
**THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2023-030**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND, COOK
COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AMENDING CHAPTER 165 OF THE
CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING SIGNS**

**FRED BILOTTO, Mayor
RAEANN CANTELO-ZYLMAN, City Clerk
JAIRO FRAUSTO, City Treasurer**

**DEXTER JOHNSON
LUIZ MONTOYA
NANCY RITA
BILL FAHRENWALD
GABRIEL McGEE
CANDACE CARR
JOSH ROLL**

Aldermen

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-030

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,
AMENDING CHAPTER 165 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING SIGNS**

WHEREAS, the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois (the “*City*”) is a duly organized and existing city created under the provisions of the laws of the State of Illinois and is now operating under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Code, and all laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, with full powers to enact ordinances and adopt resolutions for the benefits of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Aldermen of the City of Blue Island previously adopted the Blue Island Zoning Ordinance of 1971 (the “*Zoning Code*”), which is codified in Chapter 165 of Title XV of the Code of Ordinances of the City (the “*City Code*”); and

WHEREAS, a text amendment application has been submitted by the City requesting an amendment to Chapter 165 of the City Code regarding signs within the City (the “*Proposed Amendment*”); and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals (“*PZBA*”) held a public hearing on May 4, 2023 (the “*Public Hearing*”) as to whether the Proposed Amendment should be approved, at which time all persons present were afforded an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, a public notice in the form required by law was given of said Public Hearing by publication not more than thirty (30) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to said Public Hearing; and

WHEREAS, the PZBA has filed its findings of fact and recommendations that the Proposed Amendment be granted, as amended, and the Mayor and Aldermen of the City have duly considered said findings of fact and recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City have determined that adoption of the Proposed Amendment, as amended, is advisable and in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois as follows:

Section 1. That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. That the Mayor and Aldermen of the City hereby adopt by reference the findings of fact of the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals as findings of the Mayor and City Council as if completely set forth herein. All documents and exhibits submitted at the aforesaid public hearing is also incorporated by reference into this Ordinance.

Section 3. That the Mayor and Aldermen find and determine that the adoption of this Ordinance is in the best interests of the City as well as in the public interest.

Section 4. That Section 165.109 (“Exemptions”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.109 EXEMPTIONS.

The following signs are exempt from regulation under this subchapter:

...

(F) Signs installed or placed within the City, for the benefit of the City and its residents, by the City staff, with the consent and approval of the City Council; or

~~(F)~~(G) Signs in the public right-of-way and on public property:

...

Section 5. That Section 165.110 (“Prohibited Signs”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.110 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following signs are expressly prohibited in all zoning districts:

(A) Animated signs;

(B) Moving signs or signs that give the illusion of movement in any manner, including signs with moving, revolving or rotating parts or visible mechanical movement of any kind, including wind-activated, but not including clocks with movable hands;

(C) Flashing, blinking, mechanically moving, twinkling, scrolling or full-motion video elements or other lighting that does not provide constant illumination, including strobe lights, moving or fixed spotlights and floodlights;

(D) Wind-blown signs (e.g., feather flags), balloon signs, and signs painted on or attached to balloons or other inflatable devices (e.g., cars being sold in an auto dealership);

(E) Handwritten signs, pictures, symbols or lettering on window signs or displays;

(F) Banners or pennants flags that are intended to be temporary for ~~30~~15 days but left in place indefinitely;

...

(L) Signs on benches, as well as benches located on private or public property that advertise a business, product, or service or contain any other type of message;

...

(Q) Obsolete or abandoned signs, including any sign that advertises a business, product, service or activity that is no longer located on the premises where the sign is displayed;

(R) Off-premises signs that advertise a business not conducted on the premises where the sign is located or a product not sold on the premises where the sign is located;

(S) Signs placed or painted on a vehicle that is parked in a location such that the primary purpose is to advertise a product or service, or to direct the public to a business or activity located on or off the premises. Signs displayed on trucks, buses or other vehicles, which are being operated and stored in the normal course of a business, such as signs indicating the owner or business using the delivery trucks, moving vans and rental trucks, are allowed, provided that the primary purpose of such vehicles is not the display of signs. Such a truck must be parked or stored in an area appropriate to its use;

(T) Trailer and portable signs that are temporary or permanent signs resting on, or attached to, vehicles or trailers; and

(U) The list of prohibited sign types set out in this section is illustrative only. Any sign that is not exempt from this subchapter under § 165.109 and not established as a lawful non-conforming sign in accordance with § 165.127 or not expressly allowed under another section of this subchapter is a prohibited sign.

Section 6. That Section 165.112 (“Measurement, Construction and Design Standards”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.112 MEASUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND DESIGN STANDARDS

...

(D) Illumination.

(1) Reflector lighting. Any sign illumination, including gooseneck or reflectors and internally illuminated signs, and all electronic signs must be designed, located, shielded and directed to prevent the casting of glare or direct light upon roadways and surrounding properties, or the distraction of motor vehicle operators or pedestrians in the public right-of-way. In the case of internally illuminated signs, the sign face must function as a filter for any illumination.

(2) The use of neon lighting as an accent is permitted for projecting, window and wall signs in the U-TOD and Commercial Sign Overlay Districts, subject to the following.

(a) Neon lighting shall only be used as an accent material on projecting and wall signs, such as for letters, logos and/or sign details.

(b) Neon lighting on projecting and wall signs shall not be illuminated during the daylight hours. When lit, neon lighting must be continuously illuminated. Flashing neon is prohibited.

(c) Neon lighting on projecting and wall signs shall not be combined with any reflective materials (such as mirrors, polished metal, highly-glazed tiles or other similar materials) that would cause glare and increase the spread of light.

(d) Neon tubes or LED-related neon tubes (flexible, “opaque,” or frosted) are allowed to accent windows in a commercial setting (i.e., a storefront

window), but LED light strips are prohibited, especially if LED emitting diodes can be seen.

(3) ~~Neon, rope lighting, light bands, luminous tubes, LED lighting or similar to outline sign, buildings or building elements, such as doors and windows, is prohibited.~~ LED light strips are prohibited to outline business signs, buildings, or building elements such as windows, doors, staircases, and etc.

(4) Any sign that uses illumination shall be turned off while the related business is not open to the public for regular distribution of goods or services.

(5) No sign illumination shall exceed one footcandle of illumination at the property line, except indirect lighting where permitted in accordance with this section.

...

Section 7. That Section 165.116 (“Specific Nonresidential Uses”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.116 SPECIFIC NONRESIDENTIAL USES

Nonresidential uses that are permitted by right in residential zoning districts are allowed one monument sign per street frontage, but no more than two monument signs are allowed if a property has three frontages or more. Monument signs ~~must~~ shall not exceed ~~32 feet~~ 24 square feet in sign area and ~~six five~~ feet in height. All monument signs must be set back at least six feet from any street right-of-way. Pole signs are ~~not allowed~~ prohibited for nonresidential uses in residential districts.

(A) Schools and places of worship. Signs at schools and places of worship may be erected and maintained in a residential district provided:

(1) Monument signs and wall signs are permitted;

(2) No more than one sign is permitted on such a site, except for properties located on a corner lot, in which case two such signs may be erected, one on each frontage;

(3) Pole signs are prohibited;

(4) The permitted sign area for each sign allowed is 24 square feet, except that the permitted sign area for wall signs made of individually pin-mounted letters is 32 square feet;

(5) Up to ~~33%~~35% of the permitted sign area of an institutional monument sign may be used for a manual changeable copy area or an electronic message board; and

~~(6) The permitted sign area for wall signs that are made of individually pin-mounted letters is 32 square feet.~~

(B) Signs accessory to parking areas. Signage for parking areas for multi-family developments and nonresidential uses may be erected and maintained in a residential district provided:

...

(E) Signs for nonresidential uses allowed by special use permit or planned development. Signs for nonresidential uses in residential districts that require special use approval must be established during the special use review and approval process. A master sign plan must be reviewed and approved as part of the special use approval process, as specified in §165.123. Certain sign deviations may be granted via this process that deal with sign area, sign height or sign location on the property.

Section 8. That Section 165.117 (“Signs in Commercial Districts”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.117 SIGNS IN COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

(A) Permitted sign types. The following types of signs are permitted in the Commercial Sign Overlay District subject to the requirements of this subchapter:

- (1) Wall signs, including individually mounted channel letter signs;
- (2) Awnings and canopy signs;
- (3) Window signs;
- (4) Projecting signs, including hanging and blade signs;
- (5) Monument and pole ground signs; and
- (6) Temporary signs including sidewalk signs, banners and ~~attention-getting devices~~ pennant flags pursuant to § 165.121(D).

...

(C) Awnings or canopy signs.

Awnings that are an architectural feature of a structure and are not used for identifying the premises or the goods and/or services sold are not considered a sign. Awnings and canopies used as signs are subject to the following regulations.

(1) Non-illuminated awning signs or canopy signs may be substituted for allowed wall signs, provided that the total combined sign area of all wall signs and awning or canopy signs does not exceed 32 square feet.

(2) Where an awning sign is used as the primary sign on the premises, the maximum sign area permitted on an awning sign is equal to 1.25 square feet per one foot of awning length or 25% of the awning area, whichever is less. The total combined length all elements of the sign copy area may not exceed 75% of the awning or canopy length.

(3) No portion of an awning sign shall be less than 8 feet above the level of the public sidewalk or thoroughfare over which it is erected.

~~(3) In calculating the length and area of an awning or canopy only the single longest plane of the awning or canopy may be counted. This generally means that the valance and sides (ends) of the awning or canopy will not be counted for purposes of measuring length or area.~~

(4) No awning sign shall be permitted to extend beyond any point that is less than five feet from the curb line.

(5) Awning signs shall be constructed out of canvas or canvas-like material, unless other material is approved by the Zoning Administrator. Back-lit, vinyl and metal awnings are prohibited.

(6) Awning signs shall be securely attached to and supported by a building. All frames and supports shall be made of metal or other similar rigid material.

(7) The valance of an awning sign shall not include any text or images other than the name of the business, the service offered by that business, and the house number (no street name). Such valance shall be no more than 8 inches in height and any lettering printed on such valance shall be no more than 6 inches in height.

(8) In any district other than the Uptown-Transit Oriented Development (U-TOD) District, in lieu of any wall sign, the name of the business or logo may be printed on the portion of the awning above the valance. Printing above the valance shall be limited to one awning, except in the case of a corner lot where one awning with printing above the valance shall be allowed on each street frontage. Such name or logo printed above the valance shall be limited.

(9) Awnings shall be compatible in material and construction to the style and character of the building. The color of the awning shall be compatible with the overall color scheme of the façade.

(10) When feasible, awnings shall be generally aligned with others nearby in order to maintain a sense of visual continuity.

...

Section 9. That Section 165.118 (“Signs in the Uptown Transit Oriented Development (U-TOD) District”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.118 RESERVED. ~~SIGNS IN THE UPTOWN TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (U-TOD) DISTRICT.~~

Reserved.

~~Any sign located the Uptown TOD Zoning District are regulated by the sign standards with the following additional standards.~~

~~(A) Monument ground signs.~~

~~(1) One monument type ground sign may be permitted on both sides of Western Avenue between Burr Oak Avenue (127th Street) on the north and Union Street on the south for the purpose of providing a transition between the types and appearance of signs in the U-TOD Sign Overlay District and the Commercial Sign Overlay District.~~

~~(2) Monument signs must not exceed 32 24 square feet in sign area or eight five feet in sign height.~~

~~(3) Pole signs are not permitted in the U-TOD Sign Overlay District.~~

~~(B) Roof signs. Roof signs may be allowed in the U-TOD Sign Overlay District subject to the measurement, construction and design standards of this subchapter and the issuance of a special use permit in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. A master sign plan must be reviewed and approved as part of the special use approval process.~~

Section 10. That Section 165.120 (“Billboards (Advertising Signs, Off-Premises Signs)”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.120 BILLBOARDS (ADVERTISING SIGNS, OFF-PREMISES SIGNS)

(A) Billboards (also known as outdoor advertising signs or off-premises signs) which advertise products, commercial or public service activities, not related to the occupancy and use of the premises, may be permitted as a special use in the Industrial Sign Overlay District, only along Interstate 57, and must conform to the requirements of this section. (Billboards are limited to industrial zones by Ord. 2329, adopted 4-13-1976.)

(B) Billboards are not permitted in any Residential, Commercial or U-TOD Sign Overlay District. Existing non-conforming billboards shall not be converted to LED, electronic, or other similar displays. Billboards in the Industrial Sign Overlay District changing their display or construction must conform to the requirements of this subchapter.

...

(4) Area and dimensions. The maximum permitted sign area of a billboard is determined by the type of road from which the owner or lessee intends it to be viewed and readable. The maximum permitted sign area for billboards adjacent to roadways in the city is as follows:

(a) Interstate 57: maximum area is 672 square feet;

~~(b) Federal aid primary highways: maximum area is 378 square feet; and~~

~~(c) Federal aid secondary, county highways, and all other highways, roads and local streets: maximum area is 200 square feet.~~

(5) Illumination of billboards. The light from any illuminated billboard must be directed or shielded in a manner that minimizes to the maximum extent possible light trespass onto adjoining residential districts. Billboards shall not utilize changeable digital displays.

...

...

Section 11. That Section 165.121 (“Temporary Signs”) of Chapter 165 (“Zoning Code”) of Title XV (“Land Usage”) of the Blue Island Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language, to read as follows:

§ 165.121 TEMPORARY SIGNS.

...

(C) Temporary banner signs. The following regulations shall apply to banner signs that are displayed in the Commercial, U-TOD or Industrial Sign Overlay Districts.

- (1) A permit is required for all banners in nonresidential zoning districts and must be obtained prior to locating, erecting or displaying any.
- (2) Banner signs may only be displayed for a period of time not to exceed 30-15 consecutive days. Banner signs can be no larger than 24 square feet in size.
- (3) Banner signs may only be displayed by a commercial establishment or business entity on ~~four~~ two occasions in any single calendar year. The display shall be for a period not to exceed 30-15 days.
- (4) A minimum 30-day period of time between separate displays of a banner sign or signs by any commercial establishment or business entity shall apply.
- (5) Displays of banner signs shall only be permitted for the purpose of advertising grand openings by new businesses or sales of commodities or services by existing businesses.
- (6) Banner signs may not be displayed as replacements for permanent signs.

(D) ~~Attention-getting devices. Attention-getting devices-Temporary pennant flags.~~ Pennant flags are permitted in nonresidential sign overlay districts and must comply with the following standards.

- (1) A permit is required for all ~~attention-getting devices-pennant flags~~ in nonresidential zoning districts and must be obtained prior to locating, erecting or displaying any.
- (2) ~~Each bona fide tenant of a site may install one attention-getting device on site for a maximum of 15 consecutive days one time per calendar quarter. If a unit's tenant changes, the new tenant may also install one attention-getting device for a maximum of 15 days, one time per calendar quarter. Pennant flags may only be displayed by a commercial establishment or business entity on two occasions in any single calendar year. The display shall be for a period not to exceed 15 days.~~
- (3) A temporary sign permit is required for a 15-day period, and each 15-day period must not be consecutive to each other.

Section 12. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 13. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 14. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City.

[Intentionally left blank]

ADOPTED this 23RD day of May, 2023, pursuant to roll call as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman JOHNSON	X				
Alderman FAHRENWALD	X				
Alderman RITA	X				
Alderman MONTOYA	X				
Alderman MCGEE	X				
Alderman CARR	X				
Alderman ROLL	X				
Mayor BILOTTO					
	7				

APPROVED by the Mayor on May 23, 2023.

FRED BILOTTO
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND,
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

ATTESTED and Filed in my office this
23RD day of MAY, 2023.

RAEANN CANTELO-ZYLMAN, CITY CLERK

PUBLISHED in pamphlet form this
23RD day of MAY, 2023.

RAEANN CANTELO-ZYLMAN, CITY CLERK

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

CERTIFICATE

I, RAEANN CANTELO-ZYLMAN, certify that I am the duly elected and acting Municipal Clerk of the City of Blue Island of Cook County, Illinois.

I further certify that on **May 23, 2023**, the Corporate Authorities of such municipality passed and approved Ordinance No. **2023-030**.

Entitled:

ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUE ISLAND, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AMENDING CHAPTER 165 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING SIGNS.

Which provided by its terms that it should be published in pamphlet form.

The pamphlet form of Ordinance No. **2023 - 030** including the Ordinance and a cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of such Ordinance posted in the municipal building commencing on **May 23, 2023**, and continuing for at least ten days thereafter. Copies of such Ordinance were also available for public inspection upon request in the office of the municipal clerk.

DATED at Blue Island, Illinois, this **23RD** day of **May, 2023**.

CORPORATE SEAL


CITY CLERK

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF COOK) ss.

CERTIFICATION

I, RAEANN CANTELO-ZYLMAN, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I am the duly elected City Clerk of the City of Blue Island, Illinois, as such City Clerk, I am the keeper of the minutes and records of the Proceedings of the City Council of the said City and have in my custody the ORDINANCE and BOOKS of the records of said City.

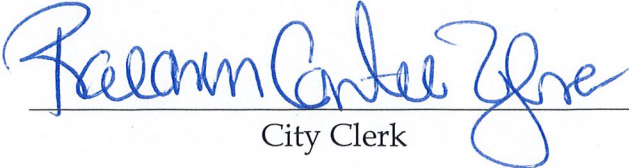
I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the attached and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the certain **2023 - 030** Entitled: **ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BUE ISLAND, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AMENDING CHAPTER 165 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING SIGNS.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-030 which was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Blue Island, Illinois held on the **23RD day of May, 2023**; that at said meeting **7** Alderman were present; that at said meeting, on motion duly made and seconded that the Ordinance did pass and on the roll being called the vote of each Aldermen present on the question of the passage of said Ordinance was duly and separately taken by Ayes and Nays and their names and votes recorded in the minutes of **7** Alderman voted Aye and **0** Alderman voted Nay and **0** Alderman voted Abstain and **0** Alderman Absent.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the original Ordinance which the foregoing is a true copy, is entrusted to my care for safe keeping, and that I am the lawful keeper of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of the City of Blue Island aforesaid, at the said City in the County and State aforesaid, this **23rd day of May, 2023**.

CORPORATE SEAL



City Clerk

