

DRAFT

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP,
SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 27, KNOWN AS THE NORTHAMPTON
TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING
SECTIONS RELATED TO SIGN REQUIREMENTS
FOR COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED and **ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Northampton Township as follows:

SECTION 1. PART 16, Signs, Definitions., is hereby amended to modify §27-1602. to add the following definitions:

Changeable Copy Sign - a sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols change either automatically through electrical or electronic means or manually through placement of letters or symbols on a panel mounted in or on a track system.

Message Center Sign - a type of illuminated, changeable copy sign that consists of electronically changing alphanumeric text often used for gas price display signs.

SECTION 2. PART 16, Signs, General Standards and Requirements., Illumination., is hereby amended to delete §27-1603.9.C. in its entirety and to rewrite it as follows:

- 9.C. The use of LED, flashing, transmitted video, animated or other similar lighting features for signs shall be prohibited unless specifically permitted in this Part.

SECTION 3. PART 16, Signs, Sign Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Districts., is hereby amended to delete §27-1605.3.B. in its entirety and to rewrite the section as follows.

- 3.B. Retail business establishments containing multiple nonresidential uses with less than 30,000 square feet or developments containing two or more nonresidential uses on the same lot may have one freestanding or ground sign along each street that the development has sufficient frontage and vehicular accessibility. The area of each sign shall not exceed 50 cumulative square feet and shall meet the following criteria:

Subsections §27-1605.3.B.(1) through (5) shall remain as written.

SECTION 4. PART 16, Signs, Sign Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Districts., is hereby amended to delete §27-1605.3.C. in its entirety and to rewrite the sections as follows:

- 3.C. Retail business establishments containing multiple nonresidential uses with more than 30,000 square feet of cumulative floor area may contain one freestanding or ground sign along each street that the development has sufficient frontage and vehicular accessibility. The area of each sign shall not exceed 75 cumulative square feet and shall meet the following criteria:

Subsections §27-1605.3.C.(1) through (5) shall remain as written.

SECTION 5. PART 16, Signs, Sign Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Districts., is hereby amended to add §27-1605.10. as follows:

- 10. For gasoline service stations only, the following criteria are applicable:
 - A. The use of LED changeable copy and message center signs shall be permitted but is limited to identifying gas prices only.
 - B. LED changeable copy and message center signs shall not exceed more than 30% of the total permitted sign area.
 - C. LED changeable copy and message center signs are permitted as part of the allowable type and size of signage permitted by this Part. The calculation of such signage must be incorporated as part of the overall sign calculation, not in addition to it.
 - D. No portion of the sign may flash, scroll, twirl, twinkle, oscillate, rotate, blink, change color, or in any way imitate movement.
 - E. The time interval to change from one gas price to the next display shall be a maximum of one second and shall only be changed to reflect updated gas prices.
 - F. The sign shall have automatic dimmer software or solar sensors to control brightness for nighttime viewing and variations in daytime ambient light. The manufacturer shall provide a certification confirming these controls. The intensity of the light source shall not produce glare, the effect of which constitutes a traffic hazard or is otherwise detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare. The Township reserves the right to require the sign intensity to be reduced if deemed to be too bright after installation.

- G. Glare control shall be achieved primarily through the use of such means as cutoff fixtures, shields, and baffles, and appropriate application of wattage, aiming angle, and fixture placement.
- H. The leading edge of the sign must be a minimum of 100 feet from an abutting residential district boundary.
- I. At all times, all electronic graphic display signs must comply with any operating standards or regulations adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation or other governmental entity with appropriate jurisdiction.
- J. The applicant must comply with all other applicable sections of Part 16, Signs. The requirements of §27-1605.10. are in addition to any other applicable criteria of Section 16.
- K. All signs in the Village Overlay District shall be in accordance with §27-619.7.G. (4) and (5) of the Subdivision and Land Development Chapter, Village Overlay District Design Requirements, which is incorporated herein.

SECTION 6. PART 16, Signs, Prohibited Signs, is hereby amended to delete §27-1607.1.B. in its entirety and to rewrite the sections as follows:

- 1.B. LED, flashing, blinking, twinkling, animated, or other message changing devices used for commercial advertising purposes unless specifically permitted in this Part.

SECTION 7. PART 16, Signs, Summarization Chart for Categorical Sign Requirements., is hereby amended to modify §27-1608. the Maximum Size and Sign Area for the following signs:

Summary Matrix Chart For Categorical Sign Requirements

Use	Type of Sign	Maximum Size or Sign Area
Nonresidential Developments and Uses	Freestanding Sign or Ground Sign For Retail Uses with less than 30,000 square feet of floor area	50 cumulative square feet for all uses (for both freestanding and ground signs)
	Freestanding Sign or Ground Sign For Retail Uses with more than 30,000 square feet of floor area	75 cumulative square feet for all uses (for both freestanding and ground signs)

All other requirements shall remain as written.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

In the event that any section, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance shall be declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not prevent or otherwise foreclose enforcement of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 9. REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed.

ORDAINED and **ENACTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Northampton Township

this _____ day of _____, 2017.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

Barry Moore, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Frank O'Donnell, Secretary

9/15/17