

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW GROUP REPORT

TO: Lombard Plan Commission HEARING DATE: September 18, 2006
FROM: Department of Community PREPARED BY: William J. Heniff, AICP
Development Senior Planner

TITLE

PC 06-26: Text Amendments to the Lombard Sign Ordinance: The Village of Lombard is proposing an amendment to Section 153.602 of the Lombard Sign Ordinance to clarify the definition and calculation method for the Area of a Sign.

DESCRIPTION:

The Planning Services Division of the Community Development Department is proposing changes to definitions section of the Sign Ordinance (Section 153.602) to clarify the method of calculating the area of a sign. This amendment is not intended to increase or decrease any signage rights afforded by the Ordinance.

Proposed Text Amendments and Commentary

The following are the proposed text additions and amendments for the Zoning Ordinance and Code of Ordinances. **Please note, staff attempted to note proposed changes to the ordinances by striking out old text and underlining new text.** Commentary in italics is provided to further explain the proposed ordinance changes.

153.602 DEFINITIONS

SIGN, AREA OF:

1. FREESTANDING SIGNS:

The area of a freestanding or projecting sign shall have only one face (the largest one) of any double or multi-faced sign counted in calculating its area. Pole covers and other embellishments shall not be included in the area of measurement if they do not bear advertising copy. The area of the sign shall be measured as follows if the sign is composed of one or two individual cabinets:

- A. The area around and enclosing the perimeter of each ~~square or~~ rectangular shape which can wholly enclose the cabinet or module shall be summed and then totaled

to determine the total area. ~~The perimeter of measurable area shall not include embellishments such as advertising copy of such embellishments.~~

- B. If the sign is composed of more than three sign cabinets or modules, the smallest ~~rectangle or square area~~ rectangular shape which can wholly enclose the entire perimeter of all cabinets and/or modules shall ~~be constitute~~ the area of the sign. ~~Pole covers and other embellishments shall not be included in the area of measurement if they do not bear advertising copy.~~

The amendments set forth above are intended to clarify and/or simplify the area calculations.

2. WALL/AWNING/CANOPY SIGNS:

- A. If the sign is composed of individual letters or symbols using the wall, awning, or canopy as the background with no added decoration, the total sign area shall be calculated by measuring the area within a single, continuous perimeter composed of ~~any straight line geometric figure~~ the smallest rectangular area which encloses the extreme limits of the advertising message.
- B. If the sign is composed of one or more sign cabinets or modules, the ~~area enclosing the entire perimeter of all cabinets and/or modules within a single, continuous geometric figure~~ smallest rectangular area which can wholly enclose the entire perimeter of all cabinets and/or modules shall ~~be constitute~~ the area of the sign.

This amendment is intended to clarify the method for determining wall sign area. Historically, staff has used the rectangular shape as the continuous geometric figure. However, if one were to argue that a polygon (i.e., a closed plane figure bounded by three or more line segments) is a type of continuous geometric figure, it would be for difficult for staff to dispute this interpretation. The example below shows how the difference could manifest itself for a hypothetical wall sign.



Area based on a Continuous Geometric Figure



Area Based on a Rectangular Shape

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the above considerations, the Inter-Departmental Review Committee recommends that the Plan Commission make the following motion recommending **approval** of the request as proposed:

Based on the submitted petition and the testimony presented, the proposed text amendments comply with the standards required by the Lombard Zoning Ordinance; and, therefore, I move that the Plan Commission find that the findings included as part of the Inter-department Review Report be the findings of the Plan Commission and therefore, I recommend to the Corporate Authorities **approval** of the text amendments described in PC 06-26.

Inter-Departmental Review Group Report Approved By:

David A. Hulseberg, AICP
Assistant Village Manager/Director of Community Development