

ORDINANCE 10-14

AMENDING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 10, OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “SIGN REGULATIONS”

WHEREAS, the Village of Morton Grove (VILLAGE), located in Cook County, Illinois is a home rule unit of government under the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, can exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government affairs, including but not limited to the power to tax and incur debt; and

WHEREAS, the Village has a policy of regularly reviewing and revising its Municipal Codes, as necessary, to insure the provisions of the Code remain compliant with contemporary statutes and relevant to the current operations and requirements within the Village; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of the Village President and Village Board of Trustees, the Village staff, in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Sign Review Committee has reviewed the Village’s sign regulations, and has proposed this chapter be rewritten so it is consistent with current constitutional law, procedures, and Illinois law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new Sign Code was written with the goal to be more “user friendly”, to streamline the process for the application and review of signs, and to incorporate specific criteria for the approval of signage within the Village of Morton Grove; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new Sign Code has significantly changed the requirements and processes for sign approval within the Village of Morton Grove including the following:

1. Under the new Sign Code, most sign applications can be approved by the Village Administrator or his/her designee so long as the application conforms to statutory requirements for signage. Those applicants still have the option of seeking design review from the Appearance Commission and the Appearance Commission is allowed greater latitude to approve signs that display a level of creativity which might not otherwise be achieved by strict conformance to sign regulations and to take into consideration special circumstances unique to the property.
2. Criteria for the determination of the size and amount of signage has been changed to conform with current business trends.
3. Electronic messaging is now allowed under certain conditions.
4. Temporary signs will no longer need a permit; however advanced written notice of the date of installation of temporary exterior signs or displays must be provided to the Village

Administrator and the owner of the sign shall be required to register said sign with the Building Commissioner.

; and

WHEREAS, in order to keep the Municipal Code current and to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the Village of Morton Grove, it is reasonable and necessary, and appropriate to update the Municipal Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Corporate Authorities do hereby incorporate the foregoing WHEREAS clauses into this Ordinance as though fully set forth therein thereby making the findings as hereinabove set forth.

SECTION 2: Title 10, Chapter 10 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Morton Grove entitled *Sign Regulations* is hereby amended to now read as follows:

CHAPTER 10 SIGN REGULATIONS

SECTION:

- 10-10-1: Purpose
- 10-10-2: Definitions
- 10-10-3: Permit Requirements & Administration
- 10-10-4: Exempt Signs
- 10-10-5: Prohibited Signs
- 10-10-6: General Regulations
- 10-10-7: Regulation by Type of Sign and Zoning District
- 10-10-8: Temporary Signs and Displays
- 10-10-9: Non-Conforming Signs
- 10-10-10: Violations

10-10-1: **PURPOSE:** The primary purpose of signage in the Village of Morton Grove is to help people find places without difficulty or confusion. This Chapter shall be interpreted and applied in a manner which protects constitutional rights, promotes signage that is aesthetically pleasing, of appropriate scale, and harmonious with the character of the surrounding properties and areas, but prohibits signs that are harmful to property values, hazardous to the public safety, or disruptive to motorists.

10-10-2: **DEFINITIONS:** The following terms shall have the meanings shown below.
Where terms are not specifically defined, they shall have the meaning defined in the Unified Development Code or if none, the ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

ABANDONED SIGN. Any permanent or temporary sign which is located on property which becomes vacant or any sign which pertains to a business or activity which has ended at the premise where the sign is located.

ACTION SIGN. A sign which has any visible mechanical movement of any description, or uses lights or other means to present an appearance that moves, revolves, spins, animates, rotates, flares, scrolls, changes, flashes, osculates or otherwise visibly alters in appearance or message.

AWNING/CANOPY. A retractable or fixed structure made of material that will not fade, peel, crack or bleed, the frame of which is attached to and projecting from building, and that shelters the area directly below it.

BANNER SIGN. A lightweight temporary sign that contains a message which is attached or imprinted on a flexible surface that deforms under light pressure.

BOX SIGN. A sign with text and/or logos printed on plastic or acrylic sheet that is mounted inside a cabinet or box that houses the lighting equipment. Also includes cabinet signs.

CHANNEL LETTER SIGN. Any sign that consists of individually shaped letters, logos, or combinations thereof that is directly attached to the exterior wall of the building.

COMMERCIAL SIGN. Any sign that identifies a business or relates to the promotion of any product or service.

CONSTRUCTION SIGN. A temporary sign identifying a business directly affiliated with a construction project that is actively underway on the property where the sign is located.

DIRECTIONAL SIGN. A permanent sign located on private property directing or guiding vehicular traffic onto the property and/or toward parking or other identified locations on the property.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SIGN. Any sign with a fixed or changing display/ message composed of a series of lights or similar method that may be changed through electronic means.

FRONTAGE. An elevation (side) of a building facing a public street, primary parking area for the building or tenant space or contains a public entrance to the building or tenant space.

GROUND LEVEL. The established finished grade of the ground directly below the sign. Established grade shall not be higher than eighteen inches (18") above the curb line for purposes of this Chapter.

GROUND MONUMENT SIGN. A sign detached from any building and mounted on the ground or base.

GOVERNMENTAL SIGN. A sign erected by a government entity and pertaining to a governmental function or regulation, or otherwise required to be posted by a government entity.

ILLUMINATED SIGN. Any sign for which an internal or external artificial source of light is used in order to make the sign readable.

MURAL. A picture on an exterior surface of a structure. A mural is not a sign unless it contains a text or a logo or otherwise promotes a particular product or service.

NEON SIGN OR DEVICE. Any neon tube, fiber optic, incandescent or other similar electrical device.

NON-COMMERCIAL SIGN. Any sign that is not related to the advertisement of any product or service or the identification of any business. Examples include: campaign signs, election signs, etc.

PRIMARY FRONTAGE. The elevation (side) of a building containing the primary entrance(s) to the building or to the tenant space.

POLE SIGN. Any sign which is permanently affixed in or upon the ground, supported by one or more structural members, the total width of which is/are less than one third the width of the sign face, with air space between the ground and the sign face.

PORTABLE SIGN. Any movable sign, such as a sandwich board, not permanently attached to the ground or a building and easily removable using ordinary hand tools.

PROJECTING SIGN. A sign which projects from and is supported by a wall or parapet of a building with the display surface of the sign in a plane perpendicular to or approximately perpendicular to the wall.

PYLON SIGN. Any sign which is permanently affixed in the ground supported by one or more structural members the total width of which is/are at least one third as wide as the sign face, with air space between the ground and the sign face.

RACEWAY SIGN. A wall sign consisting of individual letters, logos, or combination thereof and mounted upon an enclosed channel or raceway that is attached to a building.

REAL ESTATE SIGN. Any temporary sign pertaining to the sale, exchange, lease, rental, or availability of land, buildings, condominium and similar units, or apartments. Such signs may include building name and address, price and amenities, identity of seller or broker, and similar information.

ROOF SIGN. Any sign erected upon a roof, parapet, or roof-mounted equipment structure and extending above a roof, parapet, or roof-mounted equipment structure of a building or structure.

SECONDARY FRONTAGE. Any frontage which is not a primary frontage, but not an elevation (side) of a building which faces an alley.

SIGN. Any name, figure, character, outline, display, announcement, message or any other device of similar nature, including all backgrounds, frames, parts, supports and structures, designed to attract attention by its visibility beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is located, but not a mural or any flag, badge or insignia of any government or government agency.

SIGN FACE. An exterior display surface of a sign including non-structural trim exclusive of the supporting structure.

SPECIAL EVENT SIGN. A temporary non-commercial sign advertising or pertaining to any civic or community event of general public interest.

STREET FRONTAGE. The horizontal distance as measured parallel to the public street from lot line to lot line. Where the property is located on a corner, both sides shall be considered in the calculation of street frontage.

TENANT SPACE. A building or contained unit in a building occupied by a business or organization.

TRAFFIC HAZARD. A sign which obstructs free and clear vision at any street, intersection, drive aisle, or driveway or constitutes a distraction due to its size, location, content, color, or type of illumination.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR. The appointed or acting Village Administrator of the Village of Morton Grove, or his/her designee.

WALL SIGN. Any sign attached to the wall of a building or structure in a plane parallel or approximately parallel to the plane of said wall, including permanent window signs.

WINDOW SIGNS. A sign placed inside a building which may be viewed from outside the building, excluding merchandise displays.

10-10-3: PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION:

- A. **Sign Permit Required:** A sign permit shall be required for the installation and display of all signs except those deemed exempt in Section 10-10-4, and whenever a non-exempt sign is altered, enlarged, or relocated. No permit shall be required for the repainting, cleaning, maintenance or repair of a sign, or for changing copy on a sign approved for the use of changeable copy. Any rights and privileges acquired pursuant to a permit are mere licenses and subject to revocation at any time.
- B. **Application Requirements.** Applications for sign permits must be submitted on the Village's sign permit application form and shall be signed by the owner of the sign and the owner of the property where the sign shall be located. If the sign shall project over the public right-of-way, the owner of the property and the owner of the sign shall show proof of insurance as required by this Chapter and shall agree to indemnify and hold the Village harmless from any loss,

damage, cause of action, or claim resulting from the improper construction, installation or maintenance of the sign.

C. Processing of Permit Application:

1. The application must be complete and all required fees must be paid before it will be processed. If an incomplete application is submitted, the Village Administrator shall notify the applicant as to the information, records, or payment which are/is missing.
2. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of a complete application for a sign permit, the Village Administrator will:
 - a. Approve the sign permit application and issue the permit.
 - b. Approve the sign permit application with conditions, and issue the permit only upon satisfaction of such conditions.
 - c. Determine that the standards set forth in Section 10-10-3-D have not been satisfactorily met, and refer this matter to the Appearance Commission for Design Review as set forth in Section 10-10-3-E, and advise the applicant as to which standards in Section 10-10-3-D have not been met, and what, if anything can be done so that the application can be approved without proceeding to Design Review.

D. Standards for Permit Approval. The Village Administrator shall approve an application if all of the following standards have been met or can be met with conditions as may be included in a conditional approval:

1. The sign as proposed in the application meets the applicable requirements of this Chapter;
2. The sign as proposed does not violate any other applicable code provisions and/or standards of the Village of Morton Grove, State of Illinois, or Federal government; and
3. The sign will not:
 - a. cause substantial injury to the value of other properties in the vicinity, or
 - b. be detrimental to the public safety or welfare in the neighborhood where it is located, or
 - c. unreasonably impair the visibility to adjacent property or public right of way, or
 - d. be inconsistent with any approved plan for the building or the district or area where it is located, or
 - e. be inconsistent with other signs on the property, or with the architectural character of the building, or
 - f. alter the essential character of the neighborhood, or
 - g. violate the purpose, spirit, or intent of this Code.

E. Design Review: In addition to a referral by the Village Administrator pursuant to Section 10-10-3-C, an applicant may, at any time seek Design Review before the Appearance Commission.

The Appearance Commission, as part of a Design Review, may approve a sign that does not meet the technical requirements of this Chapter when:

1. In the opinion of the Appearance Commission the proposed sign displays a level of creativity which might not be achieved if strict adherence to the technical requirements of this Chapter were imposed; or
2. There are special circumstances unique to the property that would create practical difficulties if the technical requirement of this Chapter were imposed. By way of example, but not by way of limitation, such circumstances include the size, shape, topography, location or surroundings affecting the property; however,
3. Under no circumstances may a sign be approved if the proposed sign violates the standards set forth in Section 10-10-3- D- 2 or 10-10-3-D-3.
4. The Appearance Commission may approve and amend a sign plan for a building or development with multiple tenants. Upon such approval, the Village Administrator shall approve all signs for such building or developments which conform to said plan without further design review by the Appearance Commission.

F. Application for Design Review: In addition to the requirements of Section 10-10-3-B, an application for Design Review shall also contain a brief summary of the relief sought, the basis for such relief, and the name of the person(s) authorized to represent the applicant. The application must be complete and all required fees must be paid before it will be processed. If an incomplete application is submitted, the Village Administrator shall notify the applicant as to the information, records, or payment which are/is missing.

G. Processing of Design Review Application: The Design Review shall be held by the Appearance Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting occurring at least fourteen (14) days after the submission of a complete application, or referral to the Appearance Commission from the Village Administrator. The applicant or his authorized representative shall appear and present the case to the Appearance Commission. After hearing and considering the application, the Appearance Commission shall either:

1. Approve the application, in which case the permit shall be issued by the Village Administrator;
2. Approve the application with conditions, including modifications to the proposed sign in keeping with the spirit and intent of this Chapter, in which case the permit shall only be issued by the Village Administrator upon satisfaction of any such conditions, and acceptance by the applicant of such modifications; or
3. Deny the application, in which case the Appearance Commission will provide the applicant with the basis for such denial, and what, if anything can be done so that the application can be approved.

- H. Expiration of Permit: A sign permit shall be deemed to have expired and shall be null and void if the work authorized under the permit has not been completed within six (6) months after the date of issuance.
- I. Appeals: The applicant may appeal the decision of the Appearance Commission to the Village Administrator. Such appeal shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Appearance Commission's decision and shall include all information which the applicant deems relevant to the appeal. The applicant may also request a meeting with the Village Administrator which shall be set within fourteen (14) days of said request. Within 14 days after receipt of the appeal or upon conclusion of a requested meeting with the Village Administrator, the Village Administrator shall render a decision in writing which shall be deemed final.

10-10-4: **EXEMPT SIGNS:** The following types of signs may be displayed without being issued a sign permit, but must comply with all other applicable code requirements and permits, including adherence to the standards set forth in Section 10-10-3- D and the general requirements of Section 10-10-6.

- A. Government signs, memorial plaques, and signs of historical interest.
- B. Names of buildings, dates of erection, monumental citations, commemorative tablets and the like, when carved into stone, concrete or similar material or a plaque made of bronze or aluminum, and made an integral part of the structure, not to exceed a total area of three (3) square feet.
- C. Traffic control signs located on private property when approved and installed in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, so long as the location of such signs has been approved by the Chief of Police.
- D. Directional signs located on private property provided the height of the signs is limited to three (3') feet, and the surface area of the sign is limited to six (6) square feet per side and no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the sign is utilized for the identification of the business or organization, or its logo.
- E. Individual professional or occupational nameplates and address signs permanently affixed to a structure, each limited to two (2) square feet.
- F. Non-illuminated small signs provided the height of the sign is limited to five feet (5') and the surface area of the sign is limited to 1.5 square feet per side. No more than two (2) exempt small signs shall be allowed per lot.
- G. Non-illuminated temporary non-commercial signs provided the height of the sign is limited to five feet (5') and the surface area of the sign is limited to twelve (12) square feet per side. If the content of such sign pertains to an event or activity, the sign shall be removed within forty-

eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the event or activity. By way of example, signs relating to an election must be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after election day.

- H. Non-illuminated temporary commercial signs such as contractor's signs, real estate signs, or garage sale signs limited to five feet (5') in height and surface area of six (6) square feet per side. Only two (2) such signs shall be allowed per lot and all such signs shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the event or activity promoted. By way of an example, a garage sale sign must be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the garage sale, a real estate sign shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the sale of the real estate has been closed, and a contractor's signs shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the property or the completion of the construction activity being promoted.
- I. Up to three (3) flags on a single flag pole per zoning lot, so long as the flagpole does not exceed twenty-five feet (25') in height.
- J. Bulletin boards and display cases for the posting of non-commercial announcements and notices not to exceed six feet (6') in height and no larger than twelve (12) square feet in area.
- K. Temporary window signs, banner signs, exterior signs and displays subject to the requirements of Section 10-10-8.
- L. Special event signs authorized by the Village Administrator.

10-10-5: **PROHIBITED SIGNS:** The following types of signs and attention-getting devices identified in this Section are prohibited unless specifically authorized elsewhere in the Chapter:

- A. Action Signs or signs which incorporate physical movement, except for electronic message signs in conformance with Section 10-10-7.
- B. Off-Premises, Billboard or Outdoor Advertising including any sign which does not identify or directly relate to a business or establishment located on the premises, except for special event signs authorized by the Village Administrator.
- C. Pole signs, other than existing non-conforming signs.
- D. Roof signs, except for temporary displays approved by the Village Administrator.
- E. Signs that are painted directly on any part of a building or fence.
- F. Signs which contain words, statements or pictures of obscene, indecent or immoral characters and/or are injurious to the surrounding area property values.

- G. Trailer-mounted signs and any sign on a motor vehicle which is not used for daily operations or during the regular course of business, or is not licensed, insured, or operational.
- H. Projecting Signs larger than eight (8) square feet unless approved through the Appearance Commission's design review process.
- I. Signs which by color, location, or design resemble or conflict with traffic controls.
- J. Signs posted on trees, or utility poles.
- K. Any sign which is a traffic hazard or a hazard to safety or health including signs which are of inadequate design, construction, repair or maintenance.
- L. Any sign not expressly permitted by this Chapter unless approved through the Appearance Commission's design review process.

10-10-6: GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- A. Building, Electrical and Property Maintenance Codes Applicable: All signs shall be subject to the requirements of the applicable provisions of the Village's building, electrical and property maintenance codes in addition to the regulations of this Chapter and shall be capable of withstanding a wind pressure of not less than thirty (30) pounds per square foot of net surface area.
- B. Design. All permanent signs shall be designed or sealed by a structural engineer, registered architect or sign manufacturer.
- C. Maintenance. The property owner and the owner of a sign shall be jointly and severally liable for the maintenance of the sign in good working order and repair, including replacing all burned out lighting elements, maintaining the sign in a neat, safe and attractive condition and in a condition appropriate to the intended use, replacing or repairing any part or portion of a damaged sign or a sign faded or altered by ordinary wear, tear or damage. Any holes in building walls must be patched and painted to match the wall prior to any new or replacement signs being installed.
- D. Insurance. The owner of any sign that extends over or on Village owned property shall maintain liability insurance policy or an indemnity bond, with a corporate surety satisfactory to the Village Administrator, covering all damage or injury that might be caused by each of said signs, in such amount deemed satisfactory to the Village Administrator, but not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) for property damage and one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for personal injuries.
- E. Abandoned Signs. Within 30 days after a sign becomes abandoned, it shall be removed unless allowed to remain by the Village Administrator. The face of a box sign shall be removed and

replaced with an unlit blank panel. Alternative methods to remove or replace an abandoned sign may be approved by the Village Administrator.

F. Location:

1. All signs above any entrance shall have a minimum clearance of eight feet (8') above grade.
2. No sign shall extend into, on or over an adjacent property without the written consent of the adjacent property owner. No sign shall be permitted to extend into the Village's right-of-way unless it is approved by the Village Administrator. Such approval may be conditioned upon proof of insurance, indemnification, and other reasonable conditions.
3. No sign in the R-1, R-2, R-3 district shall be closer than eight feet (8') from any side or rear lot line or four feet (4') from the public right-of-way.
4. No sign shall obstruct the visual sight line of pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

G. Language. Any sign that contains non-English language, other than commonly recognized words or brand names, shall also include the same message in the same size translated into English.

H. Measurement of a Sign.

1. The area of channel letter signs shall be computed by taking the area enclosed within the smallest geometric figure needed to completely encompass each letter, word, insignia, emblem or symbol of the sign.
2. For other types of signs, the area shall be computed by taking the total area of the facing or the total area within the outer edge of any border of the sign, not including the base or support structure.
3. For multi-faced signs, the area shall include only the portion of the sign that is visible from a single vantage point.
4. The height of the sign shall be measured from ground level to the highest part of the sign.

I. Letters and Symbols on signs shall be legible from the public right-of-way.

10-10-7: **REGULATIONS BY TYPE OF SIGN AND ZONING DISTRICT:**

- A. Total Signage. Each tenant space may have multiple types of signs as long as the total sign area does not exceed the allowances established for wall signs. This provision does not apply to ground monument or pylon signs.

B. Illuminated Signs are subject to the following regulations:

1. The light intensity or brightness from any illuminated sign shall not disrupt the reasonable peaceful enjoyment of surrounding properties. Illuminated signs visible to adjacent residential properties shall be turned off and not operated between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.
2. No illuminated sign shall exceed one hundred (100) foot-candles of power per running foot of the width of the sign. Candle power is total lumens divided by 12.57.
3. The density of the sign face or canopy/awning material shall obscure the lighting source.
4. No exposed reflective type bulbs and no strobe light or incandescent lamp shall be used on the exterior surface of any sign so as to expose the face of the bulb, light or lamp to any public street or adjacent property or on or under canopy/awnings.
5. Wiring or conduit shall not be exposed to view.

C. Electronic Messaging Signs.

1. Electronic messaging signs are allowed on up to fifty percent (50%) of the face of a wall sign, ground monument, and pylon signs on lots less than two acres and up to seventy-five percent (75%) of such signs on lots in excess of two acres.
2. Electronic messaging signs shall only display commercial content solely related to the business or businesses located on the premises, the local time and temperature and non-commercial content.
3. The sign shall display static images only. The sign shall not display video and shall not move, blink, animate, flash or operate in any other manner which constitutes or implies motion. The content and messages displayed on the sign are permitted to change no more than every thirty (30) seconds in residential districts, and no more than every ten (10) seconds in commercial districts. Transitions between content and messages shall be instantaneous.
4. Electronic messaging signs shall be equipped with light sensing devices or timers that automatically dim the intensity of the light emitted from the sign during low-light periods from dusk to dawn. The illumination level of the sign, as measured at the sign surface, shall not exceed five hundred (500) nits of intensity between dusk and dawn and five thousand (5,000) nits during daylight hours.
5. The sign shall be situated to prevent direct glare onto adjacent residential properties.

D. Directional Signs. One (1) directional sign shall be allowed at each entrance and exit on properties with frontage of at least one hundred fifty feet (150') and where needed to avoid

confusion as approved by the Village Administrator. All directional and instructional signs shall be no larger than is necessary to accomplish their intended purpose. A company name, logo or service mark may cover up to twenty-five (25%) percent of the face of the sign.

- E. Projecting Signs. Unless otherwise approved by the Appearance Commission, projecting signs shall project no more than fifty-two inches (52") from the building, be at least eight feet (8') but not more than twelve feet (12') above the sidewalk, have a maximum area of eight (8) square feet, and be at least twelve and one-half feet (12.5') from the end of the tenant space and twenty-five feet (25') from another projecting sign.
- F. Wall Signs.
1. This section applies to all wall signs including box signs, raceway signs, channel-cut signs, interior LED and neon-style signs and signs on canopies and awnings over windows. Signage on canopies and awnings shall be limited to that part of the awning or canopy which is parallel to the building.
 2. Wall signs shall not project more than twelve inches (12") from the building. No wall sign or its supporting structure, shall project beyond the top of the wall to which it is attached. No sign shall cover or interfere with architectural details, windows, or mechanical equipment.
 3. Up to one and one half (1.5) square feet of wall signage per each linear feet of frontage or one hundred twenty (120) square feet of signage (which ever is less) shall be allowed on the primary frontage of each tenant space of a non-residential building. The maximum area of wall signage on a primary frontage may be increased by twenty-five percent (25%) if the building is set back by more than two hundred feet (200') from the public right-of-way.
 4. Up to one and one half (1.5) square feet of additional wall signage per each linear feet of frontage or thirty-two (32) square feet of signage (which ever is less) shall be allowed on the secondary frontage of each tenant space of a non-residential building, provided said signage is at least five feet (5') from any sign on an adjacent frontage.
 5. Up to fifteen (15) square feet of signage shall be allowed on the frontage facing an alley of each tenant space of a non-residential building.
 6. LED or neon-style interior signs not exceeding ten (10%) percent of the window area shall be allowed in each tenant space in the C1 and C2 districts.
 7. The maximum length of any wall signs shall be limited to seventy-five percent (75%) of the frontage of the tenant space where it is situated.

G. Ground Monument Signs and Pylon Signs

1. Residential Districts. One ground monument sign shall be allowed for each one hundred fifty feet (150') of street frontage up to a total of two (2) signs for a non-residential property or a residential property with at least twenty (20) or more residential units in the R1, R2, R3, or CR districts. Each sign shall be no more than eight feet (8') high with a maximum sign face area of thirty-six (36) square feet.
2. Commercial Districts. One ground monument or pylon sign shall be allowed for each one hundred fifty feet (150') of street frontage up to a total of three (3) signs per non-residential property or a residential property with at least twenty (20) or more residential units in the C1 or C2 districts. The combined height of all signs shall not exceed ten feet (10') for each sign allowed with a maximum height of twenty-five feet (25') for any one sign. The combined sign face area shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet per each sign allowed, except the maximum combined sign face area for properties in excess of five (5) acres shall be one hundred and fifty (150) square feet.
3. Industrial Districts. One ground monument sign shall be allowed for each one hundred fifty feet (150') of street frontage up to a total of two (2) signs per non-residential property properties in the M1 or M2 districts. The combined height of all signs shall not exceed ten feet (10') for each sign allowed with a maximum height of fifteen feet (15') for any one sign. The combined sign face area shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet per each sign allowed.
4. The structural base of a ground monument sign shall be constructed and finished with materials that are compatible with the appearance of the building, and shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the width of the sign's face.
5. All ground monument and pylon signs shall be located in a landscaped bed that extends at least two (2) feet from the base on all sides. The landscape bed of a pylon sign shall be planted with shrubs at least three feet (3') in height at planting and may also include perennials, turf or other live groundcover.
6. No ground monument or pylon sign may be located closer than eight feet (8') from any side or rear lot line or within seventy-five feet (75') of any other ground monument or pylon sign, or a distance less than one half (1/2) its height or four feet (4') from the public right-of-way whichever is greater.

10-10-8: **TEMPORARY SIGNS AND DISPLAYS:**

- A. No permit is required for temporary window signs and temporary exterior signs and displays listed in paragraphs B- E of this Section. However, advance written notice of the date of installation of all temporary exterior signs and displays must be provided to the Village Administrator.

- B. Temporary window signs may cover up to one-third (1/3) of the total glass area of the transparent windows of the building or tenant space, excluding doors. No such sign shall exceed fifty percent (50%) of the area of an individual window. All Signs displayed in windows shall be professionally made and displayed uniformly in the window. Discolored, torn, or damaged signs shall be removed immediately. All temporary window signs shall be removed within 60 days of installation unless an extension of up to 60 additional days is granted by the Village Administrator.
- C. One temporary sign and two temporary banners shall be allowed for each non-residential property. The total area of the temporary signs and banners shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total wall signage allowed per frontage. No temporary sign or banner may be displayed for more than sixty (60) days unless an extension of up to sixty (60) additional days is granted by the Village Administrator. No tenant space may display temporary signs or banners for more than one hundred and eighty (180) days in any calendar year. Temporary signs and banners shall be professionally made. Unsecured, discolored, torn, or damaged signs and banners shall be removed immediately.
- D. Temporary exterior promotional displays such as inflatable items, promotional flags, and similar outdoor decorations may be displayed for a period not to exceed twenty (20) consecutive days. No property may display temporary exterior promotional displays for more than forty (40) days in any calendar year.
- E. One (1) portable sign such as a sandwich board sign not exceeding four feet (4') in height and six (6) square feet per sign face shall be allowed for each frontage of a tenant space in the C1, C2 and CR districts. Such signs shall only be displayed during the hours that the tenant space is open for business. Such signs shall be free of dents and other damage, shall be maintained in like new appearance, shall be weighted or anchored to not tip over, and shall not impede pedestrian circulation or traffic flow.
- F. The Village Administrator may issue a permit for temporary free standing exterior signs up to 32 square feet.

10-10-9: **NON-CONFORMING EXISTING SIGNS:** A well-maintained and safe sign which was existing and in full compliance with all applicable ordinances and regulations immediately prior to the effective date of this Chapter or any subsequent amendments, but does not comply with current provisions of this Chapter is a non-conforming sign. Such sign shall be allowed to remain in place so long as it is maintained in good condition, is not altered, modified or reconstructed, and is not considered an abandoned sign by this Code; otherwise unless approved by the Appearance Commission as part of its design review process, the sign shall immediately be brought into full compliance with this Chapter or shall be removed. Normal cleaning, refurbishing and painting which does not change the original appearance of the sign shall not be considered an alteration, modification or reconstruction.

10-10-10: **VIOLATIONS:**

- A. In addition to all penalties provided in Title 1 Chapter 4 of this Code, the Village Administrator may revoke a sign permit and/or order the repair or removal of any sign which continues to be in violation of this Chapter for at least 30 days after notice of such violation by citation or otherwise has been given to the owner of the sign or the owner of the property where the sign is located. In the event the sign is not repaired or removed within 30 days after notice to do so is given, the Village Administrator may take any and all steps necessary to remove or repair the sign. The notice requirements of this Section shall not apply if the Village Administrator finds that the immediate repair or removal of the sign is necessary to prevent imminent harm to any person or property.

- B. The owner of the sign and the owner of the premises where the sign is located shall be jointly and severally liable for all costs incurred by the Village pertaining to the repair or removal of the sign pursuant to Subsection A above. Any costs which remain unpaid for more than thirty (30) days after said removal or repair is performed and notice of said cost was mailed to such owner at his/her last known address shall constitute a lien upon the real estate of such owner, and the Village Attorney may record a notice of lien against the owners' properties, may foreclose this lien, and/or take any other action against such owner(s) to recover all money due to the Village including the costs of filing the lien, foreclosing said lien, filing suit and all litigation costs, together with all office expenses and attorneys fees incurred in connection with the collection of the amount due hereunder.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance is an exercise of the home rule authority of the Village of Morton Grove and is intended to and, to the fullest extent allowed by the constitution of the State of Illinois, shall be construed as to supersede any contrary or conflicting state, county, or local rule or regulation.

SECTION 4: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Chapter 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 hereof.

SECTION 5: In the event this ordinance or any part thereof is in conflict with any statute, ordinance, or resolution or part there, the amendment in this ordinance shall be controlling and shall supersede all other statutes, ordinances, or resolutions but only to the extent of such conflict. Except as to code amendments set forth above in this ordinance, all chapters and sections of the Morton Grove Village Code as amended shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6: In all other respects not inconsistent with this ordinance, all Village codes are hereby reaffirmed.

SECTION 7: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED THIS 9TH day of August 2010.

Trustee DiMaria _____

Trustee Gomberg _____

Trustee Gear _____

Trustee Marcus _____

Trustee Thill _____

Trustee Toth _____

APPROVED BY ME THIS 9th day of August 2010.

Daniel J. Staackmann, Village President
Village of Morton Grove
Cook County, Illinois

ATTESTED and FILED in my office
This 10th day of August 2010.

Tony S. Kalogerakos, Village Clerk
Village of Morton Grove
Cook County, Illinois