

**City of South St. Paul
Dakota County, Minnesota**

Ordinance No. 1368

**AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE RULES FOR MONUMENT SIGNS AND
ALLOWING INSTITUTIONAL USES TO HAVE CHANGEABLE COPY
ELECTRONIC SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS**

The City Council of the City of South St. Paul does ordain:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. South St. Paul City Code Sections 118-333 and 118-339 are hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 118-333. - Definitions.

Gross area means the method of calculating the allowable square footage of signs. The stipulated maximum gross area for a sign refers to a single facing. Freestanding signs which are V-shaped be considered as two signs. Gross area shall be calculated as follows:

- (a) *Individual letters or figures:* When attached onto a surface such as a building, canopy, awning, or wall, the gross area shall be the smallest rectangle that encompasses all of the letters or symbols.
- (b) *Monument signs:* The area within the frame, including all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs and symbols, together with all the background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed, including a message board. The area shall ~~also not~~ include the main support structure ~~and but shall include~~ any other ornamental attachments that are ~~not~~ a part of the main support of the sign.
- (c) *Pylon signs:* The area within the frame, including all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs and symbols, together with all the background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed, including a message board. The area shall not include the main supporting sign structure, but shall include all other ornamental attachments that are not a part of the main support of the sign.
- (d) *Wall signs:* The area within the frame, including all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs and symbols, together with all the background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed, including a message board. The area shall include all other ornamental attachments that are not a part of the main support of the sign.

Sec. 118-339. - Permitted signs by district.

Figure A-1

	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	CGMU-1	CGMU-2	NCMU	C-1	GB	I
Maximum Gross Area of all Signage on the Property (Square Feet)	6*	24*	24*	150	150	150	150	150	200*	200*
Individual Sign Maximum Gross Area (Square Feet)	6	24	24	100	100	100	100	100	100*	100*
Height (Feet)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	10*	10*
Area Identification Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Box or Cabinet Signs	C*	P	P	C*	C*	C*	C*	P	P	P
Dynamic Display Signs	C*	C*	C*	C*	C	C	C	C	C	—
Electronic Changeable Copy Signs	C*	C*	C*	C*	C	C	C	C	C	C
Electronic Graphic Display Signs	C*	C*	C*	C*	C	C	C	C	C	—
Freeway Signs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C*	C
Illuminated Canopy and Awning Signs	C	P	P	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Menu Board Signs	—	—	—	C*	C	C	C	C	C	C
Monument Signs	C*	P	P	C*	P*	P*	P*	P	P	P
Nonelectronic Changeable Copy Signs	C	P	P	C*	C*	C*	C*	P	P	P
Nonilluminated Awning and Canopy Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Projecting Signs	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	—
Pylon Signs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wall Signs	C	P	P	P*	P*	P*	P*	P	P	P

*See special conditions within each zoning district

(a) Within residential zoning districts (R-1 through R-3) signs must comply with the following regulations:

(1) Aggregate property signage: The maximum gross signage for a property shall not exceed six square feet in gross area unless otherwise excepted below.

(2) Individual signs: The maximum gross area per sign shall not exceed six square feet in gross area and six feet in height, or as otherwise excepted below.

(4) The following types of signs require a conditional use permit:

- a. Monument signs for institutional uses such as a church or recreational facility only, which shall be allowed one monument sign per lot. No such sign shall exceed a gross area of ~~42~~ 32 square feet.
- b. Illuminated canopy and awning signs on nonresidential buildings.
- c. Projecting signs.
- d. Nonelectronic changeable copy signs.
- e. Wall signs.
- f. Box or cabinet signs for nonresidential uses.

g. Dynamic display signs, electronic changeable copy, and electronic graphic display signs, only when located upon the monument sign of an institutional use such as a church or recreational facility and subject to the following requirements:

1. The signage shall adhere to all requirements of subsection 118-339(c)4c.1 unless otherwise stated below.

2. The electronic sign shall be turned off between 10 PM and 7 AM.

3. No part of the display shall change more than once every fifteen seconds.

(5) The following types of signs are prohibited:

~~a. Dynamic display signs.~~

~~b. Electronic changeable copy signs.~~

~~c. Electronic graphic display signs.~~

d. Freeway signs.

e. Menu board signs.

(b) Within multifamily residential zoning districts (R-4) signs must comply with the following regulations:

(1) Aggregate property signage: The maximum gross signage for a property shall not exceed 24 square feet in gross area unless otherwise allowed below.

(2) Individual signs: The maximum gross area per sign shall not exceed 24 square feet in gross area and six feet in height.

(3) The following types of signs are permissible:

a. Area identification signs.

b. Illuminated canopy and awning signs.

c. Monument signs. Institutional uses as defined in code are permitted to exceed the 24 square foot allowance and have one monument sign up to 32 square feet in size, provided that it is the only sign on the property.

d. Nonelectronic changeable copy signs.

e. Nonilluminated awning signs and nonilluminated canopy signs.

f. Projecting signs.

g. Wall signs.

- h. Box or cabinet signs.

(4) The following types of signs require a conditional use permit:

a. Dynamic display signs, electronic changeable copy, and electronic graphic display signs, only when located upon the monument sign of an institutional use such as a church or recreational facility and subject to the following requirements:

- 1. The signage shall adhere to all requirements of subsection 118-339(c)4c.1 unless otherwise stated below.
- 2. The electronic sign shall be turned off between 10 PM and 7 AM.
- 3. No part of the display shall change more than once every fifteen seconds.

(4 5) The following types of signs are prohibited:

- ~~a. Dynamic display signs.~~
- ~~b. Electronic changeable copy signs.~~
- ~~c. Electronic graphic display signs.~~
- d. Freeway signs.
- e. Menu board signs.

SECTION 2. SUMMARY PUBLICATION. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance:

The City’s sign ordinance is amended to allow institutional uses to have electronic changeable copy signage, dynamic display signage, and electronic graphic display signs when located in residential zoning districts (R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4). Such signage is allowed only on monument signs and shall require a conditional use permit. The size allowance for monument signs for institutional uses in residential zoning districts is increased from 12 square feet to 32 square feet. The ordinance is also amended to change the way monument signs are measured to no longer include the main support structure.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Approved: December 6, 2020

Published: December 17, 2020

Christy Wilcox, City Clerk