

Sign Code Revision Project

**Joint subcommittee of the Planning Commission
and Citizen Sign Code Committee**
November 7, 2016

06/23/2017

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Review of Meeting Process

- Open Meeting Law
- Role of Subcommittee and Outline of Approach to Documenting Subcommittee Discussion, Public Comments, and to Modifications of Preliminary Draft Sign Code
- Clarification of Timeline
- Management of Meeting

7A.1.1 Purpose – Edit #1 (review of edits from October 24, 2016)

Subcommittee Suggestions: The Code purposely restricts certain types of signs and not everybody should be treated equitably.

Redline Edit: Accommodate the rights of individuals to freedom of speech, ~~promote equity between businesses and other~~ typical among all sign users and, enable the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign standards;



7A.1.1 Purpose – Edit #4 (review of edits from October 24, 2016)

Subcommittee Suggestions: It is suggested more needs to be stated about dark skies. It is suggested that Staff look at combining statement #3 of Commissioner McLaughlin’s proposed purpose statement with suggested edit #4. Suggested to remove “enhance” and replace with “protect.”

Redline Edit: “Foster a good visual environment for Tucson, protect the fragile desert and its environmental assets, protect the natural resource of dark night skies, and create an aesthetic and enjoyable appearance for visitors and residents;”



7A.1.1 Purpose – Edit #5 (review of edits from October 24, 2016)

Subcommittee Suggestions: Suggest removing “Balance” and substituting “Observe.” Also suggest removing “against” and substituting “exercise reasonable control.”

Redline Edit: Observe ~~Balance~~ the rights of ~~businesses and~~ individuals to convey messages through signs, ~~against and~~ exercise reasonable control to mitigate the aesthetics and safety hazards that come from the proliferation of confusing and objectionable sign clutter;

7A.1.2 Applicability – Edit #6 (review of edits from October 24, 2016)

Subcommittee Suggestions: Committee was in agreement with Staff suggestion to say, “City shall be in compliance with City Administrative Directives.”

Redline Edit: The City of Tucson shall ~~following its own sign standards, except where a deviation from the standards are necessary to protect or promote public health, welfare or safety.~~ be in compliance with City Administrative Directives.

Section 7A.1.2 Applicability (sections 3.2.C-D in current Sign Code)

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Section 7A.3 Definitions (section 3.11 in current Sign Code)

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7A.3 Definitions

- Move definitions into UDC's Article 11
- Mark Sign Standards definitions in Article 11 with a (7A) to clarify it only applies to Art. 7A
- Delete redundant terms with UDC– *arterial street, collector street, local street, lot, Major Streets and Routes Plan, person, public use, school, subdivision*
- Delete problem **Reed** terms – *real estate sign types, time and temperature, medical service directional sign, menu board?*
- Add or revised terms with **Reed** issues– *sign, access point sign, dwelling unit sign, electronic sign copy, interior sign, parking lot sign, permanent sign, portable sign, window sign*

Added or Modified Sign Types

- MODIFIED -
- Banner
- Directory sign
- Electronic sign copy
- Mural
- Parking lot sign
- Portable sign
- Sign

- ADDED -
- Access point sign
- Dwelling unit sign
- Interior sign
- Permanent sign

Deleted or Modified Definitions

- MODIFIED -

- Attached sign
- Detached sign
- Wall/window sign

- Menu board?

- DELETED -

- Medical services directional sign
- All real estate signs
- Temporary on site sign
- Time and temperature sign

- DELETED -

- Arterial Street
- Collector Street
- Local Street
- Lot
- Major Streets And Routes Plan
- Person
- Public Use
- School
- Subdivision

Section 7A.4 Permits, Inspections, Fees (Article 3 in current Sign Code)

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7A.4 Permits Inspections and Fees

- No major changes proposed but some reorganization
- Place application and fees in the Administrative Manual
- Check UDC Article 3 to ensure signs are covered in permitting process
- Keep Inspection sections in Art. 7A
- Note - Maintenance becomes more important to resolve sign violations and potential clutter issues.

Outline of Draft Sign Standards

- 7A. 1 - Purpose and Applicability
- 7A. 2 - Interpretation and Substitution Clause
- 7A. 3 - [Definitions*](#)
- 7A. 4 - Permits, Inspections, Fees,
- 7A. 5 - [Violations Enforcement, Penalties*](#)
- 7A. 6 - Measurement, Location, and General Requirements
- 7A. 7 - Sign Design Option
- 7A. 8 - Prohibited and Exempt Signs
- 7A. 9 - Non-conforming Signs
- 7A.10 - Sign Types and General Standards
- 7A.11 - Special Districts
- 7A.12 - Appeals and Variances
- 7A.13 - [Citizen Sign Code Committee*](#)

[*Blue sections should be moved to appropriate UDC articles](#)

**Section 7A.5 Violations, Location,
and General Requirements (sections
3.101 - 3.117 in current Sign Code)**



7A.5 Violations, Enforcement and Penalties

- Move this section to UDC Article 10 (Enforcement).
- No major changes proposed.

**Section 7A.6 Measurement, Location,
and General Requirements (sections
3.31-3.44 in current Sign Code)**



7A. 6 Measurements, Location, and General Requirements

7A.6 Measurements, Location, and General Requirements

- Reorganizes measurements, definitions and other references into this section for completeness
- *Sign area* - Includes a longstanding interpretation for ‘signs’ like crosses
- *Maximum sign area* - Clarified
- *Freeway sign area standard* - Moved here
- *Premise* – Clarified to mean the unified site

7A.6 Measurements cont'd

- *Change of copy* - Clarified to mean a minor change not requiring a building permit.
- *Sign Copy* – Expanded to have a) an item of information section – applies only to Design Option, b) a minor sign copy standard, and c) place existing hour rate of change of electronic sign copy
- *Electronic sign copy* – Renames Electronic message centers as a type of sign copy – but change rate standard remains the same as current Sign Code
- *Item of information* - Defined here for design option use

7A.6 Measurements, cont'd

- *Grade* – Renamed *Sign Height Measurement* and includes both the topmost sign feature and the grade defined in one place to calculate the sign height
- *Grade* – Revised to be measured from the grade below the sign and not the street grade
- The outcome is that sites with existing or natural topography higher than the street are not penalized with a lesser sign height than the standard height.
- *Clearance, Street frontage, Building frontage* – Clarified to be the same as currently being interpreted

7A.6 Measurements cont'd

- *Signs per street frontage* – Refer to permanent signs, portable signs are handle in a different section
- *Signs in and over the right of way* – Edited to be content-neutral and *Reed* compliant
- *Illumination* – Slight edit. Note illumination of portable signs is now prohibited

**Section 7A.6 Measurement, Location,
and General Requirements (sections
3.31-3.44 in current Sign Code)**



Discussion of sign code revisions

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