

**Part 16****Signs****§27-1601. Conformance with Sign Provisions.**

Any sign hereafter erected or maintained shall conform with the provisions of this Part and any other Township ordinances or regulations. A sign is hereby defined as any signboard, ground sign, pylon or pole sign, marquee, awning, canopy, street clock or banner and shall include any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display illustration or insignia used to advertise or promote the interests of any person, when the same is oriented toward the public right of way and/or the view of the general public.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1600; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; and by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2)

**§27-1602. Area of Signs.**

1. The area of a sign shall be construed to include all lettering, wording and accompanying designs and symbols together with the background with the background whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed, but not including any supporting framework and bracing which are incidental to the display itself.

2. The area of a sign painted upon or applied to a building shall be considered to include all lettering, working and accompanying designs or symbols together with any backing associated with the sign.

3. Where the sign consists of individual letters or symbols attached to or painted on a surface, building, wall or window, the area shall be computed by any recognized geometric shape that can enclose such letters or symbols.

4. In computing square foot area of a double-faced sign, only one side shall be considered, provided both faces are identical. If the interior angle formed by the two faces of the double-faced sign is greater than 45 degrees, then both sides of such sign shall be considered in calculating the sign area.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1601; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; and by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2)

**§27-1603. Illumination of Signs.**

1. *Directly Illuminated Sign.* A sign designated to give forth artificial light directly (or through transparent or translucent material) from a source of light within such a sign, including but not limited to neon and exposed lamp signs.

A. *Festoon Lighting.* Festoon lighting is a directly illuminated sign including either a group of incandescent light bulbs hung or strung overhead or used to outline a sign or other structure, but not including holiday lighting. Festoon lighting is not permitted.

B. *Digital Display Message Board* (see definition at §27-202).

(1) *Lighting Intensity.*

(a) The lighting intensity shall be no greater than 1 foot candle at lot

line from sunset to sunrise. [Ord. 2341]

(b) The intensity of the sign light source shall not interfere with nearby traffic control devices nor shall it produce a glare, the effect of which constitutes a traffic hazard or is otherwise detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare. [Ord. 2341]

(c) No sign shall be brighter than 5,000 nits between sunrise and sunset, measured according to recognized industry standards for brightness measurement. [Ord. 2341]

(2) *Size.* The digital display portion of the sign shall not exceed 25 square feet or 25 percent of the total permitted signage area, whichever is less. [Ord. 2341]

(3) *Location.* C-1, C-2 and I-1 Zoning Districts only.

(4) *Transition Between Changes.*

(a) Each individual message or display shall be displayed for 15 consecutive seconds or more for the benefit of on-premises business activity only.

(b) The transition from one static display to another must be instantaneous, without any special effects including, but not limited to, flashing, spinning, revolving transition methods, scrolling from left to right or top to bottom, slot machine, splice, mesh, radar, kaleidoscope, spin or any other animated transition.

[Ord. 2341]

(5) The display shall be limited to black backgrounds only. [Ord. 2341]

(6) All images, messages and graphics displayed must be static. The use of streaming video or full motion video on any sign is prohibited. [Ord. 2341]

(7) The signs shall not have movement, or the appearance of optical illusion of movement or varying light intensity, of any part of the sign structure, design or pictorial segment of the sign. [Ord. 2341]

(8) The signs shall have an automatic mechanism that adjusts the illuminative brightness of the display. [Ord. 2341]

(9) The display shall be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions. [Ord. 2341]

2. *Indirectly Illuminated Sign.* A sign illuminated with a light so shielded that no direct rays therefrom are visible elsewhere on the lot where said illumination occurs. If such shielding device is defective, such sign shall be deemed to be a directly illuminated sign.

3. *Flashing and/or Animated Sign.* Flashing and/or animated signs are prohibited. [Ord. 2341]

4. *Nonilluminated Sign.* A sign which is not illuminated either directly or indirectly.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1602; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2; and by Ord. 2341, 8/18/2014, §1)

**§27-1604. Location of Signs.**

1. *On-Premises Sign.* A sign which directs attention to any activity conducted on the same lot.

2. *Off-Premises Sign.* A sign which directs attention to an activity not conducted on the same lot.

3. *Advertising Sign.* An off-premises sign which advertises or otherwise directs attention to a commodity, business, industry, other similar activity which is sold, offered or conducted elsewhere than on the lot upon which such sign is located. Advertising signs known as billboards are permitted provided they meet the requirements of this Chapter.

4. *Business Sign.* An on-premises sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, industry or other activity which is sold, offered or conducted on the premises upon which such sign is located or to which it is affixed.

A. *Window Sign.* A window sign is any business sign which is oriented to the public right-of-way and typically attached to the inside of a window.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1603; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; and by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2)

**§27-1605. Types of Signs.**

1. *Freestanding Sign.* A self-supporting sign that has a permanent foundation to support a 90 mph wind, and is supported by means of poles or standards on the ground. The height of freestanding signs shall be measured from the average grade at the base of the sign at ground level, to the top of the sign. Freestanding signs shall not overhang sidewalks or be erected less than 15 feet from the street right of way. Any application for a freestanding sign shall be accompanied by drawings certified under seal of a professional engineer that the existence of the freestanding sign, as proposed, shall not present a safety hazard.

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A. *Pole Sign*. A freestanding sign which is supported by one or more poles, uprights, or braces is not permitted in any zoning district.

B. *Ground Sign*. A freestanding sign which is affixed or has the appearance of being affixed to the ground by means of a permanent foundation and which provides a maximum clearance of 18 inches between the bottom edge of the sign and the adjacent ground level.

2. *Wall Sign*. A sign mounted to a wall or other vertical building surface. Wall signs may extend beyond the edge of any wall or other surface to which they are mounted but shall not project more than 12 inches from its surface to accommodate the installation of the raceway and sign.

(*Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1604; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; and by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2*)

### **§27-1606. General Sign Regulations.**

1. *Prohibited Signs*. All signs not expressly authorized under this Part or exempt from regulation hereunder in accordance with previous Sections are prohibited in the Township. Prohibited signs shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Beacons.
- B. Animated signs.
- C. Flashing signs.
- D. Portable signs.
- E. Marquee signs.
- F. Roof signs.

G. Changeable copy signs, except for pricing signs for gasoline service stations and bulletin boards for religious establishments and educational institutions and which conform to the overall size, area and bulk requirements of this Part and where the changeable copy portion of the sign shall not exceed 18 square feet.

- H. Pennants.
- I. String of lights except those exempt under previous Sections.
- J. Inflatable signs.
- K. Tethered balloons.
- L. Temporary signs, e.g., sandwich board signs or like and/or similar signage.
- M. Projecting signs.
- N. Any sign or sign structure which constitutes a hazard to public safety or health.
- O. Signs which by reason of size, location, content, coloring or manner of illumination obstruct the vision of drivers either when leaving a roadway or driveway or obstruct or detract from the visibility or effectiveness of a traffic sign or controlled device on public streets.
- P. Holographic or similar projected signs.
- Q. Digital outdoor advertising display panels.

R. Signs which make use of words such as “stop,” “look,” “one-way,” “danger,” “yield,” or similar words, phrases, symbols, lights or characters in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.

S. Any obsolete sign which no longer identifies a bonafide business conducted or product sold.

T. Signs painted on or attached to or supported by a tree, utility pole, stone, cliff or other natural object.

U. Banners except as provided for herein.

V. Band lighting, fascia lighting, strip lighting and the like.

W. Signs on or affixed to vehicles and/ or trailers which are parked on a public right of way, public property or private property, other than temporarily for overnight storage on the site of a business or for maintenance, repair, loading, unloading or rendering a service at any location, which are visible from the public right of way and where the apparent purpose is to advertise a product or direct people to a business or activity located on the same or nearby property.

X. Signs on vending machines, trash bins or other devices serving the premises which are not screened from view from any public right of way.

Y. No signage shall contain pornographic or lewd messages or messages intended to incite riots.

2. No sign shall be so located or arranged that it interferes with traffic through glare, through blocking of reasonable sight lines for streets, sidewalks or driveways, through confusion with a traffic-control device by reason of color, location, shape or other characteristic or through any other means. No sign shall violate the corner visibility restrictions in §27-1005.

3. All signs except temporary signs shall be constructed of durable material and kept in good condition and repair.

4. Subject to §27-1610 hereafter, all signs existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment to this Chapter and which do not conform to the requirements contained herein shall be considered nonconforming signs. Once a nonconforming sign is removed, it shall be replaced only with a conforming sign; provided, however, nonconforming signs may be repainted or repaired (but not replaced), provided such repainted or repaired sign does not alter the dimensions or message of the existing sign.

5. If an establishment has walls fronting on two or more streets, the sign area for each street shall not be computed separately.

6. No sign except those of a duly constituted governmental body, including traffic signs and similar regulatory notices, shall be allowed within street lines.

7. No portion of any freestanding sign shall be located over the public right of way. If this requirement cannot be met, then a freestanding sign shall be prohibited on the applicant property.

8. Freestanding ground signs may not exceed 6 feet to the top of the sign.

9. Wall signs or portions of such signs shall not be located more than 12 feet above the ground level immediately below such sign for first floor wall signs.

10. Any variance to any provision of this Part granted by the Zoning Hearing Board shall be for the benefit of the “owner of sign” only, and when said owner no longer

occupies the building or continues in the advertising business, the nonconforming sign must be removed within 30 days.

11. A certificate of occupancy is not required for wall or directional signs satisfying the provisions of this Chapter that does not exceed 4 square feet in area. [Ord. 2288] (Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1605; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2; and by Ord. 2288, 4/12/2010)

### **§27-1607. Signs in Residential Districts and PRDs.**

The following types of sign and no other shall be permitted in residential districts and PRDs:

#### *A. On-Premises Signs.*

(1) Nonilluminated signs displayed strictly for the direction, safety or convenience of the public, including signs which identify restrooms, telephone booths, parking area entrances or exits, freight entrances or the like, provided the area of one side of any such sign shall not exceed 2 square feet.

(2) Flags representing governmental, educational or religious organizations.

(3) One nonilluminated or indirectly illuminated bulletin or announcement board or identification sign for a permitted institutional use as listed in §27-906.2, provided that:

(a) The area on any one side of any such sign shall not exceed 20 square feet.

(b) No set back is required for a ground sign.

(c) For all other signage there is a required 15-foot setback from the applicant's property line or paved cartway, whichever is less.

(4) Temporary residential real estate signs:

(a) There shall be not more than one temporary real estate sign for each lot except that where a lot abuts two or more streets, an additional sign oriented to each abutting street shall be permitted.

(b) *Maximum Sign Area.* Six square feet.

(c) *Maximum Height.* Five feet.

(d) *Location.* Only upon the premises for sale, lease or rent. Such signs shall be located at a minimum of 10 feet from any street right of way and adjacent property lines.

(e) *Removal.* They shall be removed within 7 days of the sale or lease of the premises.

(f) *Illumination.* No illumination shall be permitted.

(g) Temporary real estate signs for the purpose of advertising open houses located on off-street shall not be permitted except for Weekends beginning 7 a.m. Saturday morning and ending 7 p.m. Sunday evening.

(5) *Common Real Estate Development Signs.*

(a) Location within the development a minimum of 10 feet from any existing or proposed public street right of way.

(b) Such signs may advertise only the lots in the development in which the sign is located and shall not include the realtor's, developer's or landowner's business in general.

(c) A maximum of one sign per development entrance shall be permitted with a maximum of 32 square feet in surface area.

(d) No such sign shall be illuminated in any manner.

(e) A maximum of one temporary real estate sign shall be permitted per residential lot in addition to the common development signs having a maximum of 6 square feet and a maximum of 5 feet in height.

(f) The common real estate development signs shall be removed when 90 percent of the lots therein are sold.

(6) Signs announcing no trespassing; signs indicating the private nature of the road, driveway or premises; and signs controlling the fishing or hunting on the premises, provided that the area of any one side of any such sign shall not exceed 200 square inches.

(7) Nonilluminated or indirectly illuminated memorial signs or historical signs or tablets.

(8) One freestanding ground sign erected in connection with a high density residential use not to exceed 24 square feet.

B. *Off-Premises Signs.* Off-premises signs are not permitted except as follows. Signs permitted within this Section may also be on-premises.

(1) Nonilluminated signs directing persons to a nonprofit organization may be erected subject to the following requirements:

(a) Permission is granted by property owner, or Township if in public right of way, in writing, that sign may be erected.

(b) Sign shall not exceed 8 square feet in area.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1606; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; and by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2)

**§27-1608. Signs Permitted in the C-1, C-2, C-3 Commercial and I-1 Industrial Districts.**

1. *On-Premises Signs.* No on-premises sign shall be permitted except as follows:

A. All signs permitted in §27-1607 at the standards prescribed therein except as otherwise provided in this Section.

B. Wall business signs, providing:

(1) Only one sign per occupancy.

(2) The total area of all wall signs for each establishment shall not exceed 1 square foot for each foot of length of the front building wall or length of that portion of such wall which is devoted to such establishment. Corner buildings may divide total square feet on signage permitted to two sides.

(3) If applicant does not occupy any part of the ground level, the permitted signage shall be 0.5 square feet per foot of the length of the front building wall.

(4) The area of any such sign shall not exceed 100 square feet except in the C-3 Zoning District in which the total area of such sign shall not exceed 50 square feet.

(5) If a wall sign is the only sign, the business street address number is required.

C. Freestanding pylon business signs, at integrated shopping center:

(1) Integrated shopping centers as defined herein shall be permitted one freestanding pylon sign per principal entrance provided such entrances are separated by at least 1,000 feet. The maximum area of each such sign shall be 200 square feet and may be double faced.

(2) The maximum height of freestanding pylon signs shall be 20 feet above the finished ground surface.

(3) The minimum set back distance shall be 15 feet from the nearest street right of way.

D. *Freestanding Ground Signs.*

(1) The maximum height of a freestanding ground sign shall be 6 feet, measured from the finished ground surface. The height and location of the sign shall be designed so as to not interfere with visibility of vehicular traffic entering or leaving the lot or traveling on any street.

(2) The signage area shall not exceed 50 square feet or 1 square foot per lineal foot of the front building wall, whichever is less.

(3) The minimum front yard set back shall be zero feet from the nearest street right of way, provided the sign be placed and designed as to not interfere with visibility for vehicular traffic entering or leaving the place of business or traveling on any street public or private.

(4) The street addresses shall be placed upon all such signage. The identification numbers shall be a minimum of 6 inches high. They will be placed at the top of the signage. This requirement shall not count as a part of the permitted signage area.

(5) *Gasoline Service Stations / Convenience Stores.* These applicants will be permitted one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 50 square feet in area nor to be higher than 6 feet. Corporate logo/symbols may be installed on two sides of a canopy, each, however, not to exceed 5 square feet.

E. *Existing Legal Conforming Pole Signs.* A valid certificate of occupancy must be on file with the Zoning Officer for the following conditions to apply:

(1) Only one such sign shall be permitted on each property regardless of the number of businesses on the lot.

(2) The area of any such sign shall not exceed 100 square feet except in the C-3 Zoning District in which the total area of any such sign shall not exceed 50 square feet. Such a sign may be double-faced. The total area of pole sign for each establishment shall not exceed 1 square foot for each foot of length of the front building wall facing the street, or the square footage of the pole sign shall not exceed the lineal footage of the front building wall, or 100 square feet, whichever is the lesser.

(3) Freestanding signs mounted or otherwise affixed to the roof of a building are not permitted. If such establishment does not occupy any floor area on the ground level of the building, other than an entryway, the maximum area per foot of length of the front building wall (or portion) shall be only 0.5 square foot.

(4) The maximum height of freestanding pole signs shall be 20 feet. From curb level to bottom of sign, shall be a minimum of 9 feet.

(5) The street addresses shall be placed upon all such signage. The identification numbers shall be a minimum of 6 inches high. They will be placed at the top of the signage. This requirement shall not count as a part of the permitted signage area.

(6) *Gasoline Service Stations.* Such station shall be permitted one freestanding pole sign not to exceed 100 square feet in area or to be higher than 20 feet. From curb level to the bottom of the sign, shall be a minimum of 9 feet. (This includes price pods.)

F. A temporary, portable or inflatable sign is permitted upon approval of the Ross Township Zoning Officer, and the payment of the applicable permit fee and subject to the following:

(1) (a) One banner limited to 20 square feet in size.

(b) One portable sandwich board type sign limited to 8 square feet in size.

(c) One stationary inflatable device limited to 600 cubic feet.

(2) Must not interfere with sight line distances for vehicular traffic.

(3) Must not interfere with pedestrian traffic.

(4) (a) Temporary banners or stationary inflatable devices shall not be placed closer than 15 feet to the paved portion of the street right-of-way or far enough not to fall into the cart path.

(b) The minimum front yard set back for portable sandwich board signs shall be zero feet from the nearest street right of way, provided the sign be placed and designed as to not interfere with visibility for vehicular traffic entering or leaving the place of business or traveling on any street public or private.

(5) Temporary signs shall not be illuminated or produce a reflection of light greater than 1 foot candle beyond the lot line.

(6) May only be displayed for a period of 30 days from date of installation.

G. *Landscaping Requirements for All Freestanding Signs.*

(1) Each application for a permit shall be accompanied by two copies of the landscaping plan.

(2) All permitted freestanding signs shall be landscaped with ornamental plantings and shrubs at the base of such sign.

(3) The landscaping shall screen the base from view from the public right of way.

(4) The area of such landscaping shall be equal to the square footage of

the sign.

(5) The landscape screening shall be maintained in full effect for the duration of the existence of the sign.

(6) No such landscape screen shall be removed without prior approval of the Township and only upon submission of a new landscaping plan providing for screening of the base of the sign.

H. *Maintenance.*

(1) All signs shall be maintained in good structural condition and in compliance with the Township building codes and in conformance with this Chapter.

(2) All signs shall be maintained in good physical condition with no chipped, peeling or fading signs or structures. No loose material or lettering.

(3) Metal surfaces shall be maintained free of rust.

(4) All signs shall be maintained free of deterioration, decomposition, and decay.

I. *Inspections.* The Ross Township Building Code Official shall maintain an inventory of all signs within the Township. The Building Code Official shall inspect each sign at least once every 2 years. Upon determination that a sign fails to meet the standards set forth herein the Building Code Official shall notify the owner of the sign of the deficiency which must be repaired within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to do so shall result in revocation of the sign permit and the issuance of a citation or the filing of a civil action as may then be authorized by law. [Ord. 2288]

J. *Revocation of Sign Permit.*

(1) Upon revocation of a sign permit the same shall be removed within 30 days of receipt of the notice of revocation.

(2) Failure to remove may result in the issuance of a citation or the filing of a civil action as then authorized by law.

(3) After the expiration of the 30 days the Township may remove and destroy the sign and file a municipal claim for costs of labor, supplies, administrative fees, attorney fees and court costs.

2. *Off-Premises Signs.* Off-premises signs may be erected, constructed or maintained on any property situate in a C-1, C-2 or I-1 Zoning District.

A. An off-premises sign shall not exceed 20 square feet.

B. This signage shall be placed upon the premises so as not to interfere with the sight visibility of any vehicular traffic.

C. This shall sign be located on the same permitted signage for the premises upon which it is situate.

D. The signage shall be placed only with the written permission of the property owner.

3. *Billboards.* One billboard sign may be erected, constructed, altered or maintained on any premises in a C-1 or I-1 Zoning District if a conditional use is recommended by the Ross Township Planning Commission and granted by the Ross Township Board of Commissioners. Any conditional use must meet the following

regulations:

A. *Area*. A billboard shall not exceed 250 square feet.

B. *Spacing*. A shall not be closer than 1,000 feet to another billboard.

C. *Spacing at Intersections*. A billboard shall not be located within 150 feet of any street intersection measured from any street, public or private right of way line.

D. *Location*. The billboard shall be located in accordance with the building setback lines for structures located in the applicable zoning district.

E. *Height*. A billboard shall not project higher than 25 feet as measured from the base of the sign or grade of the nearest adjacent highway, whichever is lower, and shall not interfere in any way with normal vehicular or pedestrian traffic and must have a minimum of 9-foot clearance.

F. *Site Plan*. An application for a billboard shall be accompanied by site plan approval from the Ross Township Planning Commission.

G. *Engineering Certification*. Any application for a billboard shall be accompanied by certification under seal of a professional engineer that the existence of the billboard, as proposed, shall not present a safety hazard.

H. *Highway Location*. Subject to Part 17 (McKnight Road Transportation Overlay District) and Part 18 (Rochester Road/Lowries Run Road Conservation Corridor Overlay District) where applicable, billboards may be erected only in the applicable zoning district, as specified above, upon the following highways and said signs must face vehicular traffic traveling on said highways only:

- (1) Perry Highway.
- (2) McKnight Road.
- (3) Babcock Boulevard.
- (4) Rochester Road.
- (5) Lowries Run Road

I. *Landscaping Requirements*.

(1) Each application for a permit shall be accompanied by two copies of the landscaping plan.

(2) All permitted freestanding signs shall be landscaped with ornamental plantings and shrubs at the base of such sign.

(3) The landscaping shall screen the base from view from the public right of way.

(4) The area of such landscaping shall be equal to the square footage of the sign.

(5) The landscape screening shall be maintained in full effect for the duration of the existence of the sign.

(6) No such landscape screen shall be removed without prior approval of the Township and only upon submission of a new landscaping plan providing for screening of the base of the sign.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1607; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2; and by Ord. 2288, 4/12/2010)

**§27-1609. Temporary Political Signs.**

1. *Definition.* Those signs announcing political candidates seeking office, political parties and/ or political or public issues contained on election ballot.

2. Temporary political signs posted on public property located within the Township are subject to the following general requirements:

A. *Number of Signs.* No more than two temporary political signs shall be placed on public property at any intersection of roads or streets for any candidate nor shall temporary political sign(s) be located within 600 feet of any other such sign(s) for the same candidate.

B. *Area.* Temporary political signs on public property shall not exceed a surface area of 4.5 square feet per sign. [Ord. 2288]

C. *Height.* Temporary political signs shall not exceed a maximum height of 6 feet from the ground.

D. *Timing.* Temporary political signs may be erected or maintained for a period not to exceed 31 days prior to the date of the election to which such signs are applicable and shall be removed within 12 days following the termination of the election or the cash bond posted as required by this Section shall be forfeited. [Ord. 2288]

E. *Illumination.* No temporary political sign shall be illuminated in any manner.

F. *Posting of Cash Bond.* Prior to any person, firm, corporation or political party or candidates campaign committee placing a temporary political sign within the confines of any public right of way within the Township there shall be posted with the Secretary of the Township a cash bond in the amount of \$100.

G. *Required Information.* At the time of the posting of the cash bond, there shall be submitted to the Township, on a form supplied by the Township, the following information:

(1) The name, address and telephone number, facsimile number and e-mail address of the applicant who shall assume responsibility for the removal of each sign.

(2) The general nature and purpose of the temporary political signs to be placed.

3. In the event the Allegheny County Board of Elections determines that the Ross Township municipal building shall be an official polling place, the display of temporary political signs shall be permitted at the entrance of the building subject to the following conditions:

A. No temporary political signs shall be displayed inside the Ross Township municipal building.

B. Temporary political signs shall only be permitted to be displayed beginning 1 hour before the polls open and must be removed within 1 hour after the close of the polls.

[Ord. 2287]

4. Temporary political signs shall be prohibited along any road or street within the Township where it would obstruct a clear sight distance of the traffic.

5. *Return of Bond.* If temporary political signs of the applicant are removed within 10 days after the election, the cash bond shall be refunded to the applicant.

6. *Forfeiture of Bond.* If the temporary political signs are not removed within 10 days after the election, the posted cash bond as required by this Section shall be forfeited to the general fund of the Township in the amount of \$5 per sign as a cost to the Township to remove the signs not, however, to exceed in total the amount of the cash bond.

7. *Private Property.* No temporary political sign shall be placed or erected on any private property without having first obtained consent from the property owner and/or tenant.

8. *Violations and Penalties.* Any person who shall be convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this Part of this Chapter before the local judicial magistrate having jurisdiction shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$300 together with costs of prosecution.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1608; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2; by Ord. 2287, 7/13/2009, §1; and by Ord. 2288, 4/12/2010)

#### **§27-1610. Permit Requirements for Signs.**

All signs, except as listed below, as defined in §27-1601 shall require the issuance of a sign permit before erection or replacement:

A. Signs necessary for direction, regulation and control of traffic, street name, signs, legal notices, warnings at railroad crossings, and other official signs which are similarly authorized or erected by a duly constituted governmental body.

B. Memorial/historical plaques recognized by an agency of the Township, County, Commonwealth, or Federal government or a nonprofit historical or veterans organization.

C. Holiday decorations displayed for recognized Federal or State holidays, provided that they do not interfere with traffic safety or do not, in any other way, become a public safety hazard.

D. One nonilluminated sign advertising the sale or rental of the premises upon which said sign has been erected, provided that the area of any such sign shall not exceed 6 square feet and such sign shall be removed upon settlement of rental or sale of the property. All such signs shall be located at least 5 feet from the property line and shall not interfere with normal vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

E. Residential identification signs which contain only the name and address of the occupant of the premises and is no more than 2 square feet.

F. Directional signs for hospitals, schools and houses of worship.

(Ord. 2035, 12/9/2002, §1609; as amended by Ord. 2182, 7/10/2006, §2; and by Ord. 2268, 7/14/2008, §2)

#### **§27-1611. Removal of Signs.**

Whenever any business is discontinued or vacated, all signs and their appurtenant structures directly relating to the original sign installation of the discontinued or vacated business shall be removed within 30 days of the vacation or discontinuance of the business.

(*Ord. 2035*, 12/9/2002, §1610; as amended by *Ord. 2182*, 7/10/2006, §2; by *Ord. 2268*, 7/14/2008, §2; and by *Ord. 2288*, 4/12/2010)

**§27-1612. Ross Township Signs.**

The provisions of this Part shall not be applicable to any sign erected by the Township of Ross.

(*Ord. 2035*, 12/9/2002, §1611; as amended by *Ord. 2182*, 7/10/2006, §2; and by *Ord. 2268*, 7/14/2008, §2)