



**CHARLOTTE**

**Zoning Interpretation**

**LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE (LED) CHANGEABLE COPY POLICY**

The City of Charlotte Zoning Ordinance allows twenty-five percent (25%) of a business identification signs to be changeable copy. Institutional uses in residential and institutional zoning districts are allow a sixteen (16) square foot bulletin board sign. A bulletin board sign is a sign used to announce meetings or programs to be held on the premises of a church, school, auditorium, library, museum, community recreation center or similar noncommercial places of public assembly. The Ordinance prohibits signs that flash, flutter or rotate except in the Uptown Mixed Use District (UMUD).

Many institutions and business establishments are now using LED lighting in identification signs. There has been an increase in the number of sign violations because the electronic messages are changing more than one time in a twenty-four (24) hours period and therefore are considered as flashing, fluttering or rotating signs.

**ISSUE**

*How often may a digital sign change messages and not be considered as a flashing, fluttering or rotating sign?*

**NEW POLICY**

**LED Signs Changeable Copy for detached signs in accordance with Code Sections 13.109 (1)(c) and 13.109(3) along with Bulletin Board signs in accordance with Code Section 13.109(a) of the City of Charlotte Zoning Ordinance may change message every two (2) minutes and the sign will not be considered as a flashing, fluttering or rotating sign with the following conditions:**

1. Message must change from one static message to another instantaneously. There may be no scrolling of messages from left to right or top to bottom.
2. Sign illumination may not exceed a nit (candela per square meter) of 5000 during daylight hours and a nit of 250 between dusk to dawn as measured from the sign's face at maximum brightness

**NOTE**

- a. A permit is required if changes are needed to the sign frame in order to accommodate the LED sign.
- b. No changeable copy is allowed for wall signs unless approved as an optional condition by City Council
- c. Prior to the issuance of a permit for a changeable copy sign, the applicant shall provide written certification from the sign manufacturer that the light intensity has been factory pre-set not to exceed the levels specified above. or provide an isolux lighting plan certified by an electrical engineer.

Date Agreed: August 17, 2012

Approved

By:

Code Sections: 13.109(1)d  
13.109(3)(a)ii  
13.109(4)(a)

SUPERSEDES :