

- (11) Pole signs and pylon signs are not considered ground signs and are not permitted in any zoning district.
- (h) **Incidental Signs.** [Permitted for all uses]
 - (1) A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary to the use of the site on which is it located, such as no parking, entrance, loading only, telephone, and similar information and directives. Signs that are regulated elsewhere in this Article shall not be considered to be incidental signs.
 - (2) Such signs shall be allowed provided they do not exceed two square feet in area and 3 feet in height in commercially zoned districts.
 - (3) Incidental signs located in commercial zoning districts such as no parking, no trespassing, tow away zone or any other incidental sign, the size, height or number of which is specified by any Florida Statute shall be allowed to the minimum size, height or number necessary to comply with any applicable statutory provision. Incidental signs such as no parking, tow away zone, and “stop” signs on private property and other such incidental signs regulated by the Florida State Statutes shall be exempt from City permitting requirements. All other incidental signs shall require a sign permit.
 - (4) Incidental signs may be included with the primary sign permit application.
 - (5) Incidental signs located in residential districts that are non-commercial in nature and are limited in size to no greater than 100 square inches of sign area; are limited to no more than three (3) per parcel; and which do not exceed eighteen (18) inches in height measured from existing grade to the top of the sign. Such signs shall not require a permit. “No Soliciting” signs which are placed in conformance with the City Code are exempt from this Section and shall not be counted towards the total of three (3) signs permitted on residentially zoned property.

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 - (m) **Suspended Signs.** [Permitted under awnings for all non-residential uses]
 - (1) A sign that is suspended from the underside of a horizontal plane surface and supported by same surface.
 - (2) Suspended signs are allowed provided the sign

- shall not exceed one per building entrance and nine (9) square feet in area.
- (3) Such signs shall contain only the address, suite number, logo or name of the occupant or business served by the entrance
- ...
- (o) **Wall Signs.** [Permitted for all non-residential uses other than as specifically permitted herein.]
 - (1) Any sign directly painted on or attached to and extending not more than 6 inches from an exterior wall in a parallel manner.
 - (2) Such signs shall be located only on the street frontage side of principal buildings and shall not be limited as to number.
 - (3) No wall sign shall project above the highest point of the building wall on the same side of the building as the sign.
 - (4) On a corner lot, an additional wall sign shall be permitted on the secondary street frontage, not to exceed 50% of the building frontage allowance.
 - (5) All uses shall be permitted wall signs, provided total area does not exceed one square foot of wall sign for each linear foot of building frontage.
 - (6) On a multi-tenant building, or multi-entrance building, each tenant with an outside entrance, or each entrance to the business serving the general public may have a separate wall sign on the wall with the public entrance.
 - a. The total area of the sign shall not exceed one square foot of wall sign for each linear foot of tenant wall frontage.
 - b. One wall sign, not exceeding 4 square feet in area shall be permitted on any side or rear entrance open to the public. Such sign may only be lighted during the operating hours of the business.
 - (7) Multi-Family residential and Public uses shall be permitted one wall sign.
 - a. Such sign shall not exceed two square feet in area.
 - b. Such sign shall be illuminated only by direct, external illumination.

****FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF PERMITTED SIGNS SEE CHAPTER 26, SECITON 11.3****

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Permitted Signs



City of Punta Gorda

City Code of Ordinance;
Chapter 26, Article 11

Section 11.3. Permitted Signs

The following signs may be placed in accordance with the limitations listed below.

(a) Awning Signs. [Permitted for all non-residential uses]

- (1) A sign on any non-rigid material, such as fabric or flexible plastic, that extends from the exterior wall of a building and is supported by or attached to a frame.
- (2) On a single-occupant property, one awning sign may be allowed in lieu of all other wall signs.
- (3) On a multi-occupant property, one awning sign may be allowed over each occupant entrance, in lieu of other wall signs.
- (4) The maximum area of an awning sign shall not exceed ten percent of the total awning area.
- (5) Awnings may be illuminated only with direct surface lighting and not with any form of backlighting

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(c) Changeable Copy Signs. [Permitted only for theaters, service stations, churches, public land, banks and educational Institutions]

- (1) Any sign designed so that the sign can be periodically changed to a different message. Once the sign has been approved and a permit issued, the copy on these signs may be changed without obtaining another sign permit. Changeable copy signs include the following:

- a. Readerboard sign means a sign or portion thereof that is designed so that letters or numbers attached to the sign can be periodically changed to a different message.
- b. An electronic changeable copy sign or graphic display sign is a sign or portion thereof that displays changeable text or static images or graphics within the display area where the message change is immediate or by means of fading, controlled by electronic communications. Electronic changeable copy signs include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or other objects.
 - i. Electronic signs that project images or messages onto buildings or other objects are permitted only upon approval of a Special Exception.

- c. A multi-vision sign or rotating sign is any sign composed in whole or in part of one or a series of vertical or horizontal slats or cylinders that are capable of being rotated in unison at intervals so that partial rotations of the group of slats or cylinders produces a different image.
 - d. Orientation. All parts of any electronic changeable copy sign or multivision sign must be oriented so that no portion of the sign face is visible from any residentially zoned property.
- (2) Any sign that has the ability to change messages shall have no more than one (1) copy change within a twenty-four (24) hour period. The copy on all such signs shall remain static at all other times.
 - a. Such message change shall be done by a transition to another static image over a period of at least one (1) second, but no more than two (2) seconds.
 - b. Illumination: All illuminated digital signs shall automatically dim the display brightness after dusk and until dawn.
 - i. The effect of the night dimming must ensure that the light does not adversely affect safe vision of pedestrians or vehicles moving on public or private streets, travelways or parking areas.
 - ii. Light shall not shine or reflect in an offensive manner on or into residential structures, motels or hotels.
 - iii. If, in the opinion of the Zoning Official or his/her designee, the level of night time lighting exceeds these standards, the owner/operator of such sign shall reduce the level of lighting within twenty-four (24) hours of verbal notification from the City.
 - (3) The message of any illuminated sign shall be constant with no blinking, flickering, scrolling, flashing, or change in the intensity or color excepting required dimming from dusk to dawn.
 - (4) Audio or pyrotechnics. Audio speakers or any form of pyrotechnics are prohibited in association with any sign.
 - (5) All forms of changeable copy displays, whether electronic, graphic or multi-vision are allowed to occupy all of the sign area of a marquee sign and up to one-half of the area of a principal ground sign only.

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(e) Directory Signs.

[Permitted for multi-tenant or multi-building uses]

- (1) A sign that lists tenants or occupants of a building or project, numbers, arrows, or other directional information.

- (2) Where a site includes more than one tenant, a directory sign is allowed near entrances to parking areas, but not less than 50 feet from any public right of way and principal intersections within the site.
- (3) Such signs shall not exceed 16 square feet in area and 5 feet in height.
- (4) Such signs may contain logos or business names with arrows or other directional information but shall not contain any commercial message.
- (5) Such signs shall not be separately illuminated.
- (6) In addition, one detailed directory sign may be located near the principal entrance to the building for multi-family projects, office buildings or shopping centers.
- (7) Such signs shall be located away from any public right-of-way, so that drivers can conveniently pull up to and read the directory without impeding traffic on any driveway or entrance serving the development.
- (8) Such signs may contain an unlimited number of pieces of information, but letters shall not be more than three inches in height and shall not be legible from any public right-of-way.

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(f) Flags and Flagpoles. [Permitted for all uses and exempt from sign permitting requirements]

- (1) Any fabric or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns or symbols, used as a symbol of a government, political subdivision, nonprofit or charitable organization.
- (2) No flag on a lot may bear a commercial message except one banner or flag per building, stating only the building or business name, and the word "Open".
 - a. Such flag or banner shall be no greater than five square feet in total area.
 - b. The flag or banner may only be displayed during business hours.
- c. The flag or banner must be attached to the building or placed within five feet of the main building entrance.
- d. The height of such flag or banner shall not extend above the height of the wall from which the flag or banner projects, if attached to a single story structure, or the height of the sill or bottom of any second story window, if attached to a multi-story building.
- e. If the flag or banner is placed in the ground in front of the building or business, it may not exceed five feet in height.
- f. The banner or flag must be maintained without missing letters, fading or being tattered or torn.

- (3) There shall be not more than three flagpoles and two flags per pole per site.
 - (4) Poles for such flags shall be limited to 40 feet in height.
 - (5) American flags intended for 24 hour display must be illuminated.
 - (6) For hotel/motel uses, one flag bearing the corporate seal may be displayed on the hotel site. Such flag shall be considered a sign and the area of the flag shall be deducted from the sign allowance for the site on which the flag is located.
- (g) Ground Signs.** [Permitted for multi-family and non-residential uses outside of the City Center District]
- (1) A sign that is permanently attached to the ground or which has supports which places the bottom of the sign less than 1 foot from the ground directly beneath the sign.
 - (2) If the sign design includes a base that is not part of the sign face, the width of the ground sign base shall be not less than 75% of the width of the sign face.
 - (3) Setbacks shall be adequate to protect the visibility sight triangle.
 - (4) Both sides of a two-sided ground sign shall be identical in design.
 - (5) For single-occupant and multi-occupant projects, there shall be only one ground sign plus one additional ground sign for street frontage on a second street, provided that the frontage on that street is at least 150 feet in length and an entrance to the project is located on such street.
 - (6) No two on-site ground signs shall be within 300 feet of each other on a single parcel.
 - (7) Outparcels in shopping centers and office centers shall not be allowed principal ground signs.
 - (8) In residential areas, for multi-family and non-residential uses such as churches, country clubs and other permitted uses, ground signs shall not exceed 6 feet in height and 32 square feet in area.
 - (9) For commercial uses along US 41 [outside of the CC district], ground signs shall not exceed 15 feet in height and 64 square feet in area.
 - (10) For non-residential uses located in the Environmental Preserve District (EP), Neighborhood Center District (NC) and the Special Purpose District (SP), ground signs shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height and 40 square feet in area.