



City of Lawrence  
Douglas County  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

6 East 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044

[www.lawrenceks.org/pds](http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds)

Phone 785-832-3150  
Tdd 785-832-3205  
Fax 785-832-3160

November 27, 2013

Hugh Carter  
Vice President, External Affairs  
Lawrence, KS Chamber of Commerce  
646 Vermont Street, Suite 200  
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: Potential sign code amendments

Dear Hugh:

As you and I have discussed, the city desires to embark on a series of sign code amendments to the benefit of both the business community and the city. Clarifying language and definitions; reviewing standards related to location, number, and duration of certain sign types; and consideration of new sign types will all be explored. To this end, staff has drafted a list of potential amendments to pursue with the Sign Code Board of Appeals and ultimately the City Commission.

I am aware that many in your membership are interested in this issue. I encourage you to share the list below with them in order to receive feedback as to whether other issues should be added to the list.

Procedurally, the city desires to consider sign amendments in an incremental fashion and not in a way that results in a wholesale change of the code. This will allow each amendment to be fully vetted with a better understanding of any unintended consequence for each revised standard. The following have been identified to be reviewed:

1. Temporary sign permits - more flexibility should be considered for location and duration – a total of 30 or 45 days per calendar year broken into 3 different time segments, for example. Exceptions related to a 'grand opening' and/or 'going out of business' sales should be explored. Allowing signs in non-commercial districts for multi-dwelling and commercial uses in a limited fashion could also be considered.
2. On-Premise Electronic Message Center– consider standards (type, size, location) to permit these sign types for commercial uses that are currently prohibited.



3. Signs that move – review applicability of signs that move: pennants, flags, feather signs, balloons, signs on trailers, etc.
4. Automobile dealerships – the auto dealer use needs to be specifically addressed given their unique circumstances (highly visible product, large display areas, intense marketing, etc.).
5. Signs of Community Interest – definition, applicability, and standards need to be reviewed.
6. Real Estate signs – Need to review and clarify standards related to size, number allowed along frontage, location, duration, content, etc.
7. Residential Commercial Services – need to review signs related to temporary businesses such as roofers, contractors, etc. that work in residential areas and desire limited advertising while at the property.
8. Nuisance signs – review the ability of the city to address signs left vacant and causing blight.

Please feel free to contact me at 785-832-3154 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Scott McCullough  
Director

Copy: David L. Corliss, City Manager  
Kurt Schroeder, Asst. Dir. PDS  
Barry Walthall, Building Official

---