

LYON TOWNSHIP SIGN ORDINANCE
(Ordinance #37)

I. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the Lyon Township Sign Ordinance.

II. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The Lyon Township finds that signs and other visual outdoor advertising are necessary to the commerce, health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Township. Further, it finds that failure to regulate the size, location and construction of signs may lead to poor business and residential areas of the city, intensification of the conflicts between different types of land use, reduction in the effectiveness of traffic control devices, and safety hazards to pedestrians and motorists. It also finds that the Township economic base is dependent on preserving property values and a healthy business climate.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to permit signs that will not, by their size, location, construction or manner of display, endanger the public safety of individuals, confuse, mislead or obstruct the vision necessary for traffic safety, or otherwise endanger public health, safety and morale, and to permit and regulate signs in such a way as to support and complement land use objectives as set forth in this and other Township Ordinances.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. *On premises sign*, means a sign which advertises only food, services, facilities, events, or attractions available on the premises where located, or identifies the owner or occupant or directs traffic on the premises. All other signs are off premises signs.
- B. *Premises*, means a contiguous parcel of land in the same ownership which is or may be occupied by one main building or use and its accessories, which is not divided by any public highway or public alley, including any part thereof subject to any easement for any purpose other than a public highway or public alley.
- C. *Sign*, means a name, identification, image, description, display or illustration which is affixed to, painted, or represented directly or indirectly upon a building, structure, or piece of land, and which directs attention to an object, product, place activity, facility, service, event, attraction, person, institution, organization or business and which is visible from any street, right-of-way, sidewalk, alley, park or other

public property. This definition specifically includes mobile signs which are built on wheels or chassis or are similarly movable but does not include displays of merchandise or objects and material without lettering placed behind a store window. Gravestones and grave markers are not signs.

V. PERMITTED SIGNS

No signs shall hereafter be permitted to be placed, or to remain, in Lyon Township unless same are in strict compliance with all regulations herein contained. No signs shall be permitted in Lyon Township even in strict compliance with the regulations herein if the owner of the property on which the sign is placed does not consent to such placement.

VI. REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL SIGNS

- A. It shall hereafter be unlawful to erect or maintain any sign which moves or has any flashing lights, moving or animated parts or image, whether movement is caused by machinery, electricity, wind or otherwise, including swinging signs. It shall be unlawful to erect or maintain strings of flags or streamers.
- B. Sign placement is not subject to the Lyon Township Zoning Ordinance setback rules concerning buildings and other structures but is subject to the following special setback rules:
 - 1. It shall be unlawful to erect or maintain any sign on, over or above the public land or right-of-way if such sign extends more than 4 feet over such public land or right-of-way, is less than 9 feet above ground level, or has an area exceeding 8 square feet, except a sign printed on a marquee or awning, but this section does not apply to signs posted by duly constituted public authorities in the performance of their public duties.
 - 2. Sign placement is not subject to the same setback rules as are applicable to buildings and other structures but no sign may interfere with the vision of vehicular traffic or obstruct pedestrian traffic.
 - 3. No sign shall be placed so as to interfere with the vision of vehicular traffic.
 - 4. No sign shall be placed so as to obstruct pedestrian traffic.
 - 5. No sign shall detrimentally impact on the aesthetics of the area.
- C. It shall be unlawful to maintain for more than fifteen (15) days any sign which has become obsolete be-

cause of the discontinuance of the business, service or activity which it advertises removal from the location to which it directs or for any other reason.

- D. Temporary signs shall be authorized by the Zoning Administrator for not more than two months at a time by written permit which shall show the size, shape, content, height, type of construction and location of such signs and the period during which authorized, upon a finding by the Zoning Administrator, on the basis of written information furnished by the applicant, that the proposed sign or signs are necessary for the direction of the public and not contrary to the spirit and purpose of this Ordinance. It is specified however, that signs directing the public to yard sales, garage sales, rummage sales, and the like shall not be permitted for a period exceeding two (2) weeks.

VII. SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR ON PREMISES SIGNS

- A. In the R-1, R-2 and R-3 districts as defined under the Lyon Township Zoning Ordinance, on premises signs identifying the property and owner are permitted.
- B. In the C&I zoning districts, as defined in the Lyon Township Zoning Ordinance, signs mounted on a building and having a combined height not exceeding 30 feet and other signs having a height not exceeding 18 feet are permitted.

VIII. SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR OFF PREMISES SIGN AND EXEMPT SIGNS

- A. Off premises signs may only be placed in the following locations:
1. NE corner of Old 27 and County Road 104
 2. NW corner of County Roads 104 and 202
 3. SE corner of Thorp Avenue and Old 27
 4. NW corner of Fox and Old 27
- B. All off premises signs located at the above locations are further restricted as follows:
1. All signs must be grouped together on one set of treated lumber posts at least 4x6 in dimensions.
 2. Each sign is limited to one area sixteen (16) inches high by eight (8) feet long.
 3. Property surrounding the signs must be kept free of weeds, brush and litter.
 4. No off premises sign shall be higher than eighteen (18) feet from the ground in which it is placed.
- C. The following signs are exempt from the regulations of Paragraphs A & B above, but must comply with all other regulations of this Section.

1. Directional or informational signs for churches or other religious activities.
2. Directional or informational signs for Veterans Organizations or activities such as signs identifying Amvets Lodge and Amvets Post Number 13.
3. Directional or informational signs for municipal buildings or municipal activities.
4. The name of the property owners associations and American Legion Posts.

IX. PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT

Any person, persons or entity who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding 90 days or by both. Each day the violations continues to exist shall constitute a separate misdemeanor and the violative sign shall also constitute a nuisance per se. Lyon Township may enforce this ordinance either criminally by a District Court Information and Warrant, by Civil Complaint and Summons seeking equitable relief in Circuit Court or both.

X. SEVERABILITY

Should any portion of this Ordinance be declared invalid by court action, the Ordinance as a whole and all remaining portions shall be considered valid and in full force and effect.

XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be become effective January 24, 1996, thirty (30) days after publication.