

ORDINANCE NO. 5057

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 9-301 (REVIEW REQUIRED) under Section 9-300 (SIGNS WITHIN THE OLD AND HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA, PARKER-GRAY AND 100 YEAR OLD BUILDING DISTRICTS) of Article IX (SIGNS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2016-0008.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that:

1. In Text Amendment No. 2016-0008, the Planning Commission, having found that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice so require, recommended approval to the City Council on January 5, 2017 of a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to adopt revised sign regulations in historic districts, which recommendation was approved by the City Council at public hearing on January 28, 2017.

2. The City Council in adopting this ordinance expressly adopts, ratifies, affirms and concurs in the finding and action of the Planning Commission above stated;

3. All requirements of law precedent to the adoption of this ordinance have been complied with; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 9-301 of the Zoning Ordinance be, and the same hereby is, amended by deleting the sections shown in strikethrough and adding the language shown as underlined:

Sec. 9-300 - Signs within the Old and Historic Alexandria, Parker-Gray and 100 year old building districts.

9-301 - Review required.

(A) Certificate of appropriateness. A certificate of appropriateness from the appropriate board of architectural review or the director pursuant to section 10-113 and 10-203 is required for ~~the following signs~~ any sign, marquee or awning permanently affixed or displayed when subject to view from a public street or place and affixed to a building or structure located in or otherwise displayed within the Old and Historic Alexandria District or the Parker-Gray District or when affixed to or displayed on a 100-year-old building designated by city council under section 140-300:

~~(1) Any sign, marquee or awning permanently affixed or displayed, subject to the exemptions in section 9-301(B).~~

(B) Exemptions. The following signs shall not be subject to the requirement of section 9-301(A):

(1) Any ~~non-illuminated~~ window sign ~~per building that is less than four feet in area that is not internally illuminated;~~

~~(2) Signs for which administrative approval is available pursuant to sections 10-113 and 10-213~~
One sign of one square foot or less in area that is not internally illuminated;

(3) Temporary signs as follows: One sign, no more than ~~six~~ twenty square feet in area and located no more than twenty feet above the building average finished grade. Such sign may be freestanding, wall mounted, projecting or inserted within a window, ~~provided that it does not cover more than 20 percent of the glazing area of the window where it is installed~~. Freestanding temporary signs shall not exceed six feet in height. If signs are being installed on a brick surface the installation should not damage the brick, and the sign should be anchored into the mortar joints.

(C) Compliance required. Any sign, marquee or awning required to obtain a certificate of appropriateness under section 9-301(A) and any sign identified in section 9-301(B) may be erected or displayed only if authorized by and in compliance with all other applicable requirements of this Article IX.

(D) Grandfathered signs. Any sign, marquee or awning legally erected or displayed within the Old and Historic Alexandria District on or before January 12, 1976, or within the Parker-Gray District on or before November 16, 1985, or on a lot or building listed under section 10-300 on or before the date of such listing may continue to be displayed and may be repainted with the same text, colors and design or repaired without a certificate of appropriateness; provided, that a certificate of appropriateness shall be required before any such sign, marquee or awning is altered, rebuilt or moved to a new location.

~~(E) Freestanding signs. One freestanding sign may be permitted on any property zoned commercial if the area of the sign is no greater than six square feet and if the sign is approved by the board of architectural review.~~ Prohibited signs. No freestanding signs which are located on a parcel fronting the George Washington Memorial Parkway or Washington Street, shall be permitted unless it is the minimum signage necessary to comply with section 9-7-7 of the city code.

~~(F) Prohibited signs. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-301(E), no sign advertising a business, which sign is within 200 feet of and visible from Washington Street, shall be permitted unless it is attached to a building in which the business being advertised is conducted, or unless it is the minimum signage necessary to comply with section 9-7-7 of the city code.~~

Section 2. That the director of planning and zoning be, and hereby is, directed to record the foregoing text amendment.

Section 3. That Section 9-301, as amended pursuant to Section 1 of this ordinance, be, and the same hereby is, reordained as part of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall become effective on the date and at the time of its final passage, and shall apply to all applications for land use, land development or subdivision approval provided for under the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance which may be filed after such date, and shall apply to all other facts and circumstances subject to the provisions of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, except as may be provided in Article XII of the Zoning Ordinance.

ALLISON SILBERBERG
Mayor

Final Passage: March 18, 2017