

ORD 23-017

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 41 OF THE CITY CODE TO PERMIT THE USE OF PARAPET SIGNS

#0295

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Johnson

Co-Sponsor:

Council
Member
B. Fields

WHEREAS, City Council has enacted Chapter 41 of the City Code regarding signs;

and

WHEREAS, Article I of Chapter 41 of the City Code defines the types of signs permitted within the City; and

WHEREAS, Article III of Chapter 41 prescribes regulations governing the use of the signs permitted within the City; and

WHEREAS, a commonly used type of commercial sign known as a parapet sign is not currently permitted under the City Code; and

WHEREAS, allowing and regulating diverse types of signs (i) aids the development and success of businesses in the City and (ii) protects public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to amend Chapter 41 of the City Code to permit the use of parapet signs within the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
HEREBY ORDAINS:**

SECTION 1. Chapter 41 of the City Code is hereby amended by amending Section 41-1 thereof by adding the underlined language to read as follows:

Sec. 41-1. - Definitions.

Other advertising structure means any marquee, canopy, awning or street clock as further defined in this section.

Parapet means the extension of a false front or wall above a roofline of a building.

Parapet sign means any sign imposed or mounted on a building's parapet.

Pole sign means a projecting or flat sign supported and placed upon one or more poles or standards. When a pole sign is erected so that part of the sign projects over property, such sign and its structure shall be considered a projecting sign.

Sign means and includes every sign, billboard, ground sign, wall sign, roof sign, illuminated sign, projecting sign, temporary sign, parapet sign, marquee, awning, canopy and street clock, and shall include any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display illustration or insignia used to advertise or promote the interests of any person when the same is placed out of doors in view of the general public. Display illustrations or insignia placed upon motor vehicles are excluded within the terms of this definition.

SECTION 2. Chapter 41 of the City Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 41-94 to read as follows:

Sec. 41-94. – Parapet Signs.

- (a) Strength of Parapet. All parapets must be designed to have sufficient strength to support any parapet sign which is attached thereto.
- (b) Maximum size. All parapet signs shall not exceed 50 square feet in size.
- (c) Height limitation. All parapet signs shall not extend more than 30 inches above a building's parapet.
- (d) Maximum number of permissible parapet signs. No more than 1 parapet sign shall be permitted on any building's parapet.
- (e) Wind pressure, dead load, and other requirements.
 - (1) Wind pressure requirements. All parapet signs shall be designed to withstand a minimum wind pressure of 80 miles per hour.

(2) Dead Load and Other Requirements. All parapet signs shall conform to all other applicable city code requirements, including, but not limited to, the requirements of sections 41-7 and 41-8.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage by City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading.....April 20, 2023
Second Reading.....April 20, 2023
Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance amends Chapter 41 of the City Code to permit the use of parapet signs in the City.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: This Ordinance has no anticipated fiscal impact.

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