

Petition #: 2003-009
Petitioner: Land Use & Environmental Services Agency-
Mecklenburg County

ORDINANCE NO. _____ **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A
OF THE CITY CODE –ZONING ORDINANCE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE:

Section 1. Appendix A, "Zoning" of the Code of the City of Charlotte is hereby amended as follows:

1. Amend CHAPTER SIGNS,

1. Section 13.101. by adding a new paragraph (5) as follows:

(5) In the interest of public safety, the visibility of street address information for use by emergency responders (fire, police and medical) is of preeminent importance. Should any conflict be construed between Section 13 of the City of Charlotte Zoning Ordinance and Article IV, Chapter 19 of the Charlotte City Code (Numbering of Buildings), Article IV, Chapter 19 shall take precedence.

2. Section 13.102. by adding a new definition as follows:

(A3) Address

The name of the street and the street number of a premise as recorded by Land Use and Environmental Services

3. Section 13.102. by adding a new sentence to the end of the existing definition of (S-2) Sign as follows:

Except where the address is also the name of the business or institution owning or occupying the premises, displayed address information is not a sign or part of a sign for the purposes of this code.

The revised definition will read as follows:

S2) Sign.

Any object, device, or structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct, or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination, or projected images. Signs do not include the flag or emblem of any nation, organization of nations, state, city, or any fraternal, religious or civic

organizations; works of art which in no way identify a product; or scoreboards located on athletic fields. Except where the address is also the name of the business or institution owning or occupying the premises, displayed address information is not a sign or part of a sign for the purposes of this code.

4. Section 13.102. by adding new sentences to the end of the existing definition of (S3) Sign face area as follows:

The area of a Business Sign, which is occupied by the address, shall not be included in any area limiting or fee calculations, except where the address is also the name of the business or institution owning or occupying the premises. The address area would be identified by a single continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the address with numbers at least four (4) inches in height or one (1) inch in height for every ten feet of distance between the displayed number and the centerline of the adjacent roadway, whichever is greater. Maximum number size will not exceed 1.5 times the required size and not exceed thirty (30) inches total

The revised definition will read as follows:

Sign face area.

The area within a single, continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of characters, lettering, logos, illustration, or ornamentations, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the display or to differentiate the sign from the background to which it is placed. Structural supports bearing no sign copy shall not be included in the sign area. If a sign is attached to an entrance wall or fence, only that portion of that wall or fence onto which the sign face or letters are placed shall be calculated in the sign area. Only one side of a sign shall be included in the calculation. The area of a Business Sign, which is occupied by the address, shall not be included in any area limiting or fee calculations, except where the address is also the name of the business or institution owning or occupying the premises. The address area would be identified by a single continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the address with numbers at least four (4) inches in height or one (1) inch in height for every ten feet of distance between the displayed number and the centerline of the adjacent roadway, whichever is greater. Maximum number size will not exceed 1.5 times the required size and not exceed thirty (30) inches total.

5. Section 13.104. General provisions, (4) Content (4), by adding the following new sentence at the end of the existing paragraph as follows:

The premise's address may be included in any permitted sign.

The revised paragraph will read as follows:

(4) Content

If a commercial sign is allowed by any provision of these regulations, then a noncommercial sign shall likewise be permitted subject to the applicable standards herein. In addition, any commercial sign permitted by these regulations may display or publish noncommercial message. This includes signs requiring and not requiring a permit. The premise's address may be included in any permitted sign.

6. Section 13.104. General provisions, by adding a new paragraph (5) as follows:

(5) Address information not on face area.

In the interest of public safety and convenience, the display of address information on structures supporting Business Signs is specifically permitted: (a) provided such addresses meet the intent of 13.101 (3), as determined by the Zoning Code Administrator's office; (b) addresses on poles supporting pole signs; road or traffic-facing surfaces of monument signs, suitably visible areas of structures supporting Business Signs; canopies; inclusion in wall signs; and similar display of addresses. Street address numbers shall be at least four (4) inches in height or one (1) inch in height for every ten feet of distance between the displayed number and the centerline of the adjacent roadway, whichever is greater. Maximum number size will not exceed 1.5 times the required size and not exceed thirty (30) inches.

7. Section 13.106. Signs not requiring a permit (4), Identification signs, by deleting the words, "and/or address". The revised sentence will read:

(4) Identification signs not exceeding 1.5 square feet in area that indicates the name of the occupant.

8. Section 13.106. Signs not requiring a permit, by adding a new paragraph (16) as follows:

(16) The street address of the premise is not a sign or a part of a sign for the purposes of this code, except where the name and address are identical. Where the name and address are identical (e.g., a restaurant named "Bay Street"), the name/address shall be considered a Business Sign, except as required by Section 13.101 (5).

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

I, _____, City Clerk of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, in regular session convened on the 17th day of February, 2003, the reference having been made in Minute Book _____, and recorded in full in Ordinance Book _____, Page(s) _____.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, this the _____ day of _____, 2003.
