

persons responsible.

3-2-2 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS

This ordinance repeals and replaces other ordinances adopted by Rock Island County to fulfill the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program including: Rock Island County Floodplain Ordinance, adopted 06/20/1995, as amended.. However, this ordinance does not repeal the original resolution or ordinance adopted to achieve eligibility in the program. Nor does this ordinance repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. Where this ordinance and other ordinance easements, covenants, or deed restrictions conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

3-2-38.13 SEPARABILITY

The provisions and sections of this ordinance shall be deemed separable and the invalidity of any portion of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

3-2-38.14 EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication, as required by law.

SIGNS

Section 39 SIGNS

3-2-39.0 PURPOSE AND INTENT

This Sign Ordinance is hereby enacted by the County of Rock Island, Illinois, to assure compatibility of signs with surrounding land usage, to conserve property value in all districts, to protect the public investment in streets and highways, to promote the safety and recreational value of public travel, and to strengthen the economy of the County. All signs hereinafter erected or maintained, except official traffic and street signs, shall conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.

A. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance unless the context otherwise indicates:

1. Attached Signs. A sign which is bolted, nailed, painted, or in any way affixed to an outside building wall.
2. Attached Projecting Sign. Any sign which is attached to a building or other structure and extends beyond the surface of that portion of building or structure to which it is attached.
3. Attached Wall Sign. All flat signs of solid face construction which are placed against a building or other structure and attached to the exterior front, rear, or side wall of any building or other structure.
4. Erect. To build, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend or affix signs.
5. Facia Sign. A single-faced, attached sign which is attached flat against and parallel to its supporting wall.
6. Facing. The surface of the sign upon, against, or through which the message is displayed or illustrated on the sign.
7. Flashing Sign. A sign, the illumination of which is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use. Illuminated signs which indicate the time, temperature, weather or similar public service information shall not be considered "flashing signs."
8. Freestanding Sign. As regulated by this Ordinance, any sign supported by uprights or braces placed into the ground and not attached to any building or structure other than said braces or uprights.
9. Freestanding Elevated Sign. Any sign supported by a metal pole or poles, placed into the ground with the base line of the sign not less than ten (10) feet above the ground over which it is erected.

10. Freestanding Ground Sign. Any sign supported by uprights or braces placed into or upon the ground with the base line of that sign not more than ten (10) feet above the ground over which it is erected, and not attached to any building.
11. Illuminated Sign. Any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outline illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes as part of the sign proper.
12. Incombustible Material. Any material which will not ignite at or below a temperature of one thousand two-hundred (1200) degrees Fahrenheit and will not continue to burn or glow at that temperature.
13. Indirectly Illuminated Sign. Any illuminated, non-flashing sign whose illumination is derived from an external, artificial lighting source.
14. Marquee Sign. Any sign attached to, or an integral part of a hood or canopy of permanent construction projecting from the wall or a building over the entrance to that building. For the purpose of this Ordinance, marquee signs shall be considered as attached signs when determining the allowable square foot area and total square foot area of all permitted signs, and shall be of the fascia type. No marquee sign shall extend more than two (2) feet above the marquee structure.
15. Obsolete Sign. Any on-premises sign or facing which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted or product sold on the premises.
16. On Premise Sign. Any sign identifying the occupant of the property upon which it is located and/or advertising goods or services available thereon.
17. Outdoor Advertising Sign (Billboard or Poster Panel). A sign which directs attention to a business, product, service or activity not necessarily conducted, sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located.

18. Person. Any human being, firm, legal entity, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
19. Portable Sign. Any sign which is of a movable nature, which advertises products, places, services or things not commonly advertised on permanent structures.
20. Roof Sign. As regulated by this Ordinance, any sign erected, constructed and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building with the principal means of support on the roof structure.
21. Sign. A name, identification, description, display or illumination which is affixed to, painted or represented directly or indirectly, upon a building structure or piece of land which advertises or directs attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization or a business.
22. Sign Area. Sign area shall include the extreme points or edges of the sign, excluding molding and the supporting structure which does not form a part of the sign proper. The area of a sign composed of characters or words attached directly to a building or wall surface shall be the smallest triangles or parallelograms which enclose a related group of words, symbols, characters or figures. All faces of a multiple faced sign shall be included in computing sign area except back-to-back outdoor advertising and double-face on premise signs, the area of which shall be taken as the area of one face if the two faces are of equal area, or as the area of the larger face if the two faces are of unequal area (see Appendix).

3-2-39.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. Exemptions. The provisions and regulations of this ordinance shall not apply to the following signs:
 1. Hours and business numbers identifying the address of a parcel of land.

2. Announcement or professional signs and name plates in residential zoning districts identifying the occupant of a parcel of land and not exceeding one (1) square foot in area.
3. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of metal.
4. Flags bearing the official design of a nation, state, municipality, educational institution, or non-profit organization.
5. Traffic or other municipal signs, such as legal notices, railroad crossings, danger and other emergency signs as may be approved by the County Board.
6. Community special event signs approved by the County Board.
7. Bulletin boards not over twelve (12) square feet in area for public, charitable or religious institutions when the same are located on the premises of said institutions set back ten (10) feet from all property lines.
8. Signs used exclusively for traffic direction, on private streets or in parking areas, not exceeding ten (10) square feet in area and not illuminated. Such signs shall be placed so as not to cause traffic or pedestrian hazards.
9. Non-electric or electric signs which do not require approval of the Economic Development Office, inside buildings which are visible from the outside, and all other signs inside buildings which are not visible from the outside.
10. Community information signs advertising events or promotions not conducted on the premises which are sponsored by religious, charitable, business or other associations and organizations.
11. Credit card signs or stickers affixed to windows.

- B. Permits Required. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, structurally alter, or relocate within the County of Rock Island, any sign as defined in this Ordinance except temporary signs, without first obtaining an erection permit from the Economic Development Office and making payment of the fee as required by this section. All signs that have electrical provisions shall, in addition, be subject to the provisions of the Electrical Code and the permit fees required thereunder.
1. Every applicant, before being granted an erection permit hereunder, shall pay a permit fee for each such sign and sign structure regulated by this Ordinance. Unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance, each sign shall be considered a separate structure requiring its own permit.
 - a. Permit fees shall be based on the market value of the sign at the time when said permit is applied for.
 - b. The permit fee shall be five (5) dollars for the first two-hundred (200) dollars of valuation and two (2) dollars for each additional two-hundred (200) dollars of valuation or part thereof up to one-thousand (1000) dollars of valuation. Each additional one-thousand (1000) dollars of valuation or part thereof shall be assessed a permit fee of five (5) dollars.
 2. The owner of any building to which a sign is to be attached, said sign to encroach or hang over public right-of-way shall, before any permit be granted for construction or installation of said sign, furnish the County of Rock Island satisfactory evidence of liability insurance coverage in an amount of not less than one hundred thousand (100,000) dollars liability coverage on account of any one (1) accident, from an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Illinois, with an endorsement thereon holding the County of Rock Island harmless from any claims or causes of action arising out of the installation or maintenance of said sign. The owner of any building to which a sign has been attached prior to the passage of this Ordinance, which said sign encroaches or hangs over public right-of-way, shall comply with the insurance requirements of this section within thirty (30) days after enactment of this Ordinance.

3. It shall be the duty of the Economic Development Office, upon filing of an application for an erection permit, to examine such plans, specifications, and other data relating to the proposed sign and sign structure. If it appears that the proposed sign and sign structure is in compliance with all the requirements of the Building Code, this Ordinance and all other laws and ordinances of the County of Rock Island, the Economic Development Office shall then issue an erection permit. If the work authorized under an erection permit has not been completed within six (6) months after date of issuance, said permit shall become null and void, except that if good cause is shown, the Economic Development Office may extend the permit for not more than one (1) consecutive six (6) month period.
4. The application for an erection permit of a sign in which electrical wiring and connections are to be used shall be submitted to the Economic Development Office. The Economic Development Office shall examine the plans and specifications respecting all wiring and connections to determine if the same complies with the Electrical Code of the County of Rock Island and then shall issue an electrical permit if the said plans and specifications comply with said code.

C. Application for Erection Permit. Application for erection permits shall be made upon applications provided by the Economic Development Office and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the person erecting the sign.
2. Location of building, structure or lot to which or upon which the sign is to be attached or erected.
3. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
4. Written consent of the owner or authorized representative of the building, structure or land to which or on which the sign is to be erected.

5. When requested by the Economic Development Office, blueprints or drawings of the plans and/or specifications and method of construction, attachment to the building or in the ground, and the position of the sign in relation to nearby buildings, structures or other signs.
 6. When requested by the Economic Development Office, a copy of stress sheets and calculations showing that sign and sign structure are designed for dead load and wind pressure in any direction in the amount required by this and other laws and ordinances of the County of Rock Island.
 7. Location and size of the proposed sign.
 8. Proof of insurance policy of bond.
 9. Such other information as the Economic Development Office may require to show full compliance with this and all other ordinances of the County.
- D. Revocation of Permit. The Economic Development Office is hereby authorized and empowered to revoke any permit issued by him or her upon failure of the holder thereof to comply with any provisions of this Ordinance.
- F. Structural and Fabrication Regulations. All signs shall be built, constructed and erected in accordance with the Building Code, other ordinances of the County of Rock Island and the "Maintenance and Improvement Manual" published by the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, Inc.
1. Design of Signs. Every freestanding elevated sign including the frames and poles or supports and footings, and every attached projecting sign, including frames, braces and supports thereof, shall be designed by a structural or manufacturer's engineer in conformance with wind pressure and dead load requirements established in this Ordinance and in accordance with the Building Code and other ordinances of the County of Rock Island.
 2. Erection of Signs. Every elevated freestanding sign shall be

erected under the supervision of an experienced construction superintendent or manufacturer's representative capable of interpreting the construction and erection drawings required in order to assure conformance with all provisions of this Ordinance.

3. Markings on Signs. In addition to sign markings as required in the Electrical Code, every sign hereafter erected shall have permanently affixed on the exterior of the sign the date of erection and the permit number, which shall not be covered in any future reconditioning or painting of said sign.
4. Treating Required. The owner of any sign (existing or proposed) shall be required to have it properly painted, galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent rust and deterioration of all parts and supports of the said sign.
5. Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements. All signs shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind pressure and to receive dead loads as required in the Building Code or any other ordinance of the County of Rock Island.
6. No Glass Permitted. No glass shall be permitted except in the lighting mechanism.
7. Lights. Lights shall be permitted on signs providing they are made of corrosion-resistant materials. The lights shall be provided with proper lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign and preventing glare upon the street or adjacent property. All lighted signs in residential zoning districts, or on property which adjoins or abuts a residentially used property along the front or side lot lines shall be of the illuminated type.
8. Electrical Connections. All electrical connections shall be weather-tight.
9. Movable Parts to Be Secure. Any movable part of any sign such as the cover of a service opening, shall be securely fastened.

10.Face of Sign Shall Be Smooth. All signs or other advertising structures which are constructed at the property line, or within five (5) feet thereof, and are less than ten (10) feet above the ground over which they are located, shall not have a surface with nails, tacks or wires that protrude therefrom, except electrical reflectors and devices which may extend over the top and in front of the advertising structures.

11.Letters to Be Secure. All letters, figures, characters or representatives in cutout or irregular form maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or superimposed upon any sign shall be safely and securely built or attached to the sign structure and shall comply with Building Code requirements.

12.Materials Required. The support structures of all freestanding elevated and roof signs for which a permit is required under this Ordinance, shall be constructed of incombustible material, excluding trim.

The facings of freestanding elevated and roof signs and facings and supports of freestanding ground, attached projecting, attached wall and outdoor advertising signs are allowed to be constructed of combustible materials if it is determined that they do not increase the fire hazard of the structure.

13.Supplementary Signs. No supplementary sign or other appendage may be hung from or supported by an approved sign or its support if it will adversely affect the structure of the approved sign or make the approved sign non-conforming.

E. Signs Not to Constitute a Traffic Hazard. No sign as regulated by this Ordinance shall be erected at the intersection of any street, alley or driveway in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or which makes use of the words "**STOP,**" "**LOOK,**"

"DANGER," or any other word, phrase or symbol, or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.

3-2-39.2 ATTACHED SIGNS

A. Location and Size

1. Attached signs are permitted in all B-1 Neighborhood Commercial, B-2 Central Commercial, B-3 Community Commercial, B-4 Highway Business District, I-1 Light Industrial and I-2 General Industrial zoning districts. At no time shall any sign project more than eight and one-half (8 ½) feet from the building surface, nor more than eighteen (18) inches into public right-of-way, whichever is more restrictive. Every attached sign, excluding fascia signs, shall be placed at least ten (10) feet above the ground over which it is erected. These limits include the space necessary to allow for installation hardware. Signs located on canopies and/or awnings will be considered attached signs for the purpose of calculating the area. Requirements in the Uniform Building Code will be used to determine the distance of allowable projection into the public right-of-way.
2. Attached on-premises signs may have an aggregate area of two (2) square feet for each linear foot of building frontage facing a street, but the maximum total area of all permitted on-premises attached signs shall not exceed five hundred (500) square feet per establishment per street facing. Permitted signs may be placed on any facade of the building. The printed copy of graphics portion of a fascia sign shall not exceed eighty (80) percent of any linear frontage of the building.
3. Outdoor advertising signs shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet per face. On streets and highways within the jurisdiction of this Ordinance no outdoor advertising sign may be established within fifteen hundred (1500) feet of any other outdoor advertising sign facing the same direction measured on either side of the street. Such spacing between structures does not apply to structures separated by

buildings or other structures in such a manner that only one sign located within the above mentioned spacing distance is visible from the highway at any one time.

4. No attached sign shall extend more than four (4) feet above the facade of the building to which it is attached. A sign which is attached parallel to any building or structure shall not project beyond the ends of the wall to which it is attached.
5. In the case of a lot or building facade with frontage on more than one street, attached signs may be permitted on each street in accordance with the regulations of this Ordinance. In no case shall allowable sign area be transferred from one street-facing facade to another street-facing facade.
6. Attached signs identifying churches, fraternities or other similar uses in residential zoning districts shall be of the fascia type, shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area, and shall be limited to one (1) sign (attached or freestanding) on the premises of said use.
7. Attached signs for Special Use Permits granted by the County Board shall be allowed only when authorized by said Board, and shall conform to the requirements of **36.6.d**.
8. If the projecting attached sign is illuminated, the reflectors shall be provided with the proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign and preventing glare upon the street or adjacent property.
9. The distance measured between the principal faces of any attached projecting sign shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
10. No attached projecting sign shall be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails, nor shall any projecting sign be hung or secured to any other sign.
11. All attached wall signs shall be safely and securely attached to the building wall by means of metal anchors, bolts or

expansion screws of not less than 3/8 inch in diameter, embedded in said wall at least five (5) inches; provided, however, that such signs may rest in, or be bolted to strong, heavy metal brackets or saddles set not over six (6) feet apart, each of which shall be securely fixed to the wall as herein before provided. In no case shall any attached wall sign be secured with wire, strips of wood, or nails.

12. Attached signs identifying uses affiliated with a college, university or seminary, subject to the use meeting the thirty (30) foot separation requirement from any residentially zoned or one or two family used lot (as specified in the U-1 University/College district) shall be of a fascia type and shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area.

3-2-39.3 FREESTANDING SIGNS

A. Location and Size

1. Freestanding signs are permitted in B-1 Neighborhood Business District, B-2 Central Business District, B-3 Community Business District.
2. Freestanding signs shall conform to the height regulations of the Zoning Ordinance with a maximum height of twenty-five (25) feet. However, within six hundred sixty (660) feet of the interstate highway, exit ramps excluded, one sign on a standard per premise may be erected to exceed the forty (40) foot limitation providing it does not exceed a height of five (5) feet above the center line of the nearest pavement, ramps excluded, of the interstate road and can be seen from said point.
3. Freestanding on-premise signs and their supporting structures are permitted within one (1) foot of the front property line when the area of such sign is not greater than one hundred (100) square feet. For each additional ten (10) square feet in area, such sign shall be set back an additional one (1) foot.
4. No freestanding sign shall be nearer than two (2) feet to any

other sign, building or structure, providing, however, that a sign of continuous panels shall be considered as one (1) sign for this provision.

5. In the B-1, B-2, and B-3 districts all freestanding signs must be on-premise, with a total area of signage not exceeding one (1) square foot per linear foot of lot frontage, with total signage not exceeding 500 square feet total per lot and shall not exceed 12 feet in height from grade to the top of the sign and supporting structure (250 square feet per side total). Freestanding on-premise signs in the B-4, I-1, and I-2 Districts may have two (2) square feet of area per linear foot of lot frontage, and total signage not exceeding 900 square feet per lot (450 square feet per side total).
6. Outdoor advertising signs shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet per face. On streets and highways within the jurisdiction of this Ordinance, no outdoor advertising sign may be established within fifteen hundred (1500) feet of another outdoor advertising sign facing the same direction measured on either side of the same street. Such spacing between signs does not apply to signs separated by buildings or other structures in such a manner that only one sign located within the above mentioned spacing distance is visible from the highway at any one time.
 - a. Outdoor advertising signs shall be no nearer the street than the building line established by this Ordinance.
 - b. Outdoor advertising signs shall not be located within fifty (50) feet of any R-1 Residential Dwelling or SE Suburban Estates zoning district.
 - c. Outdoor advertising signs shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height.
7. In the case of a lot with frontage on more than one street, freestanding signs in accordance with paragraphs 39.3.a(4), 39.3.a(5) and 39.3.a(6) above may be permitted on each street. In no case shall allowable sign area be transferred

from one street frontage to another street frontage.

8. Freestanding signs identifying churches, fraternities or other similar uses in residential zoning districts shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area nor six (6) feet in height from the top of the sign to the ground, shall be limited to one (1) sign (attached or freestanding) on the premises of said use, and shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from all lot lines.
9. Freestanding signs for Special Use Permits granted by the County Board shall be allowed only when authorized by said Board, and shall conform to the requirements of **39.6.d**
10. Freestanding signs shall have an open space not less than two (2) feet between the base line of said sign and the ground level. This open space may be filled in with a platform or decorative lattice work which does not close off more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of any square foot of such open space.
11. No part of a freestanding sign shall be located over the public right-of-way.
12. The area around pole, or between poles or similar supports of freestanding elevated signs shall be kept open for maximum visibility to conform in all respects to provisions in **39**.
13. Freestanding signs identifying uses affiliated with a college, university or seminary, subject to use meeting the thirty (30) foot separation requirement from any residentially zoned or one or two family used lot (as specified in the U-1 University/College district) shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area, nor six (6) feet in height from the top of the sign to the ground and shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from all lot lines.

3-2-39.4 ROOF SIGNS

A. Location and Size

1. Roof signs are permitted only in B-3 Community Commercial, B-4 Highway/Intensive Commercial, I-1 Light Industrial and I-2 General Industrial zoning districts.
2. For the purposes of this Ordinance, roof signs shall be considered as attached signs when determining the allowable square foot area and total square foot area of all permitted signs.

B. Erection

1. No roof sign shall be erected or maintained with the face thereof nearer than five (5) feet to the outside wall toward which the sign faces; however, if the sign is under twenty (20) square feet, it shall not be erected with the face thereof nearer than one (1) foot to the outside wall toward which the sign faces.
2. All roof signs shall have a space at least five (5) feet in height between the base of the sign and roof level, and have at least five (5) feet clearance between the vertical supports thereof.
3. Every roof sign shall be thoroughly secured to the building by iron or other metal anchors, bolts, supports, rods, or braces. When erected upon buildings which are not constructed of entirely fireproof material, the bearing plates of said sign shall bear directly upon masonry walls and intermediate steel columns in the building. No roof sign shall be supported or anchored to the wooden framework of a building.

- C. Inspection of Roof. No sign shall be placed upon a roof unless said roof has been determined by an architectural or structural engineer to have sufficient strength to safely carry the proposed sign, together with the signature and seal of the architectural or structural engineer making said inspection shall be placed upon or attached to all plans for proposed roof signs before a permit will be issued.

A. Location and Size.

1. Temporary signs which advertise real estate for sale, rent or lease, or advertise a subdivision being developed shall be restricted to six (6) square feet in area when located on residentially-zoned property of less than two (2) acres, and shall be removed upon completion of the sale, rent or lease of the property or sale of all lots in the subdivision. Such signs shall be located on the property and shall be located not less than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way.
2. Temporary signs which advertise real estate for sale, rent or lease, or advertise a subdivision being developed, shall be restricted to ninety-six (96) square feet in area when located on property of two (2) or more acres. Said signs shall be located on the property, shall be located not less than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way lines and shall be removed upon completion of the sale, rent, lease or the property or sale of all lots in the subdivision.
3. Temporary signs which advertise contractors, engineers, developers, architects, etc., for a site being developed shall be restricted to a total area of ninety-six (96) square feet in area, not less than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way line or in conformance with the setback regulations of the zoning district in which it is located, whichever is least restrictive. Such signs shall be removed upon completion of the development and issuance of an occupancy permit by the Economic Development Office.
4. Non-electric, temporary signs placed in windows of buildings with commercial or industrial uses which advertise sales, specials, or close-outs shall be restricted to illumination by normal lighting of the building. Such signs shall be removed upon termination of the sale, special or close-out.
5. Temporary signs may be erected pertaining to the candidacy of federal, state and local elected officials or other voting issues, shall not exceed six (6) square feet per face in residential zoning districts and thirty-two (32) square feet in

other zoning districts. Said signs may be erected not more than thirty (30) days preceding the election and shall be removed within three (3) days after the election.

- B. Erection. Every temporary sign shall be attached to a wall or pole with steel cables, bolts or other suitable fastenings or firmly affixed into the ground so as to prevent movement.

3-2-39.6 PERMITTED SIGNS FOR NONCONFORMING USES

- A. Signs Permitted upon Approval. A sign or signs pertaining to a nonconforming use on the premises may be permitted upon approval by the Zoning Board of Appeals only after all of the following conditions are satisfied, and only if a sign would be allowed on the premises if said use were properly zoned.

1. It is the intent of this section to allow nonconforming uses to have one sign for the purpose of identification but because of the nature of nonconforming uses, they shall be more restrictive than those allowed for permitted uses. All signs under this section shall comply with all other applicable sections of this Ordinance.
2. Signs on nonconforming uses may be replaced only with signs of the same size or smaller, at the same location on the building or premises (or in a less conspicuous location) and of the same lighting (or less), but shall not be in violation of any other section of this Ordinance.
3. Only one (1) sign shall be permitted on the premises of a nonconforming use except signs regulatory for parking areas.
4. If no sign existed on the premises during the six (6) months immediately preceding application for a sign permit under this section, the following regulations shall apply:
 - a. A freestanding or attached sign shall not exceed fifteen (15) square feet in area.
 - b. A freestanding sign shall not exceed six (6) feet in

height from the top of the sign to the ground, and shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from all lot lines.

- c. An attached sign shall be of the fascia type only.
- d. No flashing lights or rotating signs shall be allowed.
- e. No roof signs shall be allowed.

3-2-39.7 PROHIBITED SIGNS

- A. Signs Not Permitted. The following signs shall not be permitted, erected or maintained in any zoning district:
 - 1. Except for traffic warning devices and signs giving public service information such as, but not limited to, time, date, temperature, weather, or similar information, signs which incorporate in any manner moving, scintillating, or revolving lights, or signs with flashing lights having a change frequency of less than five (5) seconds.
 - 2. Any revolving sign with a rotation frequency more than eight (8) revolutions per minute.
 - 3. String lights other than holiday decorations.
 - 4. Any sign which obstructs free passage from one part of a roof to any other part and free ingress or egress from a required door, window, fire escape, roof opening or other required exit-way.
 - 5. Portable signs.
 - 6. Freestanding banners, spinners, except as the County Board may authorize temporarily for civic or non-profit organizations.
- B. Removal of Signs. It is the intent of this section to recognize that the eventual elimination, as expeditiously as it is reasonable, of existing signs that are not in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance, inasmuch as subject of health, safety, and welfare as is the prohibition of new signs that would

violate the provisions of this Ordinance. It is also the intent of this section that any elimination of nonconforming, obsolete, unsafe and unlawful signs shall be affected so as to avoid any unreasonable invasion of established private rights.

1. Prohibited Signs. All signs prohibited by 39.7.a, except for 39.7.a(1) and 39.7.a(2), shall be removed or made conforming within ninety (90) days of the adoption of this Ordinance. Within ninety (90) days after adoption of this Ordinance, existing, non-exempt signs shall be removed by the owner. Newly erected, prohibited signs shall be removed within seven (7) days of owner receiving notice from the County.
2. Nonconforming Signs. A nonconforming sign may be continued and shall be maintained in good condition, but it shall not be:
 - a. Changed to another nonconforming sign.
 - b. Structurally altered, except for normal maintenance and copy changes as long as maintenance does not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the replacement value of the sign at one time.
 - c. Expanded.
 - d. Re-established after damage or destruction if the estimated expense of reconstruction exceeds fifty (50) percent of the appraised replacement cost as determined by the Economic Development Office.
 - e. Moved to another location unless brought into conformance.
3. Unsafe and Unlawful Signs. If the Economic Development Office finds that any sign regulated herein is structurally unsafe; constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, or abandonment, defined as having no active copy on an outdoor advertising sign within the past ninety (90) days or the advertisement of

a business, concern or use which has been closed for greater than ninety (90) days; is not kept in good repair; is capable of causing electrical shocks to persons likely to come in contact with it; or is unlawfully installed, erected or maintained; the Economic Development Office shall give written notice to the permittee and/or owner thereof.

4. Removal of Signs (Obsolete Signs). All obsolete signs shall be removed by the property owner within ninety (90) days after adoption of this Ordinance and/or ninety (90) days after termination of business, whichever comes first. Removal of obsolete signs shall include the supporting structure, exclusive of any building.
5. Maintenance Provision. The owner of any sign requiring a permit shall be required to maintain an exterior which is properly painted, galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent rust and deterioration of all parts, including lighting and supports. *All signs shall be required to be adequately maintained and shall not become tattered, torn, frayed, ragged, shredded, unkempt or the like.* The sign shall be repaired within sixty (60) days following notice from the County of a violation.

3-2-39.8

ADMINISTRATION AND APPEAL

- A. Administration. This Sign Ordinance shall be administered by the Economic Development Office according to his or her obvious responsibilities according to the meaning of the language contained herein. Upon a presentation of proper credentials, these persons or their duly authorized representatives may enter at reasonable times any building, structure or premises in the County of Rock Island to perform any duty imposed upon them by this Ordinance.
- B. Right of Appeal. Any person aggrieved by any ruling of any person charged with the administration of the Ordinance may take an appeal to the appropriate appeal board: Building Board of Appeals or the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- C. Jurisdiction

1. Appeals taken from requests relating to construction shall be filed with the Economic Development Office and shall be subject to the procedures established by those respective commissions, and are not subject to the provisions of this section.
 2. In addition to the jurisdiction authorized in Article V, of the Rock Island County Zoning Resolution, the Zoning Board of Appeals hereinafter referred to as "the Board," is hereby vested with the following jurisdiction and authority:
 - a. To hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirement, decision or determination made by any person charged with the administration of this Ordinance, except appeals relating to the construction as identified under 39.8.c(1) of this Ordinance. The Board may reverse or affirm, wholly or in part, or may modify or amend the order, requirement or decision or determination appealed from to the extent and in the manner that the Board may decide to be fitting and proper on the premises, and to that end, the Board shall also have all the power of the officer from whom the appeals are taken.
 - b. To hear and decide all matters referred to it or upon which it is required to pass under this Ordinance.
 - c. To hear and pass upon applications for variances from a strict application of the terms of this Ordinance, in the manner and subject to the standards set out in 39.8.f of this Ordinance.
- D. Provision of Regulation. The creation, membership and meeting rules, application process and fee, and stay of proceedings provisions for the Board, as established under Article V of the Rock Island County Zoning Resolution shall apply to all appeals and variances from the Sign Ordinance.
- E. Hearing of Appeals
1. An appeal of a decision shall be taken within thirty-five (35)

days after such decision is made.

2. All final administrative decisions of the Board under this section shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative Review Act" of the State of Illinois, approved May 8, 1945 and all amendments and modifications thereto. The term "administrative decision" is defined as in the "Administrative Review Act."

F. Variances

1. The Board may vary the application of this Ordinance in harmony with its general purpose and intent, in accordance with the procedure set forth herein, where there are practical hardships in the way of carrying out the strict letter of any provisions of this Ordinance. Any such variance shall be granted only after a public hearing before the Board.
2. A variance may be granted only when special circumstances involving size, shape, topography, location or surroundings affect the property referred to in the application, when denial of said application would cause unreasonable or unnecessary hardship, and when said sign will not cause substantial injury to the value of other property in the vicinity nor be detrimental to the public safety or welfare and the neighborhood in which it is located.
3. Decisions of the Board. All decisions and findings of the Board, on appeal or upon application for a variance, after a hearing, shall in all instances be final administrative determinations and shall be subject to review by court as may be provided by law.

- G. Penalties. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than twenty-five (25) dollars nor more than five hundred (500) dollars. Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder.

- H. Separability. If any section, subsection, sentence, any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court or competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.
- I. Conflict of Cause. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed insofar as they do so conflict.
- J. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval, as required by law.

Wind Energy

Section 40 WIND ENERGY

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS

3-2-40.0 AUTHORITY

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to authority granted by ILCS Chapter 55 Counties Division 5-12 Zoning and Section 5/5-1063 Building Construction, Alteration, Maintenance.

40.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to preserve and protect public health and safety without significantly increasing the cost or decreasing the efficiency of a wind energy system and to allow for the orderly development of land, protect property values and esthetic conditions within the county. This ordinance does not repeal, abrogate, annul, impair, or interfere with any existing ordinance.

3-2-40.2 APPLICABILITY

This ordinance applies to all unincorporated lands within the boundaries of Rock Island County.