

David L. Owens  
Superintendent of Schools


## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAY COUNTY

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### BOARD MEMBERS:

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*District 5*

**TO:** Michael J. Elliott  
Assistant Superintendent of Support Services

**FROM:** Larry F. Swanson  
Director, Code Enforcement Department 

**DATE:** April 5, 2006

**RE:** CC SIGN ORDINANCE/SCHOOL SIGNS

Mike:

Per your request I submit the following.

Clay County Sign Ordinance SEC 20.7-29 (*see attached*). Only one permanent free standing sign shall be permitted per street frontage for each developed or improved parcel having frontage on a public right-of-way.

Currently the Clay County Zoning Department is enforcing this ordinance as written, in that the school sign is the only sign that can be located on this street frontage.

Many of the schools in the District have only one street frontage. This ordinance prohibits a second usually doubled faced informational sign to inform the general public of upcoming events, etc.

The double faced informational sign is generally located near the school entrance/exit and is viewable from the street frontage.

Currently Argyle Elementary School has this condition, Oakleaf School and Coppergate Elementary School will also have this condition and will be unable to acquire the necessary permit to install their informational sign. Many of our older existing schools have similar frontages and have the informational sign and school sign only because they were installed prior to the current ordinance.

It is our recommendation to amend the current ordinance.

We feel the School District should be given exception status and be covered under a new sub section 20.7.29A and be allowed to have the necessary school name monument and informational sign that meets the criteria for area and size as agreed upon in the new sub paragraph.

If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me.

LFS/kpg

Attachments

implied in permit  
but -- req. of process  
by director

Temporary special event signs as approved by the director as meeting the following content-neutral criteria: (a) the signs are temporary signs for a limited time and frequency, (b) the signs are for a special event as defined herein, (c) the temporary signs will not exceed the maximum height and size requirements for freestanding signs under this Article, (d) the temporary signs will not conceal or obstruct adjacent land uses or signs, (e) the temporary signs will not conflict with the principal permitted use of the site or adjoining sites, (f) the temporary signs will not interfere with, obstruct the vision of or distract motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians, (g) the temporary signs will be installed and maintained in a safe manner, and (h) the display of temporary signs for a special event shall not begin any earlier than one week before the event and shall be removed within two business days after the event; however, if the special event is (i) for a period of seven days or more and (ii) planned for more than 50,000 attendees, then the temporary signs may be displayed thirty days before the commencement of the event and shall be removed within seven days after the event. Consistent with section 20.7-11 of this Article, approval or disapproval shall not be based on the content of the message contained (*i.e.*, the viewpoint expressed) on such signs. The director shall render a decision within 10 days after an application is made for such signs. Such a decision shall be deemed an administrative interpretation and any person adversely affected has the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Adjustment in accordance with the provisions of section 20.7-16 herein.

**Sec. 20.7-28. Residential and Agricultural Zoning Districts: RA, RB, RC, A, AR-1, AR-2, AR, RE, RMHP, and PUD (Residential).** In addition to the permanent and temporary signs and sign-types that are allowed pursuant to Section 20.7-27, the following permanent and temporary signs are also allowed within the residential districts designated in the Clay County Land Development Regulations, as amended from time to time, as RA, RB, RC, A, AR-1, AR-2, AR, RE, and RMHP, and within single family and duplex portions of any PUD. The permanent signs described below require a sign permit.

**(a) Subdivision monument identification signs.**

For each platted subdivision or neighborhood entrance, two subdivision monument identification signs not exceeding six feet in height and twenty-four square feet in sign area shall be allowed.

**(b) Agricultural signs.**

In A (or AG) and AR Zoning Districts, up to one permanent agricultural sign, one temporary agricultural sign, and two temporary agricultural produce directional signs per parcel may be erected or displayed. An agricultural sign shall not exceed thirty-two square feet, and may be either a freestanding sign or an attached sign.

**Sec. 20.7-29. Neighborhood Commercial, Private Services, Public Ownership, and Multi-family Zoning Districts: BA, BA-1, BA-2, PS-1, PS-2, PS-3, PS-4, PS-5, PO-1, PO-2, PO-3, PO-4, RD, and PUD (Neighborhood Commercial, Private Services and Multi-family).** In addition to the permanent and temporary signs and sign-types that are allowed pursuant to Section 20.7-27, the following permanent signs are also allowed within the Neighborhood Commercial, Private Services, Public Ownership, and Multi-family Zoning Districts designated

in the Clay County Land Development Regulations, as amended from time to time, as BA, BA-1, BA-2, PS-1, PS-2, PS-3, PS-4, PS-5, PO-1, PO-2, PO-3, PO-4, RD, and PUD (Neighborhood Commercial, Private Services and Multi-family), and within neighborhood commercial, private services and multi-family portions of any PUD. Other than incidental signs, the permanent signs described below require a sign permit.

(a) **Permanent freestanding signs.**

(1) *Maximum number.* Only one permanent freestanding sign shall be permitted per street frontage for each developed or improved parcel having frontage on a public right-of-way. The permanent freestanding sign may be double-faced. Undeveloped and unimproved parcels shall not be allowed a permanent freestanding sign.

(2) *Maximum surface area.* The surface area of the permanent freestanding sign shall not exceed one and one-half (1 ½) square feet of sign area for each linear foot of street frontage abutting the portion of the parcel, but in no case exceeding seventy (70) square feet total per side for each commercial or multi-family tenant, up to a maximum or aggregate of two hundred and fifty (250) square feet total per side.

(3) *Setback.* The permanent freestanding sign shall be set back at least five feet from any public right-of-way.

(4) *Maximum height.* The permanent freestanding sign shall be limited to an overall height of forty (40) feet above average ground level.

(b) **Permanent attached signs.**

(1) *Maximum number.* Only one permanent attached sign shall be permitted per front facade for each occupancy within a developed parcel. Only one permanent attached sign may be permitted per side facade for each occupancy within a developed parcel. In no event shall there be more than two permanent attached signs per occupancy within a developed parcel.

(2) *Maximum surface area for a front facade.* The surface area of the permanent attached sign for a front facade shall not to exceed a total copy area of one and one-half (1½) square feet for each linear foot of the building frontage of the applicable occupancy; however, the aggregate surface area for all attached signs for the front façade of any building shall not exceed an aggregate of one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet.

(3) *Maximum surface area for a side facade.* The surface area of the permanent attached sign for a side facade shall not to exceed a total copy area of one and one-half (1½) square feet for each linear foot of the building frontage of the applicable occupancy, however, the aggregate surface area for all attached signs for the side façade of any building shall not exceed an aggregate surface area of one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet.

(4) *Location.* Attached signs shall be located below the lowest roofline of the building.