

Title 20 Consolidated Development Code

20.618 Sign Permit

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20.618.010 Purpose

The board finds and declares that the establishment of regulations and minimum standards for the erection and maintenance of outdoor signs and billboards within the county are necessary for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and general welfare, and the establishment of such regulations and minimum standards are in accordance with the provisions of and purposes of the NRS.

The board further finds that the sign provisions provide minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare in keeping with the unique character of the county by regulating and controlling the size, height, design, quality of materials, construction, location, electrification, and maintenance of all signs and signs structures not located within a building, and including temporary signs attached to or affixed upon windows, and to accomplish the following results:

- A. To protect and enhance the character of residential neighborhoods, open views and vistas, and property values by prohibiting obtrusive and incompatible signs;
- B. To promote and maintain healthy commercial centers and property values for effective communication of the nature of goods and services and avoidance of wasteful, ugly and unsightly competition in signs;
- C. To provide a reasonable and comprehensive system of control of signs, integrated within a part of the general planning program and zoning ordinance, and not as a distinct police power that is exercised separate and apart from the zoning power;
- D. To encourage signs which are well-designed and pleasing in appearance and to provide incentive and latitude for variety, good design relationship and spacing and location;
- E. To encourage a desirable area character with a minimum of overhead clutter;
- F. To attract and direct persons to various activities and enterprises in order to provide for the maximum public convenience; and
- G. To enhance the economic value of the community and each area in it through the regulation of size, location, design and illumination of signs. (Ord. 763, 1996; Ord. 386, 1981)

20.618.020 Permit required

It is unlawful for any person to erect, enlarge, alter, or relocate, within Douglas County, any sign or other advertising structure as defined in appendix A of this title without first obtaining a sign permit and building permit except as otherwise provided in chapter 20.696. Sign permits are valid for 180 days after issuance. (Ord. 763, 1996; Ord. 386, 1981)

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20.618.030 Application for sign permit

An application must be submitted by the property owner or by an agent on the owner's behalf on the form provided by the county with the fee established by resolution. (Ord. 763, 1996; Ord. 386, 1981)

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20.618.040 Procedures for sign permit

A. The director shall check the application, plans and specifications for sign permits. No permit shall be issued unless the plans and specifications have been reviewed and approved by all applicable departments and divisions. If the department is satisfied that the work described in an application for permit and the plans and specifications filed therewith conform to the requirements of chapter 20.696 and all other laws and ordinances, and that the appropriate fees have been paid, a sign permit shall issued and forwarded to the building division for building permit issuance.

B. If the community development department determines from the application or from the inspection of the premises that signs or other advertising structures exist on the premises, no permit shall be issued for any new sign or advertising structure which would increase the gross size or dimensional area of all signs or advertising structures beyond the allowable limits.

C. If the community development department determines from the application and accompanying plans or drawings that a proposed sign or advertising structure is, by reason of unusual or unique shape, color combination or context, likely to be out of harmony with the prevailing style or pattern of signs or advertising structures in the area of the county in which it is proposed to be located, the director shall forthwith submit the application and accompanying data as herein required to the planning commission, and the commission shall consider and review the same within 30 working days from the date of filing. If the commission finds and determines that the proposed sign or advertising structure is offensive or undesirable from the standpoint of color harmonics, size or if by reason of its shape, context or unique graphic portrayal of an object or objects it will create disharmony, it may reject or disapprove the application. In the alternative, it may recommend any changes, alterations or modifications of the proposed sign or advertising structures as will cause it to harmonize with the prevailing architectural or existing sign or sign pattern or patterns. In the event the application is rejected or disapproved, or in the event the applicant refuses or declines to comply with

any recommendations of the planning commission for change, alteration or modification, the applicant may appeal as provided in this title. (Ord. 763, 1996; Ord. 386, 1981)

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20.618.050 Inspection

Every sign erected in the county shall be subject to inspection by the community development department to ensure compliance with all provisions of this section and title, as amended. (Ord. 801, 1998; Ord. 763, 1996; Ord. 386, 1981)

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