically adjust the brightness to these levels or lower. Reinspection and recalibration may be periodically required by the city in its reasonable discretion to ensure that the specified brightness levels are maintained at all times.
  - b. Brightness of digital signs shall be measured and regulated as follows:
    - (i) At least 30 minutes following sunset, a foot candle meter shall be used to obtain an ambient light reading for the location. This is done while the sign is off or displaying black copy. The reading shall be made with the meter aimed directly at the sign area at the preset location.
    - (ii) The sign shall then be turned on to full white copy to take another reading with the meter at the same location.
    - (iii) If the difference between the readings is 0.2 foot candles or less, the brightness is properly adjusted.
- (10) No sign shall interfere with the clear vision area of any highway, street or road, or at the intersection of two or more streets, or at the intersection of a sidewalk or improved public street and a driveway.
- (11) No physical part of a sign or a sign itself shall move.
- (12) All signs are subject to the applicable height regulations noted in this article.

(Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07; Ord. No. 08-558, § 4, 7-14-08; Ord. No. 10-579, §§ 4, 5, 3-8-10; Ord. No. 11-603, §§ 2, 3, 9-26-11)

#### Sec. 94-407. - Permitted signs and signboards.

Only those signs expressly authorized in a district, as provided for in this article, may be constructed, located or used in any district.

(Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07; Ord. No. 10-579, § 6, 3-8-10)

#### Sec. 94-408. - Nonconforming signs and billboards.

All signs and billboards shall conform to the regulations as set forth in this article and its amendments. Any sign or billboard not conforming shall be deemed a nonconforming use and shall be subject to the provisions in article VI, except that ~~section 94-138~~ shall not apply to signs and billboards.

(Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07)

#### Sec. 94-409. - Signs in residential districts.

- (a) A single community entrance sign may be permitted in an AA, A, A-2, SA, S, ARM, ARM District One, RMT Residential, RPUD-1, RPUD-2 district or the residential portion of a MPUD district. The community entrance sign shall be in compliance with section 94-406, be limited to a ground-mounted sign, not exceed 24 square feet in area, be located a minimum of five feet from the street right-of-way line, not exceed four feet in height, not exceed two feet in width as measured from face to face, and be constructed primarily from carved wood, brick, stone, wrought iron, terra cotta, glazed tile or similar decorative material in order to reflect and enhance the residential character of the area.
- (b) Signs for churches and public or private schools in AA, A, A-2, SAS, S, ARM, ARM District One, RMT Residential, RPUD-1, RPUD-2 district, or the residential portion of an MPUD district, shall be limited to a single ground-mounted sign not to exceed 24 square feet in area; shall be located a minimum of five feet from the street right-of-way line; shall not exceed four feet in height, shall not exceed two feet in width as measured from face to face; shall be constructed primarily from carved wood, brick, stone, wrought iron, terra cotta, glazed tile, in order to reflect and enhance the residential character of the area. In addition, and where not in conflict, such signs shall be subject to the standards and limitations contained in subsection (a) for community entrance signs.
- (c) Reader boards are not permitted in residential districts, except for churches and schools; provided that those signs with reader boards are subject to the standards found in subsection (b).

(Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07; Ord. No. 10-579, § 7, 3-8-10)

#### Sec. 94-410. - Signs in mixed use and commercial districts.

- (a) This section applies to all signs within a C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, CPUD and the nonresidential portions of an MPUD district, except as otherwise noted in this article.
- (b) A lot shall only be allowed one freestanding/pylon sign or one ground-mounted sign, not one of each type of sign.

- (c) Freestanding/pylon signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) Freestanding/pylon signs shall display the street address numbers of the site(s) to which they principally relate. The street address numbers shall be legible from the associated street.
  - (2) Only one freestanding/pylon sign is allowed per lot.
  - (3) Freestanding/pylon signs shall be allowed one square foot in area for each one lineal foot of front building wall, subject to the following:
    - i. The front building wall will be that considered when determining the front building setback.
    - ii. For corner lots, the front building wall will be that facing the street that carries the most average daily traffic.
    - iii. For development sites involving 100,000 square feet of building area or less, the maximum permitted total area for a freestanding/pylon sign is 80 square feet, regardless of front building wall length.
    - iv. For development sites involving more than 100,000 square feet of building area, the maximum permitted total area for a freestanding/pylon sign is 120 square feet, regardless of front building wall length.
  - (4) Freestanding/pylon signs and their supporting mechanisms shall be in compliance with section 94-406 and shall be located a minimum of five feet from any lot line.
  - (5) No freestanding/pylon sign shall exceed a maximum height of 20 feet, as measured according to subsection 94-406(c)(3).
  - (6) No freestanding/pylon sign shall exceed two feet in width, as measured from face to face.
  - (7) The supporting mechanism(s) of a freestanding/pylon sign shall not exceed 30 percent of the overall width of the sign.
  - (8) Freestanding/pylon signs shall have only structural support in the area between the ground surface immediately below the sign and eight feet above the ground.
  - (9) If the structural support mechanisms of a sign consists of more than one pole, a pole cover may be used to cover each such support pole, provided that in no case shall the horizontal distance between a pole cover and another pole cover, or between a pole cover and any uncovered pole or other structural support, be less than three feet, as measured between the closest points of adjacent pole covers or uncovered supports.
  - (10) No freestanding/pylon sign shall be permitted on the same lot as a billboard unless the freestanding sign is not visible from the traveled portion of a freeway or the freestanding sign is located more than 500 feet from the billboard. The minimum distance between billboards shall be governed by section 94-413.
- (d) Ground-mounted signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) Ground-mounted signs shall display the street address numbers of the site to which they principally relate. The street address numbers shall be legible from the associated street.
  - (2) Only one ground-mounted sign is allowed per lot.
  - (3) Ground-mounted signs and their supporting mechanisms shall not exceed six feet in height or 48 square feet in area. The required masonry base shall be included in the overall height measurement.
  - (4) Ground-mounted signs and their supporting mechanisms shall comply with sections 94-406 and 94-407 and shall be located a minimum of five feet from any lot line.
  - (5) No ground-mounted sign shall exceed two feet in width as measured from face to face.
  - (6) The supporting mechanism(s) of a ground-mounted sign shall consist of a block, brick or textured concrete base with the street address numbers presented in a manner legible from the adjacent street. The minimum height for this required masonry base shall be 18 inches above grade. The masonry base shall be constructed as a foundation for the ground sign according to the frost line standards of the building code enforced by the city.
- (e) Wall-mounted signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) Wall-mounted signs shall be allowed one square foot in area for each one lineal foot of front building wall, subject to the following:
    - i. The front building wall is that considered when determining front building setbacks.
    - ii. For corner lots, the front wall will be that facing the street that carries the most average daily traffic.
    - iii. For development sites involving 100,000 square feet or less of building area, the maximum permitted total area for wall-mounted signage is 80 square feet, regardless of front building wall length.
    - iv. For development sites involving more than 100,000 square feet of building area, the maximum permitted total area for wall-mounted signage is 120 square feet, regardless of front building wall length.
    - v. The aggregate area of wall-mounted signs on multi-occupant buildings shall not exceed the limitation in this section (see subsections (1), (1)iii., and (1)iv.). The area of wall-mounted signs for each occupant or tenant of a multi-occupant building shall not exceed one square foot for each one lineal foot of front building wall occupied by such occupant or tenant.
    - vi. Wall-mounted signs are only allowed on the front building wall, except that buildings on corner lots may be allowed wall-mounted signs on both walls facing streets. However, wall-mounted signs shall not face a residential zoning district unless the district and the building are separated by a public or private street or another nonresidential zoning district. Wall-mounted signs placed on corner lot buildings shall not exceed the square footage permitted per this subsection.
    - vii. Wall-mounted signs may be permitted on non-front building walls or non-corner lots for property adjacent to I-96, U.S. 131 or I-196. Such wall-mounted signage shall be subject to review and approval by the city planning commission. Such wall-mounted signage square footage shall apply towards the amount granted per this subsection.

- (f) Directional signs are permitted subject to the following restrictions:
- (1) Directional signs may contain a logo of an on-premises establishment, but no advertising text or copy.
  - (2) Directional signs shall not exceed four square feet in area or three feet in height, and shall be set back at least five feet from any lot line.
  - (3) Directional signs shall be limited to traffic circulation and parking control functions.
  - (4) Directional signs shall be limited in number to one sign per onsite driveway plus two additional on-site signs. An increase in the number of signs exceeding these standards shall be reviewed and approved by the city planning commission.
- (g) Canopy, awning and marquee signs are permitted subject to the following restrictions:
- (1) Canopy, awning and marquee signs shall be illuminated by either shielded external light fixtures or internal light fixtures that do not project a glare or create a visual hazard on adjacent streets, service drives or residences.
  - (2) Canopy, awning and marquee signs shall be included in the square footage calculations for wall-mounted signs as described in subsection (e).
- (Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07; Ord. No. 08-558, § 5, 7-14-08; Ord. No. 13-611, § 3, 1-28-13)

Sec. 94-411. - Signs in office and industrial districts.

- (a) This section applies to all signs within an ORP, ML, MH, MP or IPUD district.
- (b) Freestanding/pylon signs are not allowed.
- (c) Ground-mounted signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) Ground-mounted signs shall display the street address numbers of the site(s) to which they principally relate. The street address numbers shall be legible from the associated street.
  - (2) Only one ground-mounted sign is allowed per lot.
  - (3) Ground-mounted signs and their supporting mechanisms shall not exceed six feet in height or 48 square feet in area. The required masonry base shall be included in the overall height measurement.
  - (4) Ground-mounted signs and their supporting mechanisms shall be in compliance with section 94-406 and shall be located a minimum of five feet from any lot line.
  - (5) No ground-mounted sign shall exceed two feet in width as measured from face to face.
  - (6) The supporting mechanism(s) of a ground-mounted sign shall consist of a block, brick or textured concrete base with the street address numbers presented in a manner legible from the adjacent street. The minimum height for this required masonry base shall be 18 inches above grade. The masonry base shall be constructed as a foundation for the ground sign according to the frost line standards of the building code enforced by the city.
- (d) Wall-mounted signs shall comply with the following requirements:
- (1) Wall-mounted signs shall be allowed one square foot in area for each one lineal foot of front building wall, subject to the following:
    - i. The front building wall is that considered when determining front building setbacks.
    - ii. For corner lots, the front wall will be that facing the street that carries the most average daily traffic.
    - iii. For development sites involving 100,000 square feet or less of building area, the maximum permitted total area for wall-mounted signage is 80 square feet, regardless of front building wall length.
    - iv. For development sites involving more than 100,000 square feet of building area, the maximum permitted total area for wall-mounted signage is 120 square feet, regardless of front building wall length.
    - v. The aggregate area of wall-mounted signs on multi-occupant buildings shall not exceed the limitation in this section (see subsections (1), (1)iii., and (1)iv.). The area of wall-mounted signs for each occupant or tenant of a multi-occupant building shall not exceed one square foot for each one lineal foot of front building wall occupied by such occupant or tenant.
    - vi. Wall-mounted signs are only allowed on the front building wall, except that buildings on corner lots are allowed wall-mounted signs on both walls facing streets. However, wall-mounted signs shall not face a residential zoning district unless the district and the building are separated by a public or private street or another nonresidential zoning district. Wall-mounted signs placed on corner lot buildings shall not exceed the square footage permitted per this subsection.
    - vii. Wall-mounted signs may be permitted on non-front building walls or non-corner lots for property adjacent to I-96, U.S. 131 or I-196. Such wall-mounted signage shall be subject to review and approval by the city planning commission. Such wall-mounted signage square footage shall apply towards the amount granted per this subsection 94-411(d).
- (e) Directional signs are permitted subject to the following restrictions:
- (1) Directional signs may contain a logo of an on-premises establishment, but no advertising text or copy.
  - (2) Directional signs shall not exceed four square feet in area or three feet in height, and shall be setback at least five feet from any lot line.
  - (3) Directional signs shall be limited to traffic and parking control functions.
  - (4) Directional signs shall be limited in number to one sign per onsite driveway plus two additional onsite signs. An increase in the number of signs exceeding these standards shall be reviewed and approved by the city planning commission.
- (f) Canopy, awning and marquee signs are permitted subject to the following restrictions:
- (1) Canopy, awning and marquee signs shall be illuminated by either shielded external light fixtures or internal light fixtures that do not project a glare or

create a visual hazard on adjacent streets, service drives or residences.

- (2) Canopy, awning and marquee signs shall be included in the square footage calculations for wall-mounted signs as described in subsection (d).  
(Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07; Ord. No. 08-558, § 6, 7-14-08; Ord. No. 13-611, § 4, 1-28-13)

Sec. 94-412. - Temporary signs.

Commercial special event signs, community special event signs realtor signs and political signs shall only be permitted consistent with the standards noted in this Section.

- (1) *Commercial special event signs.* Commercial special event signs shall be classified according to the definitions noted in section 94-5.
- a. Pedestrian signs and portable manual reader board signs are not allowed.
  - b. Inflatable signs are allowed via a temporary sign permit.
  - c. Flag and streamer signs are allowed without a temporary sign permit, subject to the following standards:
    - i. A minimum lot width of 300 feet.
    - ii. A minimum setback from all lot lines of five feet.
    - iii. A minimum height/clearance standard of ten feet as measured from the ground immediately beneath the flag and streamer signs.
    - iv. A strand length equal to the front lot line multiplied by three, but not to exceed 1,500 feet of strand.
    - v. The lot must be zoned C-4 Outdoor Commercial.
  - d. Banner signs, yard signs, and flag and streamer signs are permitted only in nonresidential zoning districts.
  - e. Banner signs, yard signs and inflatable signs shall not be placed on any lot, parcel or premises unless a sign permit has been issued by the zoning administrator.
  - f. Applications for banner signs, yard signs and inflatable signs shall include the following:
    - i. The name, mailing address, e-mail, fax number and telephone number of the property owner, business owner and applicant for the permit.
    - ii. Identification of the street address and parcel number of the parcel on which the sign is to be placed.
    - iii. A site plan, drawn to scale, accurately identifying the location of the proposed sign on the subject property.
    - iv. A scaled drawing which accurately depicts the dimensions and display area of the proposed sign.
    - v. Identification of the specific calendar dates on which the sign will be displayed.
    - vi. A nonrefundable application fee, in an amount established by resolution of the city commission.
  - g. Commercial special event signs shall be located in compliance with section 94-406.
  - h. Commercial special event sign permits may authorize the display of the approved signs for up to seven consecutive days, except as noted herein for inflatable signs.
    - i. A maximum of two commercial special event signs shall be authorized by a permit.
    - j. In a nonmultitenant building, up to ten permits authorizing the valid display of approved commercial special event signs may be issued in a calendar year for any individual business, except for inflatable signs, which are limited to a total of 14 display days in a calendar year.
    - k. In the case of a multitenant building, up to ten permits authorizing the valid display of approved commercial special event signs may be issued in a calendar year for any individual business, except for inflatable signs, which are limited to a total of 14 display days in a calendar year.
  - l. Yard signs shall not exceed 12 square feet in area or four feet in height and shall not be mounted higher than six feet above the surrounding ground level.
  - m. Banner signs shall not exceed 30 square feet in area and shall not be mounted higher than the building roofline.
  - n. Inflatable signs shall be subject to the following regulations:
    - i. Signs shall not be mounted on, or anchored to, any roof surface.
    - ii. An inflatable sign shall not be more than 20 feet in height, as measured from the point where the sign rests on a surface or from the point of tie-down if it does not rest on a surface.
    - iii. Signs shall be securely anchored to the ground or to a building in accordance with the requirements of the Walker codes as amended.
    - iv. Any electrical motor, pump or similar device used to inflate the sign shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Walker codes as amended.
    - v. Signs shall be set back a minimum distance of one and one-half times its height from all property lines.
    - vi. Signs shall not interfere with traffic or pedestrian circulation or visibility.
    - vii. Signs shall not interfere with or obstruct fire lanes or utility lines.
    - viii. Signs shall not result in a reduction of the number of parking spaces required for the site on which the inflatable sign is located.
    - ix. All signs shall be equipped with a quick deflation system so that the sign will deflate instantly if it breaks loose from its anchor.
    - x. All signs shall be taken down if wind speeds exceed 30 knots (35 mph). The installer of the sign shall be responsible for monitoring weather conditions.
    - xi. Signs may be illuminated from the inside or by exterior lights placed to direct light glare away from adjacent roadways and properties.

- xii. Signs shall not have any flashing, colored or blinking lights.
- xiii. An inflatable sign installer shall carry at least one million dollars in liability insurance coverage and shall provide proof of this to the zoning administrator prior to the issuance of the temporary sign permit.
- o. All commercial special event signs shall be removed by the applicant or property owner when the approved permit expires.
- p. Holiday periods: A single banner sign, not to exceed 30 square feet in area, or a single yard sign, not to exceed 12 square feet in area or four feet in height and not be mounted higher than six feet above the surrounding ground level, shall be allowed for each tenant without a temporary sign permit in compliance with the following holiday periods:
  - i. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and seven days prior;
  - ii. Valentine's Day and seven days prior;
  - iii. President's Day and seven days prior;
  - iv. Easter and seven days prior;
  - v. Memorial Day and seven days prior;
  - vi. July 4 and seven days prior;
  - vii. Labor Day and seven days prior;
  - viii. Halloween and seven days prior;
  - ix. Veteran's Day and seven days prior;
  - x. Thanksgiving and seven days prior and through January 2.

The single banner sign or single yard sign shall be located in compliance with section 94-406, shall not be mounted higher than the building roofline and must be removed by the end of the first working day after the holiday period ends.

(2) *Community special event signs.*

- a. Community special event signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A community special event sign may be located either on or off the lot on which the special event is to be held.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of community special event signs shall be as follows:
  - i. A maximum of two community special event signs shall be permitted for a special event.
  - ii. The display of community special event signs shall be limited to the 14 days immediately preceding and including the date of the special event.
  - iii. Each community special event sign shall have a maximum size of 24 square feet in area.
  - iv. Each community special event sign shall be located in compliance with section 94-406.
  - v. Each community special event sign shall not be mounted or displayed higher than 25 feet above the ground immediately under the sign.
  - vi. All community special event signs shall be removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the special event which is being advertised.

(3) *Realtor signs.*

- a. Realtor signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A realtor sign may only be located on a lot offered for sale, lease or rent.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of realtor signs shall be as follows:
  - i. A maximum of two realtor signs shall be permitted for a specific lot.
  - ii. In nonresidential zoning districts, each realtor sign may have a maximum size of 16 square feet in area.
  - iii. In residential zoning districts, each realtor sign may have a maximum size of six square feet in area.
  - iv. Ground-mounted realtor signs may not exceed a maximum height above ground level of four feet.
  - v. Each realtor sign shall be located in compliance with section 94-406.
  - vi. All realtor signs shall be removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the sale, lease or rental which is being advertised.

(4) *Political signs.*

- a. Political signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. Each political sign shall be located in compliance with section 94-406.
- c. For lots zoned residential or agricultural, no more than one political sign per candidate or issue is allowed on a lot, a political sign may not exceed six square feet in area, and a political sign may not be mounted higher than four feet above the surrounding ground level.
- d. For lots zoned commercial, office or industrial, no more than one political sign per candidate or issue is allowed on a lot, a political sign may not exceed 16 square feet in area, and a political sign may not be mounted higher than six feet above the surrounding ground level.

(5) *Contractor signs.*

- a. Contractor signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A contractor sign may only be located on a lot where the contractor is conducting work.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of contractor signs shall be as follows:
  - i. One contractor sign per business shall be permitted on a specific lot.
  - ii. Each contractor sign may have a maximum size of twelve (12) square feet in area.

- iii. Ground-mounted contractor signs may not exceed a maximum height above ground level of four feet.
- iv. Each contractor sign shall be located in compliance with section 94-406.
- v. All contractor signs shall be removed within two weeks of the completion of onsite work.

(6) *Temporary construction site signs.*

- a. Temporary construction site signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A temporary construction site sign may only be located on a lot where a development project has been approved by the city.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of temporary construction site signs shall be as follows:
  - i. A maximum of two signs shall be permitted within the boundaries of a specific development project.
  - ii. Each sign may have a maximum size of 32 square feet in area.
  - iii. Ground-mounted signs may not exceed a maximum height above ground level of six feet.
  - iv. Each sign shall be located in compliance with section 94-406.
  - v. All signs shall be removed within two weeks of the completion of the development project that is being advertised.

(Ord. No. 10-579, § 8, 3-8-10; Ord. No. 11-595, §§ 1—6, 8, 3-28-11)

Sec. 94-413. - Billboards.

Billboards are, by their size and nature, different in scope, impact, and purpose from other types of signage in the city. Among other matters, billboards advertise or communicate goods, services or messages not conducted, sold, or generated on the lot where the billboard is located. Billboards are significantly larger in size than other types of stand-alone signage allowed in the city and their principal purpose is to attract the attention of the travelling public and to divert that attention from the road. The potential impact of a billboard on adjacent areas is significantly greater than other types of signage. Moreover, the potential for distraction to motorists and pedestrians is greater than for other signs. Recently, more businesses desire to utilize advancements in technology which allow signs (including billboards) to change copy electronically (e.g., utilizing an LED or digital type of sign). These newer technologies exacerbate the potential negative impacts of a billboard in terms of dominating the environment in which they operate due to light spillover and light pollution as well as creating additional distractions for the travelling public. The intent of this section is to:

- (1) Establish size, illumination, location and operating standards and regulations for billboards, and
- (2) Prohibit billboards utilizing these newer technologies in order to minimize the secondary effects that can accompany the display of these types of signs, preserve the character and repose of adjacent areas, protect property values in all areas of the city, and reduce traffic, pedestrian, and similar hazards caused by undue distractions.

In addition to the provisions of subsection 94-406(a) and this section 94-413, the city's basis for regulating billboards in the manner chosen is further identified in findings of fact adopted by the city commission on the same date with this ordinance amendment (Resolution No. \_\_\_).

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, billboards are only allowed within 100 feet of a freeway on property in the IPUD, ML, MH, or MP zoning districts, subject to all of the following regulations:

- (1) Each billboard may not exceed a height of 35 feet above the preexisting grade at the base of the billboard support pole(s).
- (2) Each billboard shall be located not less than 1,000 feet from residential zoning districts and not less than 1,500 feet from any existing residential dwelling or uses.
- (3) Each billboard shall be located not less than 2,000 feet from any other billboard. For purposes of this subsection, the distance between billboards on opposite sides of the freeway shall be measured as the distance between the points at which lines drawn perpendicular to the freeway from the location of each billboard intersect with a line along the center of the freeway.
- (4) Each billboard shall be located not less than 500 feet from any other freestanding sign which is located on the same side of the freeway within the city and which is visible from the traveled portion of the freeway; provided, however, that the minimum distance between billboards shall be governed by subsection (3).
- (5) Each billboard shall have a minimum setback of 20 feet from the freeway right-of-way, as measured from the closest point or edge of the billboard.
- (6) All measurements provided for in this section shall be measured radially and without respect to political or jurisdictional boundaries.
- (7) The area of a sign panel on a billboard shall not exceed three square feet for each one foot between the billboard and the nearest property line that intersects the property line abutting the freeway; provided, however, that the width of each sign panel on a billboard shall not exceed 14 feet and the length of each sign panel on a billboard shall not exceed 48 feet and, provided further that, notwithstanding the preceding provisions, irregularly shaped sign extensions not exceeding three percent of the area of a sign panel may extend beyond the perimeter of a sign panel on a billboard.
- (8) No billboard shall contain more than one sign panel facing the same direction of traffic on the freeway.
- (9) No billboard shall contain more than two sign panels.
- (10) The light rays of an illuminated billboard shall be cast directly upon the billboard and shall not be visible to or directed towards motorists on the freeway except as reflected from the billboard.
- (11) The sign area limitations in sections 94-410 and 94-411 shall not include the area of billboards permitted by this section.
- (12) Billboards shall be permitted in the MP district pursuant to all other requirements of this section, subject to the following:



- a. If a development plan has been approved for an industrial park, billboards shall be permitted provided that the development plan and restrictive covenants are first amended pursuant to section 94-182.
  - b. If a development plan has not been approved for an industrial park, a billboard shall be permitted provided that the owner of the property submits a written statement to the planning commission that either the billboard shall be included in the development plan and restrictive covenants when the property is developed for an industrial park or the billboard shall be removed prior to the development of the property as an industrial park.
- (13) Each billboard shall comply with section 94-406.
- (14) No billboard shall be erected unless a building permit has been issued therefore by the building inspector.
- (15) A billboard shall not be constructed within the freeway right-of-way and shall not be constructed on any private property located between the boundary lines of the freeway, including, without limitation, railroad rights-of-way, utility easements, and other property owned or leased by railroads, utility companies, or any other private parties.
- (16) Digital billboards and mechanical billboards, as defined in section 94-5, are prohibited.

{Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07; Ord. No. 10-579, § 9, 3-8-10; Ord. No. 11-603, § 4, 9-26-11}

Sec. 94-414. - Temporary construction site signs.

In addition to the signs otherwise permitted by this article, temporary construction site signs are permitted in any zone district subject to the following provisions:

- (1) *Number of signs permitted.* One temporary construction site sign is permitted for each street frontage of a development project, except that one additional sign may be erected on any frontage which is in excess of 500 lineal feet. Separate street frontages shall not be combined for purposes of computing total frontage. A temporary construction site sign permitted in connection with one (1) street frontage shall not be placed on any other frontage.
- (2) *Location.* Temporary construction site signs shall be located in compliance with section 94-406. Further, temporary construction site signs shall not be located nearer to a right-of-way line than one-half the minimum yard setback required for the principal building on the lot.
- (3) *Height.* A temporary construction site sign shall not exceed 12 feet in height measured from ground level at the base of the sign.
- (4) *Area.* The total area of the largest exposed surface of a temporary construction site sign shall not exceed 48 square feet, except that in connection with the construction of not more than one single-family dwelling or of not more than one two-family dwelling, the total area of the largest exposed surface of a temporary construction site sign shall not exceed 16 square feet.
- (5) *Installation and construction.* Temporary construction site signs which are not affixed to a building or structure shall be firmly anchored in the ground and shall be constructed and fastened to supports capable of withstanding a minimum of ten pounds of pressure per square foot of the area of a sign.
- (6) *Removal.* Unless the board of zoning appeals after public notice and hearing finds that a reasonable need for continued use of the sign exists and an absence of injurious effect on contiguous property is shown, temporary construction site signs shall be removed upon the earlier of the following:
  - a. Completion of the construction of a project;
  - b. Issuance by the building inspector of a certificate of occupancy for all or any portion of a project; or
  - c. Within two years of the date of final plat approval where the development involves platted lots, whichever occurs first.

{Ord. No. 07-551, § 2, 7-9-07}

Secs. 94-415—94-435. - Reserved.

**5.) SIGN PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**6.) IS EXCAVATION ON SITE LARGER THAN ONE ACRE, WITHIN 500 FT. OF A LAKE, STREAM OR COUNTY DRAIN?** YES  NO

**7.) PROJECT VALUATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Include labor) for remodeling and signs**  
NEW CONSTRUCTION VALUATION BASED ON FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE 94-448, BUILDING CODE OF THE THE CITY OF WALKER, ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION DATE APRIL 29, 2003, IS HEREBY REPEALED. THE FOLLOWING REVISED BUILDING PERMIT SCHEDULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED MAY 8, 2006, EFFECTIVE DATE JULY 1, 2006.

**8.) SIGN CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE:**

Contractor is responsible for the payment of all fees and charges applicable to this application and must provide the following information:

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
FIRM NAME			

I hereby certify that the proposed work is authorized by the owner of record and I have been authorized by the owner to make this application as his authorized agent, and we agree to conform to all applicable laws of the State of Michigan. All information submitted on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTOR	APPLICATION DATE
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**9.) PROPERTY OWNER'S AFFIDAVIT:**

I hereby certify the construction work described on this permit application will be installed by myself. All work will be installed in accordance with the building code adopted by The Municipality, and will not be enclosed, covered up, or put into use until it has been inspected and approved by the Building Inspector. I will cooperate with the Building Inspector and assume responsibility to arrange for the necessary inspections.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**10.) SITE OR PLOT PLAN - FOR APPLICANT USE (Attach additional sheets if necessary)**  
Indicate direction of North on site plan