

**CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 14, SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF
SIGN REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LA GRANGE**

WHEREAS, the current regulations for proposed signs on any private property located in the city of La Grange essentially adopt the same requirements as set out in Division 91 of the Oldham County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, more specifically, Sections 290-010 through 290-180, which are based strictly on the zoning district in which the property is located according to a zoning map defined by the Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission rather than the predominant nature of buildings and uses in a reasonably defined local area.

WHEREAS, the city council now wishes to adopt sign regulations and standards that are substantially similar to the County regulations with respect to dimensional elements, such as sign size and height, setback distance, placement, lighting, type, and number, but have greater flexibility for application considering the predominant nature and use of surrounding buildings in a reasonably-defined smaller area or neighborhood, as opposed to the strict application of lines drawn on a map of the entire county, sometimes including properties or clusters of properties that do not fit the district in which they were placed.

WHEREAS, the City Council of La Grange now wishes to repeal existing City Code Section 153.02 relating to sign permit requirements (Ord. 15-2014, passed 8-14-2014) and create a new **Chapter 158** regarding sign regulations and standards in the City of La Grange.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LA GRANGE:

Part I. Section 153.02 of the La Grange Code of Ordinances regarding Sign Permit Requirements is hereby REPEALED in its entirety.

Part 2. Pursuant to the provisions of KRS 83A.060, a new Chapter 158 regarding Sign Regulations and Standards is hereby created, and the general provisions of Sections 158.01 through 158.50 thereof (true copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated hereby by reference), are hereby adopted in full and made a part of this ordinance the same as if fully set out in their entirety herein.

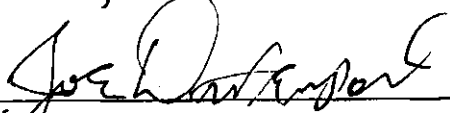
This ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication per KRS 424.

First reading: July 16th, 2026

Second reading: August 3rd, 2026

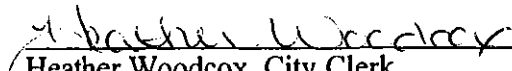
VOTE: Yea 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0

SO APPROVED and adopted this 3rd day of August, 2026.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Heather Woodcox, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Sign Ordinance-City of La Grange-V8.8 Final.PDF

File ID: 2016-14 Sign Regulations V2F R1.docx (7-2-26)

CHAPTER 158: SIGN REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

General Provisions

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

158.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this sign ordinance is to:

1. Promote a healthy business climate by encouraging signage to be compatible with the surrounding area and promote the effective use of signs.
2. Create a legal framework for a comprehensive and balanced system of signage to facilitate easy and pleasant communication between people and their environment.
3. Reduce clutter and enhance the aesthetic environment of the city to ensure the protection of property values and protect the character of various neighborhoods.
4. Eliminate safety hazards due to collapse, fire, collusion, decay, or abandonment.

5. Promote the safety of people and property by requiring that signs do not create traffic hazards by distracting or confusing motorists, or impairing motorist's ability to see pedestrians, other vehicles, obstacles, or to read traffic signs.

158.02 APPLICATION OF CHAPTER

The requirements of this section shall apply to all businesses, private entities or individuals erecting signs in the city limits of La Grange. Certain signs that are exempt from the requirements of this section are addressed in Section 158.24.

158.03 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

ABANDONED SIGN - A permitted sign which was erected on property in conjunction with a particular use, that use having been subsequently discontinued for a period of 12 months or more, or a permitted temporary sign for which the permit has expired.

AWNING - A cloth or other nonstructural covering that either is permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use.

BANNER - A temporary sign of cloth, paper, fabric or other material sign that is mounted on any wall, window or other surface that identifies the business, commercial or retail center or a specific event.

BARE-BULB ILLUMINATION. A light source which consists of light bulbs with a (20 watt maximum wattage) for each bulb.

BRICK WALL - A vertical element of construction made of bricks and mortar and is used to form the external walls of buildings, parapets, internal partitions, freestanding walls, retaining walls, and so on. Sometimes used to display large signs, like murals or billboards. Not to be confused with cinder blocks.

BUILDING - A structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and for the shelter or enclosure for people, animals, materials or property of any kind.

BUILDING FRONTAGE - The side of a building abutting a street. It is possible for a structure to have multiple building frontages.

BUSINESS - The use of a building for retail or commercial activity.

CINDER BLOCKS - A hollow rectangular building block made of cement and coal cinders which has a lesser standard of protection from historic brick walls.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - The designated government official whose responsibility it is to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. These activities may include, but are not limited to, reviewing applications for sign permits, corresponding and/or

meeting with applicants, issuing and denying sign permits, inspecting signs and interpreting and enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

COMMERCIAL – Any building occupied only by commercial use.

CONTENT-NEUTRAL - Regulation of signs that does not require subjective evaluation of underlying messages or images relative to acceptable community standards.

DIRECTIONAL SIGN - A sign that provides directional assistance for the convenience of the public such as location of exits, entrances and parking lots.

DOUBLE-FACED SIGN - A sign with two faces which are back-to-back and have a common set of supports.

ELECTRONIC SIGN — A sign whose message, display, or images are composed of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or other similar digital or electronic components that can be changed or altered electronically or by remote control.

FLASHING ILLUMINATION - A light source which in whole or in part, physically changes in light intensity or color or gives the appearance of such change.

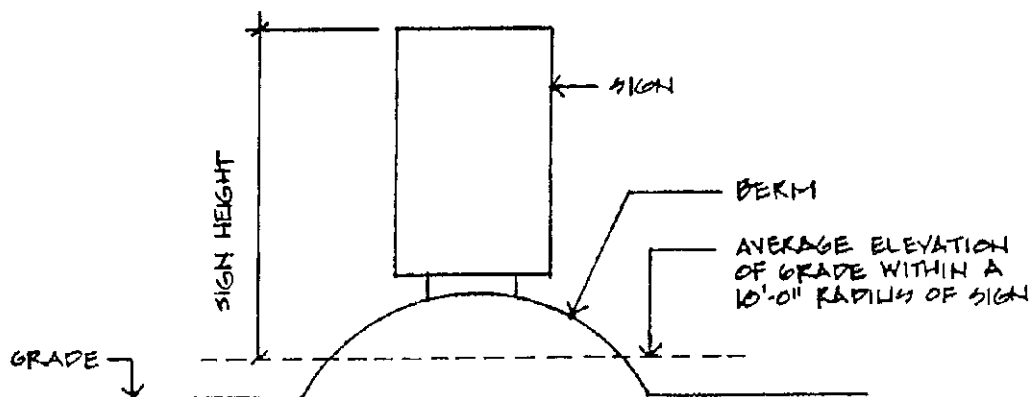
FOOTCANDLE – A unit of measure for illuminance on a surface that is everywhere one foot from a point source of light of one candle, and equal to one lumen per square foot of area. Most IES standard adopt a 50 foot-candle sign-face lumens.

FREE-STANDING SIGN - The general term used for any on-premises sign which is supported from the ground and not attached to a building.

FRONTAGE - The side of a lot abutting a street. It is possible for a lot to have multiple frontages.

GLARE - The sensation produced in the visual field by excessive light production causing annoyance, discomfort, or temporary loss of visibility, especially at night.

HEIGHT - The vertical distance measured from the average grade within a ten-foot radius of the adjacent right- of-way or parking lot to the highest point of the sign, excluding the distance from the ground to the bottom of the sign.



IDENTIFICATION SIGN - A permanent sign which identifies an office park, industrial park, multi-family complex, retail center, shopping center or subdivision (such as a single-family residential district).

ILLUMINATION -

(1) **BACKLIGHTING.** A light source which is mounted behind opaque letters or symbols to illuminate the surface behind the letter or symbols creating a silhouette effect.

(2) **EXTERNAL.** Any light source which is not internal.

(3) **INDIRECT.** A light source which is not a part of the sign but which illuminates the sign from a distance but is not seen directly.

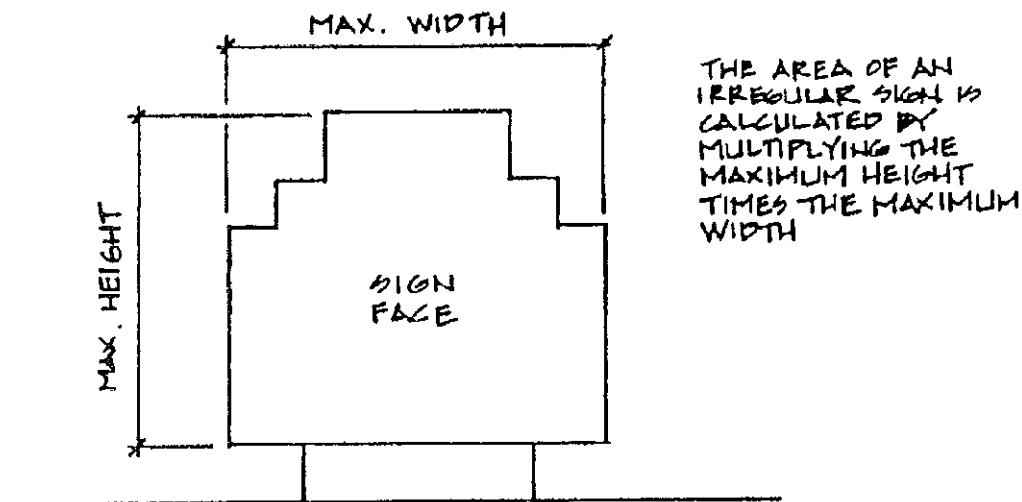
(4) **INTERNAL.** A light source contained or concealed within the sign itself

(5) **DIRECT LIGHTING.** A light source that is directed upon the surface of the sign.

ILLUMINATED SIGN - A sign lighted by or exposed to artificial lighting either by lights on or in the sign or directed toward the sign.

INFLATABLE SIGN - Any display capable of being expanded by air or other gas and used on a permanent or temporary basis to advertise a product or event.

IRREGULAR SIGN AREA -



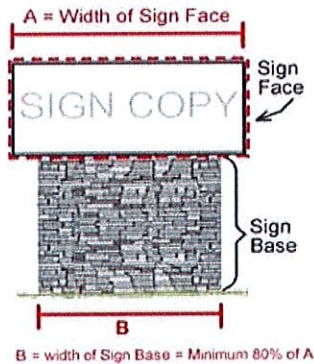
LIGHTING - The deliberate use of light to achieve practical or aesthetic effects.

LIGHT TRESPASS — Light emitted from a lighting fixture that shines beyond the boundaries of the property on which the fixture is located.

MARQUEE - A structure other than a roof attached to, supported by and protecting from a building as in a theater entrance.

MONUMENT AREA - The supporting framework, bracing or structure of the monument not including the sign area.

MONUMENT SIGN - A freestanding sign with a base affixed to the ground which measures at least two-thirds the horizontal width of the sign face.



MOVEMENT - Physical movement or revolution up or down, around or sideways.

MULTI-TENANT SIGN - A sign that includes the names of two or more businesses, places, organizations, buildings, or persons it identifies.

MURAL – A work of art applied directly upon a wall or building that is not an advertisement for products of services, which is exempt from the dimensional regulations for signs.

NEON LIGHTS – Lighting is produced by electro phosphorescence of certain gases inside glass tubing shaped into words or figures.

NONCONFORMING SIGN - A sign that met all legal requirements when constructed but that is not in compliance with this chapter.

NORMAL AVERAGE GRADE - The lower of existing average grade prior to construction/installation or the newly established average grade after construction/installation.

OFFICE – a place for doing business or other commercial activities

OFFICE CENTER – A form of commercial building which contains offices or spaces mainly designed for office activities primarily for transaction of services or information technology.

ON-SITE INFORMATIONAL SIGN - A sign commonly associated with, but not limited to, information and directions necessary or convenient for visitors coming on the property, including signs marking entrances and exits, parking areas, circulation direction, rest rooms, and pickup and delivery areas.

PARAPET - The extension of the main walls of a building above the roof level.

PENNANT - Any lightweight plastic, fabric or other material with or without a logo, suspended from a rope, wire, string or two corners, in series with like materials, creating an impression of a line and designed to move in the wind.

PERMANENT SIGN - A sign or advertising display constructed of durable materials attached to a building, structure or the ground and intended to be displayed for the duration of time that the use or occupant is located on the premises.

PIXEL PITCH — The distance, measured in millimeters, between the centers of two adjacent pixels on an electronic display.

PROPERTY LINE - A line of record bounding a lot that divides one lot from another lot or from a public or private street or any other public space.

RESIDENTIAL – Consists predominantly of one or more dwelling units or rooming units, and any common areas, including one-family and two-family houses, multifamily dwellings or apartment hotels.

RETAIL – The sale of a product or service to an individual consumer for personal use.

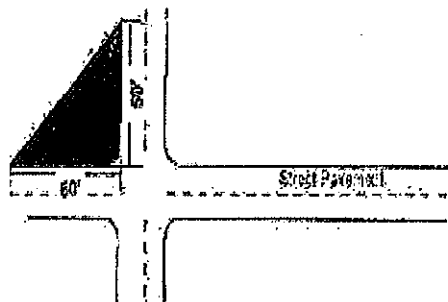
RETAIL CENTER – A group of retail and other commercial establishments that is planned, developed, owned, and managed as a single property with on-site parking. May also be known as a shopping center.

RIGHT-OF-WAY - A strip of land determined on a site-specific basis that includes a roadway, sidewalk or railroad to accommodate traffic and safety requirements, utilities, environmental issues, and maintenance.

ROOF SIGN - A sign which is displayed on the roof or above the eaves of the building.

SHOPPING CENTER – A group of retail stores and services establishments usually designed to serve community of neighborhood.

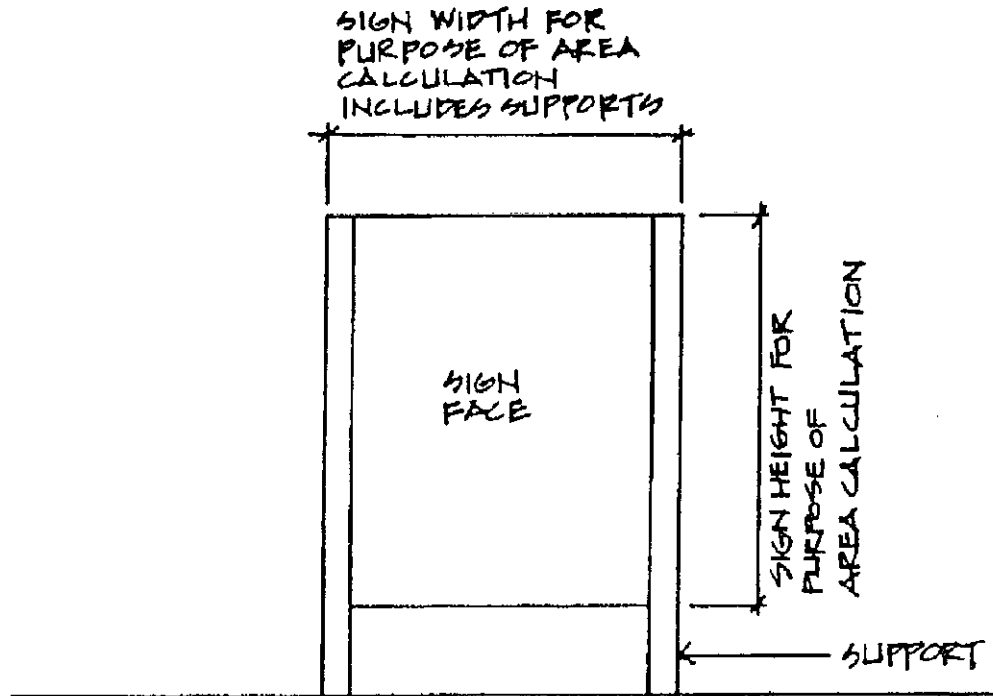
SIGHT TRIANGLE – The triangular area formed by an invisible diagonal line at the corner of either two intersecting street right-of-way lines, the edge of street lines, the edge of a driveway or combination of two thereof within which no obstruction may be placed which would block the sight lines for vehicular traffic.



SIGN - Any device, display, or structure that is visible from a public place, public right-of-way, or adjacent property and that has words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, logos, illumination, or projected images.

SIGN AREA - The square foot area of a sign which is determined by multiplying the height and width of the sign. The width is the horizontal length of the sign from its greatest protrusion on its left to its greatest protrusion on the right, including supports. For the purpose of measuring the sign area, the height is the vertical length of the sign from its

greatest protrusion on the top to its greatest protrusion on the bottom, but not including the base of a monument sign or other ground supports.



SIGN FACE - The area or display surface used for the message.

SIGN HEIGHT - The distance from grade to the highest point on the sign structure. Any raised landscaped bed or foundation the sign may rest upon shall be included in the total sign height.

SIGN PERMIT - Document issued by the Code Enforcement Office to the sign applicant granting permission to construct or install a sign.

STRING LIGHTS - a series of unshielded lights visible from a public street that produces glare for attention-getting commercial purposes, other than seasonal decorations.

TEMPORARY SIGN - A non-permanent sign that can be displayed on private property.

VEHICLE SIGN - A sign on a vehicle not customarily and regularly used to transport persons or properties.

WALL SIGN - A sign applied, painted on or attached to a wall of a building in the same plane as the wall.

WAYFINDING SIGNS - Directional signs intended to guide visitors for tourist and entertainment destinations in the downtown corridor.

WIDTH - The horizontal length of a sign from its greatest protrusion on its left to the greatest protrusion on the right, including supports

WINDOW SIGN - A graphic applied, painted or affixed to or in the window of a building. A window sign may be permanent or temporary.

158.04 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

The City shall have the responsibility and full authority to administer and enforce all provisions of this chapter.

1. This division must interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.
2. Signs shall be maintained in a safe and secure condition. If the Code Enforcement Officer is of the opinion that a sign is not secure, safe or in good state of repair, written notice of this fact shall be given to the business owner. If the business owner cannot be reached the ultimate responsibility for the sign falls to the property owner. If the defect in the sign is not corrected with the time permitted by the Code Enforcement Officer, the Officer may revoke the sign permit thus placing the sign owner in violation of the Sign Ordinance.
3. When the location of a sign falls within the La Grange Historic District approval from that body must be obtained prior to filing a sign permit with the City of La Grange.
4. No sign shall be placed in any public or private right-of-way or easement without written permission from the jurisdiction that has ownership of the right-of-way or easement.
5. A sign permit shall be obtained prior to the construction or erection of any new allowable sign and the fee will be required in conjunction with said application. Sign permits are not required for the replacement of sign cabinets as long as the sign area, height and location are not being changed. A sign permit shall be obtained prior to the re-use of an Abandoned Sign (see definition) and must comply with the current sign regulations.
6. Any signs that incorporate the use of language involving alcoholic beverages is governed under the Alcohol Beverage Control Ordinance.

158.05 REGULATION SPECIFICATIONS; DETERMINATION OF SIGN AREA AND PLACEMENT

1. For the purpose of this ordinance:
 - (a) The front setback is measured from the right-of-way or the front property line.
 - (b) If a parcel has multiple frontages then the parcel has multiple front setbacks.
 - (c) The side yard setback is measured from the side property line.
2. The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal average grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Normal average grade shall be construed to be the lower of: existing-grade prior to construction or installation or the newly established grade after construction or installation.

3. The area of a sign shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed. Supporting framework, bracing or structure shall not be included in computation of sign area.
4. Unless otherwise stated, the total area of a sign having two or more sides or faces shall be calculated according to the following:
 - (a) Double-faced signs: the sign area is of one sign face only.
 - (b) "V" shaped signs with two sides or faces: the sign area is the sum of the areas of the two sign faces.
 - (c) Signs with three or more sides or faces: the sign area is the sum of the areas of all sides or faces.
5. Clear sight triangles shall be maintained at all street intersections for a minimum of 50 feet as measured along the curb or pavement edge. No free-standing sign shall be allowed in the clear sight triangle.
6. All illuminated signs shall be designed, located, and shielded so that the light source is not visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent residential property and does not create glare or light trespass. Ground-mounted fixtures illuminating a sign face shall not exceed 50 foot-candles on the sign face.
7. All exterior lighting of signs, buildings or other structures shall be designed, shielded, and directed so that light trespass onto adjacent properties does not exceed 0.5 footcandles at the property line, measured horizontally at ground level.

158.06 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

Non-conforming signs may not expand. Non-conforming signs may be repaired or reconstructed only in conformity with this ordinance. Any non-conforming sign shall be considered abandoned after having been discontinued or obsolete for twelve (12) months. Vacating of premises or building, non-operative status or not advertising or identifying a bona fide business conducted on the property or product sold shall be evidence of a discontinued or obsolete sign.

158.20 PERMIT REQUIRED

No sign or sign structure shall be erected, displayed, altered, relocated or replaced until a sign permit has been issued. For the purpose of this chapter, all permanent signs are considered accessory uses of real property and shall be located on the premises of the principal use to which they pertain. An application shall be completed for each individual sign.

158.21 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Applications for sign permits shall be submitted on a form provided by the Code Enforcement Officer and shall be accompanied by the requisite review fee, and shall contain or have attached at a minimum the following information in either written or graphic form:

1. Application date.
2. Name, address and telephone number of the sign owner and, if different, the owner of the land on which the sign will be erected.
3. Address of the property where the sign or sign structure will be erected.
4. Signature(s) of the sign owner and, if different, the owner of the land on which the sign will be displayed.
5. Location of the sign on the property.
6. Type of sign (for example, monument, wall) and general description of structural design and construction materials.
7. Drawings of the proposed sign which shall contain specifications indicating color samples, height, perimeter and area dimensions, means of support, method of illumination if any and any other significant aspect of the proposed sign.
8. Any other information requested by the Code Enforcement Officer in order to carry out the purpose and intent of these regulations.

158.22 PERMIT FEE

The permit fee required by this chapter shall be \$50 per sign.

158.23 PERMIT REVIEW; ISSUANCE; RECORDING

The Code Enforcement Officer shall examine all sign permit applications. Permit applicants shall be issued a sign permit, with approval and approval date noted, for all signs which conform to the requirements of this chapter.

158.24 EXEMPT SIGNS NOT REQUIRING SIGN PERMIT

The following types of signs are not required to obtain a sign permit and shall not be counted towards the total number of signs and allowable sign area but must meet the following limitations:

1. Temporary wall signs of two square feet or less. One per road frontage is permitted but cannot be combined with free-standing sign.
2. Temporary free-standing sign of twelve (12) square feet or less. Two per road frontage is permitted with consent of the property owner. Cannot be combined with wall signs.
3. On-site Directional/Information Sign of six square feet or less – must not be a public safety hazard.

4. Public signs, notices or traffic signs required by law or any sign relating to an emergency.
5. Signs carried by a person – must not be a public safety hazard.
6. Signs integrated into or on a coin-operated machine, vending machine, gasoline pump, or telephone booth.
7. Signs within a ballpark, field or diamond shall be oriented toward the field or diamond and shall not be higher than the fences.
8. Traffic signs/traffic control signs that comply with the “Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.”
9. Temporary window signs in commercial zoning districts – total area of window sign shall not exceed 30% of the window area of the façade of the building.
10. Flags, symbolic in nature, for non-commercial, non-promotional purposes:
 - (a) The total area of all flags on a lot shall not exceed 150 square feet in area.
 - (b) No flag shall be flown from a pole that exceeds 35 feet in height.
 - (c) If a flag is mounted to a building the vertical clearance from ground level when limp shall not be less than 9 feet.
 - (d) No flag shall be mounted above the roofline of a structure.
11. Vehicle for sale signs as long as vehicle is parked on the property in which it is registered. This is only valid for two weeks per year.
12. During the dates of April 1 – May 31 and September 15 – November 15 there is no limit to the number of temporary free-standing signs each property may have providing that they meet all size and setback requirements with the consent of the property owner.

158.25 TEMPORARY SIGNS / BANNERS REQUIRING SIGN PERMIT

1. Maximum size free-standing sign: 32 square feet. Maximum of two sides per sign.
2. Maximum size wall sign: not greater than one square foot for every lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant, not to exceed 32 square feet.
3. Maximum height: 8 feet in height, including the monument.
4. Duration:
 - (a) Permits are valid for 30 days and no more than one such permit may be issued per property per calendar quarter (Jan-March, Apr-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec), exceptions listed below.
 - i. Multi-Tenant Commercial Development – removal is required when the development has reached 80%.
 - ii. Single Tenant Commercial Development – removal is required at the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.
 - iii. Multi-Family residential – removal is required when the development has reached 80% occupancy.
 - iv. Single Family subdivision – removal is required when 80% of the lots are sold.
 - (b) A new permit for the same property shall not be issued until the previous temporary sign has been removed.”

5. Free-standing signs must comply with the setback, height and area requirements for permanent signs.
6. Temporary signs may not have internal or external lighting.
7. Code Enforcement office may remove the temporary sign if it becomes a safety hazard or is in disrepair.

158.26 PERMANENT SIGNS REQUIRING PERMIT

Permits are required for allowed signs and signs must conform with the following criteria.

(A) Residential

1. Single-family or multi-family subdivision identification signs.
 - (a) Number: two per entrance.
 - (b) Type: monument.
 - (c) Size and height: 48 square feet in area and six feet in height.
 - (d) Setback: 15 feet from any public right-of-way, 5 feet from side or back property line
 - (e) Lighting: Indirect illumination.
2. All other signs in residential
 - (a) Number: one per lot.
 - (b) Type: monument or mounted on two posts
 - (c) Size and height: 24 square feet in area and six feet in height.
 - (d) Setback: 15 feet front setback, 5 feet from side or back property line
 - (e) Lighting: Indirect illumination.

Electronic signs are prohibited in Residential areas.

(B) Commercial and Office

1. Single freestanding commercial establishment, not part of a shopping center or other office complex with no more than two establishments.
 - (a) Number: one per street frontage not to exceed two signs. Shall not be closer than five feet from any property line.
 - (b) Type: Monument, wall, awning/marquee, and/or window signs

(c) Size and height.

i. Monument:

Front Sign Setback	Maximum Sign Height	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Monument Area
5' to less than 10'	6'	20 sq ft	4 sq ft
10' to less than 15'	8'	24 sq ft	8 sq ft
15' to less than 20'	10'	28 sq ft	12 sq ft
20' or more	12'	40 sq ft	20 sq ft

- ii. Wall/Awning/Marquee: The maximum area shall be one square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant or 50 square feet, whichever is less. Not allowed higher than the roof or parapet line. May not extend more than 12 inches from wall.
- iii. Window: No more than 30% of window space may be covered with signs/postings.

(d) Lighting.

- i. Signs may be internally illuminated, backlit or illuminated by downlighting or by ground mounted light fixtures that illuminate the sign face and base only.
- ii. Illumination of the sign face by ground-mounted light fixtures shall not exceed 50-foot candles as measured on the sign face.
- iii. Illumination for temporary signs is prohibited.
- iv. Signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb or flashing illumination.
- v. Internally illuminated signs other than changeable copy signs shall have opaque backgrounds with translucent letters, symbols and logos unless the background is integral to the design of a corporate image or registered trademark.
- vi. The use of neon window signs is allowed, only one per business and no larger than 6 square feet. Illuminated banding on buildings shall be limited to one band.

(C) Retail/shopping center/office center

Centers with more than two establishments planned as an integrated development shall be authorized to erect signs based on the following criteria:

1. Center identification sign.

(a) Number: one sign per street entrance not to exceed two signs per development.

(b) Type: Monument and/or wall sign.

(c) Size and height:

i. Monument:

Front Sign Setback	Maximum Sign Height	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Monument Area
5' to less than 10'	8'	32 sq ft	8 sq ft
10' to less than 15'	10'	38 sq ft	12 sq ft
15' to less than 20'	15'	54 sq ft	21 sq ft
20' to less than 25'	18'	60 sq ft	30 sq ft
25' or more	20'	75 sq ft	45 sq ft

5 feet setback from side or back property line.

- ii. Wall: Minimum area of 20 square feet; maximum area of 60 square feet in area and a maximum height of ten feet. It shall not be higher than the roof or parapet line and may not extend more than 12 inches from the wall.

(d) Lighting.

- i. Signs may be internally illuminated, backlit or illuminated by downlighting or by ground mounted light fixtures that illuminate the sign face and base only.
- ii. Illumination of the sign face by ground-mounted light fixtures shall not exceed 50-foot candles as measured on the sign face.
- iii. Illumination for temporary signs is prohibited.
- iv. Signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb or flashing illumination.
- v. Internally illuminated signs other than changeable copy signs shall have opaque backgrounds with translucent letters, symbols and logos unless the background is integral to the design of a corporate image or registered trademark.
- vi. The use of neon window signs is allowed, only one per business and no larger than 6 square feet. Illuminated banding on buildings shall be limited to one band.

(D) Individual business identification signs

Any individual business may erect the following permanent identification signs, according to the following criteria:

1. Number. No more than two identification signs per business, one of which may be separated from the principle building.
2. Type: Monument, wall, projecting, window, or sidewalk signs.
3. Size and height.

(a) Monument:

Front Sign Setback	Maximum Sign Height	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Monument Area
5' to less than 10'	8'	32 sq ft	8 sq ft
10' to less than 15'	10'	38 sq ft	12 sq ft
15' to less than 20'	15'	54 sq ft	21 sq ft
20' to less than 25'	18'	60 sq ft	30 sq ft
25' or more	20'	75 sq ft	45 sq ft

5 feet setback from side or back property line.

- (b) Wall/Awning/Marquee: The maximum area shall be one square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant, not to exceed 150 square feet. It shall not be higher than the roof or parapet line and may not extend more than 12 inches from wall.
 - (c) Projecting: The maximum area shall be one square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant or 75 square feet, whichever is less. It shall not be higher than roof or parapet line and may not extend over 1/3 of public sidewalk.
 - (d) Window: No more than 30% of window space may be covered with signs/postings.
 - (e) Sidewalk: One sidewalk sandwich sign per business. Cannot exceed four feet in height when standing and 2 ½ feet in overall width. Must be placed within 12 feet of the front entrance of the business and must be placed inside after business hours.
4. Lighting.
- (a) Signs may be internally illuminated, backlit or illuminated by downlighting or by ground mounted light fixtures that illuminate the sign face and base only.
 - (b) Illumination of the sign face by ground-mounted light fixtures shall not exceed 50-foot candles as measured on the sign face.
 - (c) Illumination for temporary signs is prohibited.

- (d) Signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb or flashing illumination.
- (e) Internally illuminated signs other than changeable copy signs shall have opaque backgrounds with translucent letters, symbols and logos unless the background is integral to the design of a corporate image or registered trademark.
- (f) The use of neon window signs is allowed, only one per business and no larger than 6 square feet. Illuminated banding on buildings shall be limited to one band.

158.27 ELECTRONIC SIGNS

Electronic signs (also referred to as electronic message centers or digital displays) shall be permitted only in commercial zoning districts and only as part of a permitted, conforming monument or freestanding sign. Electronic signs shall comply with the following standards:

1. Location and Number. No more than one electronic sign per parcel or business. Electronic signs shall not be added to any legal nonconforming sign.
2. Size. The electronic display area shall not exceed 50% of the total allowable sign area for the monument or freestanding sign on which it is located, and in no case shall exceed 24 square feet.
3. Resolution. Electronic signs shall use LED or equivalent technology with a maximum pixel pitch of sixteen (16) millimeters.
4. Message Display Standards.
 - i. Messages shall remain static for a minimum of sixty (60) seconds.
 - ii. The change between messages shall be completed in one (1) second or less.
 - iii. No scrolling, flashing, blinking, animation, video, or moving images are permitted.
5. Brightness and Illumination.
 - i. Electronic signs shall be equipped with automatic dimming technology that adjusts brightness according to ambient light conditions.
 - ii. Maximum brightness shall not exceed 5,000 nits during daylight hours and 500 nits between dusk and dawn.
 - iii. The sign shall not create glare or light trespass onto adjacent properties or roadways.

6. Prohibited Features. Electronic signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb illumination or any feature prohibited under Section 158.40.

158.28 SIGN INSPECTIONS

1. All signs for which a permit has been issued shall be subject to final inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer or designee.
2. The permit holder shall notify the Code Enforcement Officer when installation is complete and request a final inspection.
3. The final inspection shall verify that the sign:
 - a. Was installed in the approved location.
 - b. Conforms to the approved plans, dimensions, materials, and illumination details.
 - c. Complies with all applicable safety and structural requirements.
4. For illuminated or electronic signs, the inspection shall confirm proper electrical installation and compliance with brightness and operational standards.
5. No sign shall be used or illuminated until it has passed final inspection and received approval from the Code Enforcement Officer.
6. The Code Enforcement Officer may require additional inspections (such as footing inspection for freestanding signs) when deemed necessary for safety.
7. No illuminated sign visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent residential property may create glare or light trespass. Ground-mounted fixtures illuminating a sign face shall not exceed 50 foot-candles on the sign face.

158.30 MURALS

Murals are predominantly composed of large scale artistic and visual works applied to buildings and walls, with no apparent commercial or advertising promotion for goods and services. Per definition, murals are not considered signs and will not be required to be permitted.

158.40 CERTAIN SIGNS PROHIBITED

The following signs are expressly prohibited unless specifically stated otherwise in this chapter:

1. Any sign or part of a sign that incorporates in any manner any continuous scrolling, flashing, blinking, oscillating or moving lights, or that changes physical

- position or light intensity by any movement or rotation or that gives the appearance of such movement or rotation. This also includes pennants.
2. Glaring signs with light sources or reflectivity of such brightness that constitutes a hazard or nuisance as determined by the Administrator. May include string lights.
 3. Any sign which has any visible moving part, visible revolving parts or visible mechanical movement achieved by electronic or mechanical means or action of normal wind currents.
 4. Any sign which obstruct or detract from the visibility of any traffic sign or traffic control device on public streets and roads, by reason of the size, location, coloring, or illumination.
 5. Any sign or sign structures which
 - (a) is structurally unsafe
 - (b) constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidated or abandonment
 - (c) is not kept in good repair
 - (d) is capable of causing electrical shocks to persons likely to come into contact with it.
 6. Signs which make use of words such as "STOP," "LOOK," "DANGER," "YIELD," or other similar words, phrases, symbols or characters in such a manner to imply the need or requirement of stopping or the existence of danger.
 7. Permanent use of portable signs, such as snipe signs, folding signs, "A" frame signs, or any other similar temporary sign.
 8. Free-standing signs that extend or are built over public property and/or signs in the right-of-way
 9. Wall signs painted on historic brick. This does not include cinder blocks.
 10. Any sign erected or maintained upon a utility pole, traffic control device or tree, or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features.
 11. No marquee constructed over sidewalks in those districts where permitted shall extend closer than two feet to the curb line of any adjoining street.
 12. Above-roof signs that are erected or painted on a roof.
 13. Signs on vehicles or trailers which are parked or located for the primary purpose of displaying said sign.
 14. Backlit awning signs.
 15. Inflatable signs.
 16. Any electronic sign that violates the standards in Section 158,27

158.50 VARIANCES AND APPEALS

1. The Code Enforcement Officer shall have discretion in the construction and application of these regulations considering the legislative intent of this ordinance.
2. The La Grange Board of Adjustments and appeals may grant variances from this sign regulation if they find the variance requested is due to special or unique circumstances, or undue hardship.
3. A variance may be granted to permit a setback for a sign that is up to 25 percent less than the required setback. No other variances are allowed

4. Decisions of the Code Enforcement Officer may be appealed to the La Grange Board of Adjustments and Appeals within 30 days of any written determination or opinion.