

I. Amending Article IV, Section 4.2, Off-Premise Signs, by adding the following Subsection 4.2.4, Primary and Secondary Intersection Districts, as follows:

4.2.4 Primary and Secondary Intersection Districts.

a. *Purpose.* This Ordinance shall apply to Primary Intersection Districts and Secondary Intersection Districts, as defined herein. It is the intent of this amendment to the sign regulation to establish certain temporary and permanent uses to provide information to the traveling public while avoiding sign clutter.

b. *Finding.* It is the intent of this Section is to allow informational and directional signs that give information and direction, build the image of business and industry, respect the environment, and incorporate new methods of displaying signage. It is further intended that this Section will help the County's in its efforts to protect the safety and welfare of the public, implement the County's Interim Development Ordinance, and reduce potential visual clutter by encouraging the effective use of signage.

c. *Definitions*

1. *Sign Tree.* A sign tree is a free standing sign having a single vertical support with horizontal appendages that are designed to suspend separate signs. For example, the vertical support of a tree sign should resemble the main stem of a tree and the horizontal appendages may resemble the tree limbs. Appendix A provides two examples of sign trees.

2. *Primary Intersection District.* There is hereby established a Primary Intersection District that is designated within an area generally described as a corner of a primary intersection in the unincorporated county. For the purpose of this ordinance, a primary intersection is established where a state or federal route converges with a state route or county road. For example, and not to be limited to the forgoing, the corner of State Route 61 and State Route 166 forms a primary intersection. The primary intersection district (hereinafter "PID"), is further described as a triangular area having two sides running parallel to the public right-of-way for a distance of twenty (20) feet to two points, which are further described as Point A and Point B, and a third side that connects Point A and Point B by a straight line.

3. *Secondary Intersection District.* There is hereby established a Secondary Intersection District that is designated within an area generally described as a corner of a secondary intersection in the unincorporated county. For the purpose of this ordinance, a secondary intersection is established where a county road converges with another county road. For example, and not to be limited to the forgoing, the corner of North Van Wert Road and North Hickory Level Road forms a secondary intersection. The secondary intersection district (hereinafter "SID"), is further described as a triangular area having two sides running parallel to the public right-of-way for a distance of twenty (20) feet to two points, which are further described as Point A and Point B, and a third side that connects Point A and Point B by a straight line.

d. *Types of Signs Permitted in a Primary Intersection District (PID).*

1. *Free-standing Sign Tree.* The total permitted sign area for each sign tree, which is calculated by adding the sign faces from each separate and individual sign located upon the sign tree, shall not exceed 36 square feet. The sign face of each individual sign that is attached to the sign tree shall not exceed three (3) square feet. The sign tree must be set back one (1) foot or more from each public right -of-way property line.

(A) *Number:* Each primary intersection district may install one (1) permanent sign tree.

(B) *Height.* The single vertical support shall not be greater than twelve (12) feet as measured from the top of the vertical support to the adjacent road grade.

(C) *Sign Area.* The total sign area of a sign tree shall not exceed 36 square feet. Individual signs shall comprise the total sign area. The sign face of each individual sign shall not exceed three (3) square feet.

2. *Signs Prohibited.* All signs not expressly provided for within this paragraph are prohibited.

e. *Types of Signs Permitted in a Secondary Intersection District (SID).*

1. *Free-standing Sign Tree.* The total permitted sign area for each sign tree, which is calculated by adding the sign faces from each separate and individual sign located upon the sign tree, shall not exceed 36 square feet. The sign face of each individual sign shall not exceed three (3) square feet. The sign tree must be set back one (1) foot or more from each public right-of-way property line.

(A) *Number:* Each primary intersection district may install one (1) permanent sign tree.

(B) *Height.* The single vertical support shall not be greater than twelve (12) feet as measured from the top of the vertical support to the adjacent road grade.

(C) *Sign Area.* The total sign area of a sign tree shall not exceed 36 square feet. Individual signs shall comprise the total sign area. The sign face of each individual sign shall not exceed three (3) square feet.

2. *Temporary Signs.* In lieu of installing a permanent sign tree in a SID, temporary signs may be placed in the SID as large as three (3) square feet in sign face, with a height maximum of four (4) ft. from the ground to the top of the sign. The sign must be set back one (1) foot or more from each property line and public right-of-way. Where no permanent sign tree is installed in a SID, three (3) temporary signs may be placed. Temporary signs shall not require a permit from the sign administrator.

3. *Signs Prohibited.* All signs not expressly provided for within this paragraph are prohibited.

f. *Permitting Procedure.* No tree sign may be established without a sign permit issued by the Sign Administrator. A sign permit application shall be submitted to the Sign Administrator on forms provided and indicate location, size, height of sign tree, area measurements, existing and proposed signs, color, height above street grade, sign copy, and depiction or illustration of sign tree. The application shall include the required information and an application fee. The Sign Administrator shall determine whether the sign permit application is complete within five (5) days after the application is filed.

1. The Sign Administrator shall approve or deny the application within the time periods prescribed after it is determined to be complete. If a decision is not rendered within this time period, the application shall be deemed approved. If the application is denied, the Sign Administrator shall provide notice to the applicant in writing, which notice shall explain how an applicant may proceed under this Section, Paragraph 10.2.2 and Paragraph 10.2.3 of this Chapter.

2. Upon a finding by the Sign Administrator that the application complies with the provisions of this section, the Sign Administrator shall cause to be issued a sign permit for installation by the applicant. Such issuance shall be made within fifteen (15) working days of the city's receipt of the completed application unless a variance is requested.

3. If a sign permit for the sign location or design applied for shall be denied, the applicant shall be notified within fifteen (15) working days of the County's receipt of the completed application. The Sign Administrator shall advise the applicant of the specific cause of such denial, and

may suggest alternative locations or design modifications.

4. Any aggrieved individual may appeal the decision of the Sign Administrator regarding the interpretation of this Section or subsequent action with respect to the issuance or denial of a permit under Paragraph 10.2.2 and Paragraph 10.2.3 of this Chapter. All appeals must be submitted within thirty (30) calendar days after a decision or action.

5. Approval Criteria. The Sign Administrator shall issue the requested sign permit if the sign permit application provides the information required by this Section. Otherwise the Sign Administrator shall deny the sign permit application.

6. Subsequent Applications. When a sign permit application is denied by the Sign Administrator, an applicant may resubmit their application when the specific cause(s) for denial by the Sign Administrator have been addressed in a revised application. The revised sign permit application must include revised drawings, measurements, and any other items to remedy the causes for initial denial.

g. No new permanent sign or modification of the size, materials, or design characteristics of a sign shall occur within a PID or SID unless a new sign permit is issued in accordance with the procedures established in this Section.

h. *Sunset of the PID and SID Section 4.2.4.* This Section shall continue in force for eighteen (18) months from the effective date, unless rescinded prior to that time period, at which time the PID and SID Section 4.2.4 shall expire and this portion of the Sign Ordinance, Chapter 78 of the Code of Ordinance of Carroll County shall be automatically rescinded without formal action by the governing authority of Carroll County.