

ORDINANCE NO. 532

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO AND REGULATING THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS: REPEALING CHAPTER 17.80 OF THE GIG HARBOR MUNICIPAL CODE, SIGN REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF GIG HARBOR; AND PROVIDING NEW SIGN REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the existing sign code is antiquated and does not effectively and equitably regulate the usage of signs in the city; and,

WHEREAS, the city council recognizes a need to adopt a new sign code which specifically provides standards of sign usage throughout the business and residential districts of the city that are equitable, understandable and can be effectively administered,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor, Washington, DO ORDAIN as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 17.80 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby repealed.

Section 2. A new section 17.80.010 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.010 Purpose and Scope.

Purpose:

It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote a quality visual environment by establishing reasonable standards for the size, placement, height and maintenance of outdoor signs, graphics and advertising. It is further intended to encourage quality design and material composition which create an attractive community and business climate. Special emphasis should be placed on achieving harmony with building design, settings and the character of the surrounding areas.

This ordinance shall not regulate traffic and directional signs installed by a governmental entity; signs not readable from nor intended to be viewed from a public right-of-way; merchandise displays; point-of-purchase advertising displays, such as product dispensers; national flags; flags of a political subdivision; symbolic flags of an

institution; legal notices required by law; barber poles; historic site plaques; gravestones; structures intended for a separate use, such as phone booths, Goodwill containers and recycling containers; or lettering or symbols painted directly onto or flush-mounted magnetically onto a motor vehicle operating in the normal course of business.

Section 3. A new section 17.80.020 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.08.020 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply for the purpose of this code:

1. ABANDONED SIGN. A sign that no longer correctly identifies, exhorts or advertises any person, business, lessor, owner, product or activity conducted or available on the premises where such sign is located.
2. ADVERTISING COPY. Any letters, figures, symbols, logos or trademarks which identify or promote the sign user or any product or service; or which provides information about the sign user, the building or the products or services available.
3. BUILDING. A roofed and walled structure built for permanent use.
4. BULLETIN BOARD. A board or small sign on which notices, community events or hours of operation are posted.
5. CHANGE. A change to a sign consists of relocating the sign, or replacing 50% or more of the structural material in the sign area. Normal maintenance and a change of name are not changes which require a permit.
6. CODE ADMINISTRATOR. The code administrator shall be the city's planning director, who shall be authorized to enforce all of the provisions of the sign code.
7. DISTRICTS, SIGN OVERLAY.

Area 1 - Those properties situated 300 feet back from the beginning and ending of the Olympic Drive freeway interchange, including those properties located within the Olympic Village and interchange area.

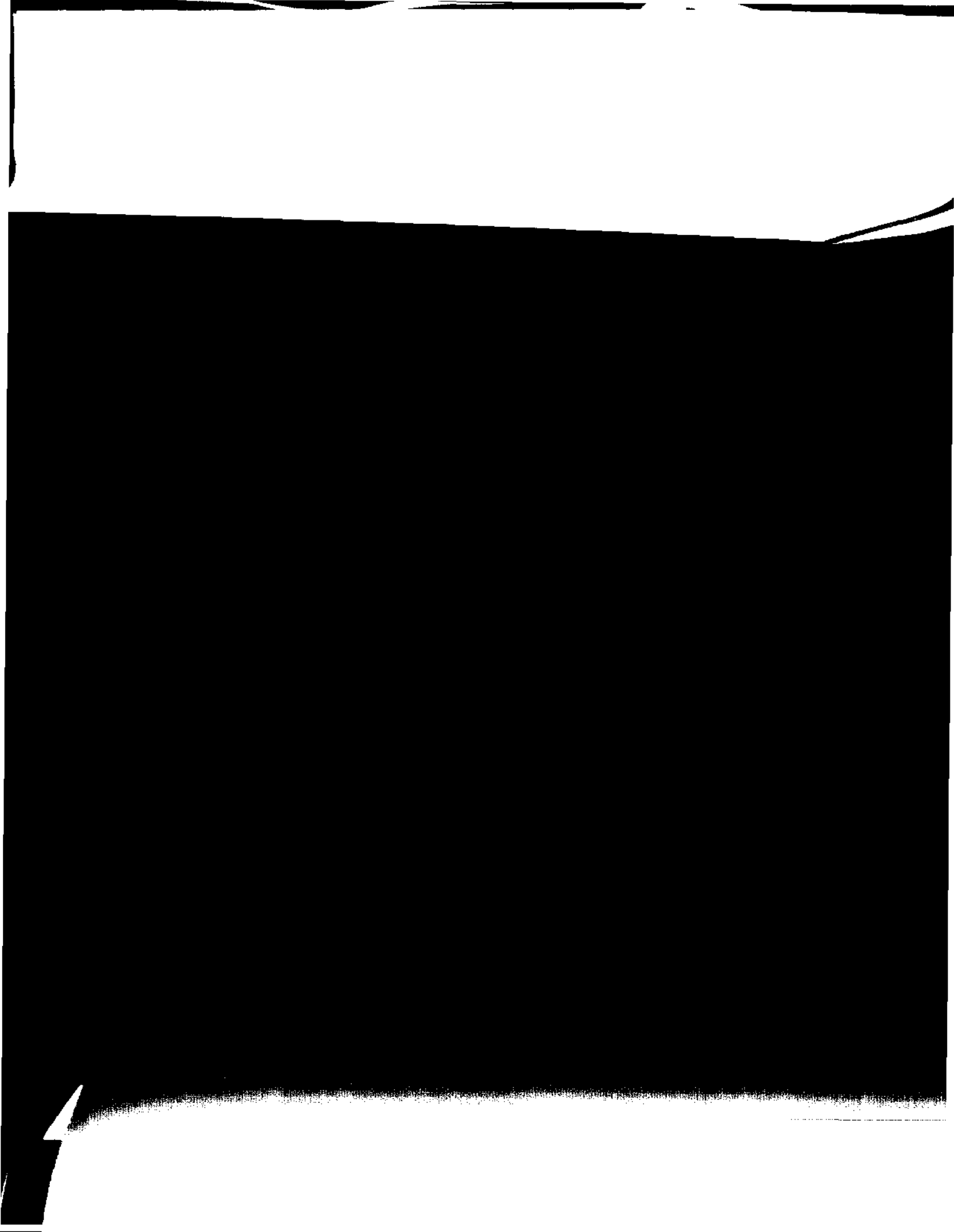
Area 2 - The Westside business district outside the defined interchange area, the commercial zones on Pioneer Way and Kimball Drive, the commercial zones on the westside of Soundview Drive outside the Olympic Village interchange, and the commercial area at the Burnham Drive/Harborview Drive interchange.

Area 3 - The RB-1 zoning district along Soundview Drive, and all other commercial districts and residential areas.

8. DOUBLE-FACED SIGN. A sign that has advertising copy on opposite sides of a single display surface or sign structure.
9. ELECTRICAL SIGN. A sign or sign structure in which electrical wiring, connections and/or fixtures are used as part of the sign proper.
10. FACADE. The entire building front or street wall face of a building extending from the grade of the building to the top of the parapet or eaves and the entire width of the building elevation.
11. FLASHING SIGN. A sign or a portion thereof which changes light intensity or switches on and off in a constraint pattern or contains motion or the optical illusion of motion by use of electrical energy. Changing message centers shall not be considered flashing signs.
12. FREESTANDING SIGN. A sign attached to the ground by a sign structure and supported by uprights placed on or in the ground.
13. FREEWAY INTERCHANGE AREA. The freeway interchange of State Route 16 (SR 16) shall be the area between where the present or designed future on and off ramps to the highway are situated measured between the intersection of the fog line of the exit and on-ramps that are near SR 16. This designation applies to those properties situated 300 feet back from the freeway interchange.
14. GAS STATION PRICE SIGN. A sign advertising the price of motor fuel and contains no other business advertising.

15. GRADE. The elevation as measured at the relative ground level in the immediate vicinity of the sign.
16. GROUND SIGN. A sign of limited height (maximum of 12 feet) constructed and affixed on a foundation upon or in the ground.
17. INCIDENTAL SIGN. A small non-electric information sign four (4) square feet or less in area which pertains to goods, products, services or facilities which are available on the premises where the sign occurs and is intended primarily for the convenience of the public while on the premises.
18. INSTITUTIONAL SIGN. A sign to identify educational, civic and religious institutions.
19. LANDSCAPING. The planned use of trees, shrubs and other living plant materials used in conjunction with a sign and other decorative features.
20. LOT IDENTIFICATION SIGN. A sign to identify the occupants of the premises.
21. MANSARD ROOF. A sloped roof or roof-like facade architecturally able to be treated as a building wall.
22. MARQUEE. A permanent structure attached to, supported by and projecting from a building and providing protection from the weather elements, but does not include a projecting roof. For purposes of this ordinance, a freestanding permanent roof-like structure providing protection from the elements, such as a service station gas pump island, will also be considered a marquee. This also includes canopies.
23. NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION SIGN. A sign to identify a particular residential area or development four acres or greater in size.
24. NEON SIGN. A symbol, logo, or message comprised of illuminated neon tubing used to attract attention for advertising purposes. Neon signs shall not flash, oscillate or revolve.

25. OFF-PREMISE DIRECTIONAL SIGN. A permanently installed sign which provides directional information to a business or service located in the Gig Harbor area, but not located on the same property as the sign in question.
26. ON-PREMISE DIRECTIONAL SIGN. A permanent sign that directs the public to a specific place such as an entrance, exit, or parking or service area, or a particular aspect of a business establishment.
27. OFF-PREMISE SIGN. A sign relating, through its message and content to a business activity, use, product or service not available on the premises on which the sign is erected.
28. ON-PREMISE SIGN. A sign which carries only advertisements and messages strictly applicable to a lawful use of the premises on which it is located.
29. PORTABLE SIGN. A sign made of any material, which by its design is readily movable and is not permanently affixed to the ground, structures or buildings.
30. PROJECTING SIGN. A sign which is attached to and projects more than one foot from a structure, building face or marquee.
31. READERBOARD. A sign face consisting of tracks to hold readily changeable letters allowing frequent changes of copy.
32. REVOLVING SIGN. A sign which rotates or turns in a circular pattern.
33. ROOF SIGN. A sign supported by and erected on and above a roof or parapet of a building or structure (shall not include a sign erected on the face of a mansard roof).
34. SANDWICH BOARD/SIDEWALK SIGN. Such sign shall have a maximum height of three (3) feet and width of two (2) feet located in front of the business.
35. SIGN. Any visual communication device, structure, or fixture which is visible from any right-of-way and is intended to aid the establishment in question in promoting the sale



of products, goods, services, events or to identify a building, using graphics, letters, figures, symbols, trademarks or written copy. Painted wall designs or patterns which do not represent a product, service or registered trademark, or which do not identify the user, shall not be considered signs. If a design or pattern is combined with a sign, only that part of the design or pattern which cannot be distinguished from the sign will be considered as part of the sign.

36. SIGN AREA. The entire area of a sign on which copy is to be placed. Sign structure, architectural embellishments, framework and decorative features which contain no written or advertising copy shall not be included. Sign area shall be calculated by measuring the area of the smallest rectangle that can be drawn around all parts of the sign from the viewpoint exposing the largest sign surface area, excluding simple support structures. Sign supporting structures which are part of the sign display shall be included in the area rectangle.
37. TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION SIGN. A sign jointly erected and maintained on premises undergoing construction, by an architect, contractor, subcontractor and/or materialman, upon which property such person is furnishing labor or material.
38. TEMPORARY SIGN. Any sign or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, paper, cardboard or other light materials, with or without frames, intended to be displayed for a limited time only and not permanently attached to a building or site.
39. WALL SIGN. A sign attached or erected parallel to and extending not more than one foot from the facade or face of any building to which it is attached and supported throughout its entire length, with the exposed face of the sign parallel to the plane of said wall or facade. Signs incorporated into mansard roofs, marquees or canopies shall be treated as a wall sign.
40. WALL GRAPHICS. A wall graphic is a wall sign of which color and form are part of an overall design on the building.

Section 4. A new section 17.80.030 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.030 Permits Required. The following regulations shall apply to all signs.

A special sign overlay district is hereby adopted and portrayed on Map 1. The standards of this chapter shall be applied as defined in the specific overlay areas.

No sign shall be installed, constructed, painted, structurally altered, posted or applied without first obtaining a sign permit from the Code Administrator, unless exempted by this ordinance. A separate permit shall be required for each group of signs on a single supporting structure installed simultaneously. Thereafter, each additional sign erected on the structure must have a separate permit.

A. Permit Requirements:

- 1) Applications/Fees: Applications for sign shall be accompanied by:
  - a) Two (2) site plans showing the location of the affected lot, building(s) and sign(s), showing both existing signs
  - b) Two (2) copies of a scale drawing of the proposed sign or sign revision, including size, height, copy, structural; footing details, material specifications, method of attachment, illumination, front and end views of marquees, calculation for dead load and wind pressure, photograph of site and building marked to show where sign or marquee is proposed, and any other information required to ensure compliance with appropriate laws.
  - c) Written consent of the owner of the building, structure, or property where the sign is to be erected.
  - d) A permit fee as provided in the following fee schedule:
    - i. Exemptions  
The code administrator may waive submission of plans and specifications when the structural aspect is of minor importance.
    - ii. Permit Fees  
Permit fees shall be in accordance with the following fee schedule:



<u>Type of Sign</u>	<u>Size</u>		
	<u>25-50 s.f.</u>	<u>51-99 s.f.</u>	<u>100 s.f./ more</u>
Wall sign, non-electric	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$55.00
Wall sign, elec.	40.00	50.00	60.00
Ground, non-electric	50.00	65.00	70.00
Ground, electric	60.00	70.00	80.00
All signs less than 25 sq. ft.		10.00	
Change of sign, all sizes:		10.00	
Variance application	100.00		

- 2) Administrative Requirements: The code administrator shall ascertain that the sign installer has a valid Washington State contractors license, unless the sign is being installed by the owner of the sign.
- 3) Variances: Any person may apply to the hearing examiner for a variance from the requirements of this ordinance. Variances shall be processed by the code administrator. The hearing examiner may grant a variance from the provisions and/or the requirements of the ordinance when:
  - a) The granting of the variance would not be materially detrimental to the property owners in the vicinity and the variance sought is of minimum sign size, height, and scope to meet the conditions and needs of the applicant; and
  - b) The granting of the variance would not be contrary to the objectives of this ordinance; and
  - c) The signage of the property in question cannot be adequately met under the literal interpretation and strict application of the ordinance; and
  - d) The granting of the variance is necessary because of special circumstances relating to property location, topography, shape and size; site distance and limited view to property; and/or dependency of business to visual access of freeway traffic in the freeway interchange area (Area 1).

- 4) Administrative Waiver: Off-Premises Signs:  
Off-premise commercial signs are prohibited by the city, unless a waiver is granted by the code administrator for an off-premise directional sign. Waivers shall only be granted upon a clear demonstration that the applicant's business or property is not visible from any streets or roads or on-premise signing cannot adequately convey the location and identity of the business to consumers who would normally use the business.
- a) Such signs shall be directional only (no advertising other than name and location).
  - b) No more than two (2) such signs for each business shall be approved.
  - c) The total area of the sign shall not exceed 24 square feet, such sign(s) must be permanently installed on private property, and the application must be accompanied by written permission of the owner of the property where the sign is to be located. Portable directional signs are not permitted, except real estate directional signs.
  - d) Such sign shall meet all other applicable provisions of this chapter.
  - e) If more than one business in an immediate area has need for an off-premise directional sign, all must be identified on the same sign.

B. Sign Standards and Conditions:

- 1) General Regulations:
- a) No sign or any part of a sign shall be designed or constructed to be moving by any means, and shall not contain items such as banners, ribbons, streamers and spinners. These devices, when not part of any sign, are also prohibited. Limited use of thematic flags, banners and pennants, which are complementary to a specific location or structure may be permitted upon approval of the code administrator. This waiver is not intended to permit the use of numerous types of devices which as a result of wind pressure may move to a point of attracting attention of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

- b) Exposed braces and angle irons are prohibited. Guywires are prohibited unless there are no other practical means of supporting the sign.
- c) No sign shall have blinking, flashing, fluttering or moving lights or other illuminating device which has a changing light intensity or color provided; however, temperature and/or time signs that conform in all other respects to this chapter are allowed.
- d) No window signs above the first floor shall be illuminated.
- e) The structure and installation of all signs shall comply with the latest adopted edition of the uniform building code.
- d) Such sign shall meet all other applicable provisions of this chapter.
- e) If more than one business in an immediate area has need for an off-premise directional sign, all must be identified on the same sign.
- f) All signs, together with all of their supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be maintained in good repair and in a safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.
- g) The light directed on, or internal to, any sign shall be so shaded, shielded and/or directed so that the intensity or brightness shall not adversely affect safe vision of operators of vehicles moving on private or public property or pedestrians on a public right-of-way. Electric signs shall not use incandescent bulbs for internal illumination. Lighted signs visible from nearby residences shall have low or soft illumination or be shielded in a manner to not adversely affect such residents.
- h) Portable signs shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in sign area and no more than one such sign may be displayed per business. Portable signs must be located on the premise to which they relate, except real estate directional signs.
- i) Abandoned signs shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located after the business or service advertised is no longer conducted on the premises.

2) Freestanding Ground Signs:

- a) Sign height is the vertical distance from the highest point of the sign to the finished grade at the base of the supports.
- b) Freestanding signs shall not be permitted in any area of the city.
- c) Height standards:
  - Areas 1- Ground signs shall not and 2 exceed twelve (12) feet in height.
  - Area 3 - Ground signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
- d) Sign surface standards:
  - Areas 1- 50 square feet for a single and 2 side or 100 square feet total both sides.
  - Area 3 - 24 square feet for a single side or 48 square feet total both sides.
- e) Location:

Ground signs may not be located on public property. Sites on a corner of two public streets may have one sign on the corner instead of a sign for each frontage. Placements in these locations are subject to approval by the Public Works Director. The placement of ground signs shall be in such a fashion and location as to not obstruct the view of signs of adjacent property owners.
- f) Number:
  - i) One ground sign shall be permitted on each street frontage of property on which the business is located.
  - ii) If a projecting sign is used, no freestanding sign shall be permitted on the property.
- g) Landscaping:
  - i) Each sign shall have a landscaped area twice the size of the sign area at the base of the sign. The landscaping and sign base shall be protected from vehicles by substantial curbing.

ii) Permits for signs shall not be granted until required landscaping is installed or a bond or assigned funds in the amount of 125% of the estimated cost of the landscaping is provided.

iii) These requirements may be waived if the sign is located in an area that is part of an approved overall site landscape plan.

3. Wall mounted signs:

a) Total area:

Painted or attached signs on any wall shall not exceed the following ratios:

Area 1 - Two (2) square feet of sign area to one lineal foot of building front; provided however, fifty (50) square feet of sign area is guaranteed each business frontage. Those businesses with both a building front and one side wall exposure to vehicular and pedestrian traffic may, as an option for purposes of calculating total wall sign area, add the lineal footage of the building front and side wall then divide by two.

Area 2 - One and one-half (1.5) square feet of sign area to one lineal foot of building front. Those businesses with both a building front and one side wall exposure to vehicular and pedestrian traffic may, as an option for purposes of calculating total wall sign area, add the lineal footage of of the building front and side wall then divide by two.

Area 3 - One (1) square foot of sign area for every lineal foot of wall upon which it is mounted or fifty (50) square feet whichever is less.

b) Wall signs shall not project above roof-lines.

4) Window Signs:

a) Where a window sign is utilized in place of a wall sign, the area standards contained in Section 3a) shall apply.

- b) In addition to the area requirements of a) above, businesses are allowed one painted window sign identifying the business or proprietor and hours of business. The maximum area of these signs is six (6) square feet.
  - c) Signs above the first floor are not included in the maximum sign area of a site, and are allowed to businesses located above the first floor with a maximum area of one square foot of sign area for each lineal foot of window frontage.
- 5) Projecting Signs:
- a) Surface area:
    - Areas 1 and 2 - 32 square feet total both sides.
    - Area 3 - 18 square feet total both sides and shall be engraved or painted wood or painted metal.
  - b) All projecting signs must be at least eight feet above sidewalks and walkways and fifteen (15) feet above vehicular ways.
  - c) Sign shall not project more than three (3) feet or 1/3 the width of the sidewalk or walkway.
  - d) Businesses choosing to use projecting signs shall reduce the amount of allowable wall mounted or window sign area by the proportionate amount of sign area allowed under Sections 3a and 4a respectively.
- 6) Shopping Center Identification Sign(s):  
Each shopping center as qualified below may be permitted a shopping center identification sign(s). The shopping center identification sign shall be limited to one sign per street frontage, and subject to the height and size requirements of the areas in which the center is located. Such sign(s) shall be permitted for shopping centers which contain no less than ten (10) separate tenants, and restricted to only the identification of the shopping center. The shopping center identification sign shall be located in a planter of appropriate dimension. Individual tenants/businesses within a planned shopping center shall only be allowed to use wall signs.

- 7) Office Building Identification Sign:  
In addition to those signs permitted by this ordinance, each office building as qualified below may be permitted a building identification sign. The sign shall be in architectural harmony with the design of the buildings to be identified. The office building identification sign shall be limited to one sign per street frontage, and subject to the height and size requirements of the areas in which the building is located. One such sign(s) shall be permitted for office buildings which contain no less than four (4) tenants or any institutional use, and the copy shall include only the name of the office building or insitutional use. A directory or other exclusively informational listing of tenant's names may be attached, provided the area does not exceed twelve (12) square feet.
- 8) Sidewalk/Sandwich Board:  
One sidewalk or sandwich board sign per business shall be permitted subject to the following:
- a) Signs shall be located next to the curb edge of a sidewalk on premise in such a manner so as not to interfere with the opening of car doors, bus stops, loading zones, or pedestrian traffic.
  - b) Signs shall be located directly in front of the sponsoring business, within twelve (12) feet of the main entrance to the business and during business hours only.
  - c) Owners of such signs shall assume liability for damage resulting from their use and shall provide the city with an appropriate legal document holding the city harmless for such resulting loss.
  - d) No sign shall be located so as to create a traffic safety hazard by interfering with the vision of drivers entering or leaving the premises.
  - e) Maximum allowable sign area shall be twelve (12) square feet.

9) Wall Graphics:

There are no area restrictions on wall graphics provided that they do not constitute advertising of a business or product normally subject to the provisions for painted signs.

Section 5. A new section 17.80.040 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.040 Temporary Signs. No permit is required for temporary signs. These signs are for promotional purposes and are not allowed to continually advertise goods, services or events on a site; permanent signs shall be used for that purpose.

A) Business Opening Signs.

Maximum duration shall be one month. Maximum area, per site, shall be twenty (20) square feet.

B) Sale Signs.

Maximum duration shall be one month.

C) Quitting Business, Fire Sale, and Similar Signs.

Maximum duration shall be not more than two months.

D) Real Estate (On- and Off-Premise Signs.

1) Residential "For Sale" and "Sold" Signs:

Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage not to exceed six (6) square feet in sign area per side, placed wholly on the property for sale, and not to exceed a height of six (6) feet.

Off-premise signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet and are restricted to one per street.

2) Residential Directional "Open House" Signs:

Such signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage on the premises for sale and three (3) off-premises signs. However, if a broker/agent has more than one house open for inspection in a single development or subdivision, he is limited to four (4) off-premises "open house" signs in the entire development or subdivision.

Such signs are permitted only during daylight hours and when the broker/agent or seller or an agent is in attendance at the property for sale. No such sign shall exceed five (5) square feet in sign area per side. The sign may be placed along the periphery of a public right-of-way, provided it does not interfere with traffic safety, but it may not be attached to a utility pole or traffic safety device.



- 3) Undeveloped Commercial and Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs:  
One sign per street frontage advertising undeveloped commercial property for sale or for rent is permitted while the building is actually for rent or sale. The sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in sign area per side and six (6) feet in height.
- 4) Developed Commercial and Industrial Property "For Sale or Rent" Signs:  
One sign per street frontage advertising a commercial or industrial building for rent or sale is permitted while the building is actually for rent or sale. If one face of the building is less than ten (10) feet from the building line, the sign shall be placed on the building or in a window. If freestanding, the sign shall not exceed six (6) feet in height; it shall be located more than fifteen (15) feet from any abutting property line and a public right-of-way line; and shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in sign area per side. For rental space in multi-occupancy buildings, one sign, four (4) square feet in area, is allowed per window.
- E. Construction Signs:  
Sign copy shall be limited to information about a building under construction or being remodeled. Maximum duration shall be until construction is completed or one year, whichever is shorter. Maximum area shall be thirty-two (32) square feet.
- F. Campaign/Political Signs:  
Sign copy shall be limited to information about a candidate, political party or public issue involved in a current election campaign. Campaign/political signs are permissible on the edge of public rights-of-way (provided they are not hazardous to pedestrian or vehicular traffic) for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days prior to and/or five (5) days after the applicable election. It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to have his/her campaign/political signs removed within five (5) days after the election, or the city will remove such signs at the candidate's expense. Campaign/political signs may not otherwise be placed on public property and rights-of-way. Maximum sign area shall be twelve (12) square feet.

G. Seasonal Decoration Signs and Signs Advertising a Public Event:

Maximum duration shall be from one month before the event to five (5) days after the event. Signs shall be removed by the promoters of the event, or the city will remove such signs at the promoters expense.

Section 6. A new section 17.80.050 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.050 Permits Not Required.

The following shall not require a permit, provided, however, these exemptions shall not be construed as relieving the owner from the responsibility to comply with the provisions of this ordinance or any other law or ordinance.

1. The changing of the advertising copy or message on a lawfully erected, painted or printed sign, readerboard or similar sign specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy.
2. Painting, repainting or cleaning of a lawfully erected sign or the changing of the advertising copy thereof and other normal maintenance unless a structural or electrical change is made.
3. Temporary decorations customary for special holidays erected entirely on private property.
4. On-premise directional signs not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet and distance from the ground level at the base of the sign to the top of the sign shall not exceed eight feet.
5. Incidental signs.
6. Political signs, per city ordinance.
7. One non-electric on-premise bulletin board not exceeding twelve (12) square feet in area for each charitable or religious organization.
8. One temporary construction sign per street frontage.
9. Institutional identification signs not exceeding eighteen (18) square feet on all faces. The top of the sign shall not be higher than six feet from the ground level.

10. One gas station price sign per station limited to maximum of thirty (30) square feet total area on all sides and maximum height from the ground of five feet.
11. One emblem of organization sign per city entrance and the total area of the sign on all of its faces shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet.
12. One lot identification sign with the total area not to exceed a) two square feet per residential dwelling unit, not to exceed a maximum of eighteen (18) square feet for multi-family projects, and b) eighteen square feet for nonresidential uses.
13. One neighborhood identification sign not exceeding a total of twelve (12) square feet on all its faces and the height from the base of the sign to the top shall not exceed six feet.
14. One temporary sign not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet and displayed for thirty-one (31) days per calendar year.
15. One non-electric portable sign not exceeding four (4) square feet located on-premise.

Section 7. A new section 17.80.060 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.060 Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited:

1. Signs which by coloring, shape, wording or location resemble or conflict with traffic control signs or devices.
2. Signs which the director of public works determines to be a safety hazard for pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Such signs shall be removed if they already exist.
3. Flashing signs or lights.
4. Signs or parts of signs which revolve.
5. Portable signs exceeding six (6) square feet each side.

6. Signs attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer parked on public or private property; provided however, this provision shall not be construed as prohibiting the identification of a firm or its products on a vehicle operating during the normal course of business. Franchised buses and taxis are exempt from this provision.
7. Off-premise signs, except real estate directional signs, political signs, public service civic event signs, garage sale signs.
8. Any sign affixed to or painted on trees, rocks or other natural features or utility poles.
9. Roof signs.
10. All portable readerboard signs, including portable readerboard signs except such signs used for theaters. Portable readerboard signs may be allowed for special events for a period not to exceed three days.

Section 8. A new section 17.80.070 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.070 Administration and Enforcement. The code administrator shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this code.

- A. Removal of Signs. The Code Administrator may order the removal of any sign erected, installed or maintained in violation of this ordinance. He/she shall give written notice specifying the violation to the holder of the sign permit, or the owner of the property where the sign is erected, to correct said violation specifying the violation to the holder of the sign permit, or the owner of the property where the sign is erected, to correct said violation or remove the sign within thirty (30) days. In the event the violation is not corrected within thirty (30) days, a citation shall be issued to the owner of the sign or the owner of the property where the sign is located. If, in the opinion of the code administrator, the condition of the sign presents an immediate threat to the safety of the public, the enforcing officer may cause immediate removal of the sign at cost to the owner of the premises.

- B. Cumulative Civil Penalty. Any person found in violation of this ordinance shall incur a cumulative civil penalty in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day from the date set for correction thereof until the violation is corrected. The civil penalty enforcement procedures, appeal and settlement process shall be followed pursuant to and consistent with those procedures set forth in Chapter 15.18 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code.
- C. Nonconforming Signs. Nonconforming signs which are permanently installed and were legally installed prior to the adoption of this ordinance shall be allowed to continue in use as long as such signs are continuously maintained, are not relocated, are not structurally altered or made more nonconforming in any way. A nonconforming sign(s) shall be required to be brought into compliance upon: abandonment of the premises, destruction of the sign beyond 50% of its value, or change in the use of the property where the sign(s) is located. Conformance applies to sign height, size and location.

Section 9. A new section 17.80.080 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17.80.080 Liability. This ordinance shall not be construed to relieve from or lessen the responsibility of any person owning, building, altering, constructing, or removing any sign for damages to anyone injured or damaged either in person or property by any defect or action therein, nor shall the city, or any agent thereof, be held as assuming such liability by reason of permit or inspection authorized herein or a certificate of inspection issued by the city or any of its agents.

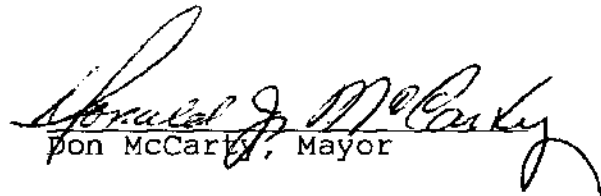
Section 10. A new section 17.80.090 of the Gig Harbor Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows.

17.80.090 Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

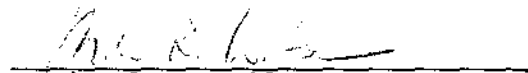
Section 11. The City Clerk is hereby directed to maintain not less than one (1) copy of this ordinance on file in the office of the City Clerk for use and examination by the public pursuant to RCW 35A.12.140.

Section 12. This ordinance shall be and is hereby declared to be in full force and effect five days after official publication of the attached summary which is hereby approved.

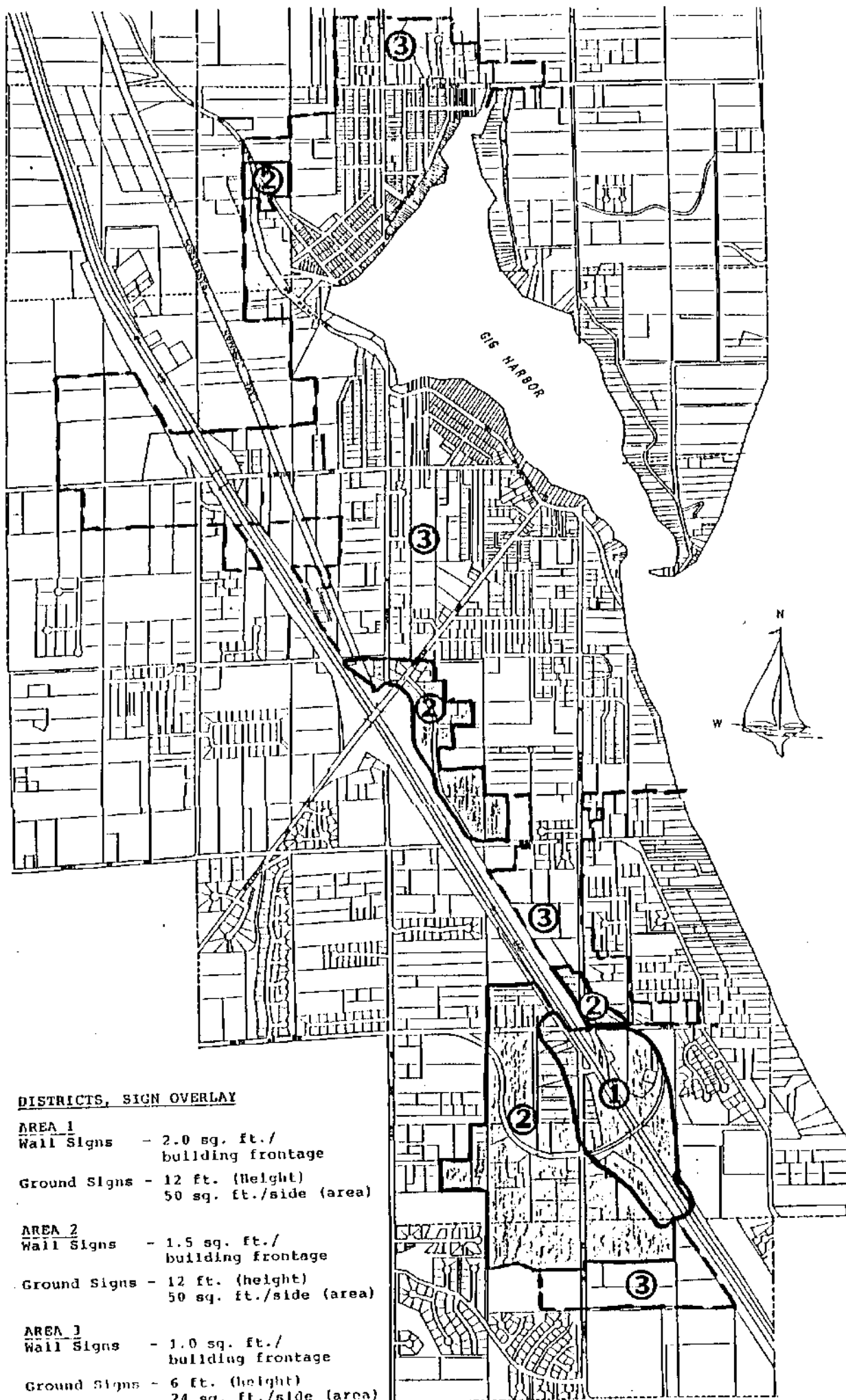
PASSED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor, Washington, and approved by its Mayor at a regular meeting of the council held on this 25th day of April, 1988.

  
Don McCarty, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Michael R. Wilson  
City Administrator/Clerk

Filed with city clerk: 9/11/87  
Passed by city council: 4/25/88  
Date published: 5/4/88  
Date effective: 5/10/88



# **DISTRICTS, SIGN OVERLAY**

## **AREA 1**

- Wall Signs - 2.0 sq. ft./  
building frontage
- Ground Signs - 12 ft. (height)  
50 sq. ft./side (area)

## **AREA 2**

- Wall Signs - 1.5 sq. ft./  
building frontage
- Ground Signs - 12 ft. (height)  
50 sq. ft./side (area)

## **AREA 3**

- Wall Signs - 1.0 sq. ft./  
building frontage
- Ground Signs - 6 ft. (height)  
24 sq. ft./side (area)