

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING SECTION 8-5 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON TO ADD SUB-SECTION 8-5(G) TO CLARIFY THE PERMISSIBLE WALL AND WINDOW SIGNAGE CALCULATION.

Whereas, the City of North Charleston has traditionally calculated permissible wall and window sign area based on a percentage of total wall area; and

Whereas, in recent months questions have arisen as to whether architectural ornamentation or bump outs all facing in the same orientation would change the calculation method; and

Whereas, Council wishes to clarify that no such alteration is intended and instead calculations are made based on the building orientation in its entirety;


Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Mayor and Council, in Council assembled, that Section 8-5 of the Zoning Ordinances of the City of North Charleston be amended by the addition of Sub-section 8-5(g) with such added sub-section to read as follows and all other portions of Section 8-5 to remain unchanged:

8-5

(g) For purposes of sign area calculations and measurements, calculations shall be made with the entirety of a buildings orientation (i.e. South face, Northwest face, etc.) being considered a single "wall" without regard to the existence of any offsets or bump outs.

THE WITHIN ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS RATIFICATION BY CITY COUNCIL.

Ordained in City Council this 28th day of February, 2019, in the 242nd year of Independence of the United States of America.


R. KEITH SUMMEY, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


LEGAL COUNSEL

ATTEST:


ELLEN CLARK, MUNICIPAL CLERK

**NORTH CHARLESTON CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting of February 28, 2019

Date: February 25, 2019

Item Title: Ordinance – Final Reading
An Ordinance Amending Section 8-5 of the Zoning Ordinances of the City of North Charleston to add Sub-section 8-5(g) to clarify the Calculation of Wall/ Window Sign Area Computations

Submitted by: Derk Van Raalte, Legal Department 843-740-2550

Contact Person: Derk Van Raalte, 843-740-2550

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

The permissible size of wall signs has for many years been calculated as fifteen (15%) of facade area. In terms of this ordinance, façade area has traditionally been viewed as the entirety of the area facing in a particular direction (i.e. the West side or South side of a building, etc.) Staff has been increasingly getting questions about whether that calculation would change if a building featured some architectural adornment delineating different wall sections all of which face the same orientation. A related question is whether building offsets or bump outs change the calculation. The original intent of the ordinance was that neither façade delineations nor “bump outs” would be factored into the calculation. The attached ordinance would clarify this fact with specific language to say that wall / window signage is based on the total area facing each direction, regardless of offsets or bump outs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

On January 14, 2019, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and voted to recommend approval of the zoning text amendment (7-0-0).

COUNCIL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 21, 2019 the Public Safety Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Ordinance as presented (8-0-0).

COUNCIL ACTION:

On February 14, 2019 the City Council held a first reading and referred this item to the Public Safety Committee for further review and a recommendation.

Exhibits

___ Resolution ___ X ___ Ordinance ___ Contract ___ Minutes ___ Plan/Map ___ Transfer of Funds ___ Other