

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REVIEW SHEET**

**Amendment:** C20-2021-001 University Neighborhood Overlay (UNO) Sign Correction

**Description:** Amends 25-10-133(H) to remove the prohibition on illuminated signs.

**Background:**

On November 19, 2019, the City Council passed an ordinance making significant changes to University Neighborhood Overlay (UNO) regarding building heights, permitted uses, parking, and sign regulations.

This ordinance affected several UNO sign regulations. Previously, no signs other than engraved or embossed ones were allowed above the second story; however, this provision did not adhere to industry standards and resulted in numerous Board of Adjustment cases. This provision was removed through Council's action. Although it was intended to be removed, the existing language regarding illuminated signs remained in the ordinance. This has caused issues not only in UNO, but also in the TODs which reference the UNO sign regulations.

At the request of staff, at their May 26, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission initiated an amendment to remove the provision regarding illuminated signs.

**Summary of Proposed Code Amendment:**

Removing the prohibition on illuminated signs in UNO.

**Code Amendment Text:**

A sign may not contain electronic images or moving parts (see attached draft changes).

**Staff Recommendation: Recommended**

Staff supports the proposed change to remove the prohibition on illuminated signs.

**Board and Commission Action:**

July 19, 2023 – Reviewed by the Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee

Recommended on a vote of 6-1-0 with Commissioner Thompson voting nay.

August 8, 2023 – Scheduled for Planning Commission Hearing

**Council Action:**

July 20, 2023 – City Council Set the Public Hearing

August 31, 2023 – City Council Conduct Public Hearing

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PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR CHANGES TO UNO SIGN DISTRICT  
DRAFT SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL CHANGES

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**§ 25-10-133 UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT SIGNS.**

- (A) This section applies to property that is:
- (1) within the university neighborhood overlay (UNO) zoning district; and
  - (2) outside a historic sign district.
- (B) This section supersedes the other provisions of this article to the extent of conflict.
- (C) A sign may not exceed 150 square feet of sign area, except that this limitation does not apply along the following roadways:
- (1) Guadalupe Street, from Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. to West 29th Street;
  - (2) West 24th Street, from Guadalupe Street to Leon Street;
  - (3) Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., from Pearl Street to the alley one block east of University Avenue; and
  - (4) West 29th Street, from Guadalupe Street to Rio Grande Street.
- (D) A freestanding sign is prohibited.
- (E) A roof sign is prohibited.
- (F) No sign may be placed above the second floor of a building, except for a non-electric sign.
- (G[F]) A wall sign is permitted if the sign complies with this subsection.
- (1) One projecting sign for each building facade is permitted.
  - (2) The sign area of a projecting sign may not exceed 35 square feet.
  - (3) A sign may extend from the building facade not more than the lesser of:
    - (a) six feet; or
    - (b) a distance equal to two-thirds the width of the abutting sidewalk.
  - (4) For a sign that projects over state right-of-way, the state must approve the sign.
- (H[G]) A sign may not ~~be illuminated or~~ contain electronic images or moving parts.
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# C20-2021-001 UNO Sign Correction

Planning Commission

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

# C20 – 2021 – 001 – UNO Sign Correction

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- UNO adopted in 2004
- Last amendment in November 2019 and addressed
  - Permitted uses
  - Building heights and design
  - Parking
  - Signs

# C20 – 2021 – 001 – UNO Sign Correction

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- Original UNO ordinance prohibited signs above the 2<sup>nd</sup> must be embossed or engraved – did not adhere to industry standards
- Provision led to multiple BOA hearings which were all approved
- 2019 amendments sought to remove this provision The prohibition on illuminated signs was intended to be removed, but wasn't
- Caused issues in UNO *and* the TODs
- Planning Commission initiated the amendment in 2020

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# C20 – 2021 – 001 – UNO Sign Correction

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## § 25-10-133 UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT SIGNS

(H) A sign may not ~~be illuminated or~~ contain electronic images or moving parts.

Staff supports the recommended code amendment

# C20 – 2021 – 001 – Adoption Timeline

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- Codes and Ordinance Joint Committee
  - Recommended on a vote of 6-1-0 with Commissioner Thompson voting nay
- Planning Commission August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- City Council August 31<sup>st</sup>