



Village of Northbrook

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING SERVICES

Zoning Code Interpretation

Purpose:	Calculating Allowable Signage Area for Window Signs
Northbrook Zoning Code Section(s):	Section 9-106 Signs
Date:	October 5, 2018

Reason for Interpretation

The Zoning Code provides some general guidance for window signs, but additional specificity is needed to administer the code.

Interpretation:

Window signage is subject to the following:

1. Permanent window signs shall be treated as wall signs and include in wall sign calculations.
2. Signs or graphic images applied to or placed adjacent to a window and or not intended to be part of a temporary display are considered permanent signs.
3. As the Zoning Code does not establish specific size limits for permanent window signs, they shall be regulated as if they were wall signs. In the C-2 District, no individual permanent window sign can exceed 100 s.f. and the total of all wall and permanent window signs shall not exceed 5% of the total wall area of the tenant space;
4. Colored panels that are not temporarily applied to a window are not considered "signs", as they are similar in nature to painting a wall a different color. As such, colored panels applied to a window that permanently block sunlight are no longer deemed to be part of a "window".
5. When a colored panel is applied to a window for any purpose other than a temporary display, the area of the "window" available for a temporary window sign shall be deemed reduced to exclude the colored panel area.

Reviewed and Affirmed:

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