

Chapter 12.28

OBJECTS WITHIN COUNTY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Sections:

12.28.010 Permission Required - Removal.

12.28.020 Violation - Penalty.

12.28.010 Permission Required - Removal.

A. No person, organization, or agency shall place, erect, or install any object of any nature whatsoever, within a County road right-of-way without the express permission in writing of the County Engineer, and any such object now in place within a County road right-of-way without written permission of the County Engineer is declared illegal; provided, that this Section shall not apply to portable off-premise residential directional signs meeting the requirements of PCC 18B.10.030 B.2.m. or mailboxes and attached newspaper boxes, placed on the County right-of-way, where these are placed as far removed from the driving portion of the right-of-way as possible, except that said placement shall be subject to approval of the Pierce County Engineer.

B. Pierce County may summarily remove any illegally placed, erected or installed object within a County right-of-way at any time.

C. Any person placing any object within a County right-of-way in violation of this Section shall be responsible for the removal of the object within 48 hours of receipt of written notice from Pierce County.

D. In addition to removal procedures authorized by subsection B., abatement of any object or encroachment in Pierce County right-of-way which does not interfere with the proper and legitimate use of such right-of-way may be effected through an injunctive suit by Pierce County authorities.

E. Nuisance Cleanup Special Assessment and Lien.

1. For purposes of this Chapter, any object situated on or in a County road right-of-way without permission of the County Engineer and not otherwise permitted by PCC 12.28.010 shall be deemed a nuisance.

2. In addition to any other provision authorized by law, the cost of abating a nuisance shall be a special assessment on the land or premises on which the nuisance is situated. The special assessment shall defray or reimburse the County for the cost of abating the nuisance. This assessment shall constitute a lien against the property that shall be of equal rank with state, county, and municipal taxes. The special assessment and lien shall come into existence and attach upon compliance with the provisions of subsection 3.

3. Hearing Procedures.

a. Should the County seek a special assessment and lien to defray or reimburse the County for the cost of abating a nuisance, the County shall provide a "Notice of Intent to Seek Nuisance Cleanup Special Assessment and Lien" to all persons holding an interest of record in the property abutting the right-of-way upon



1 which the nuisance is situated. Should the County seek reimbursement, this
2 notice shall be mailed no later than 90 days after the nuisance has been abated.
3 The notice shall contain the following information:

- 4 (1) The date, time, and location of the hearing;
5 (2) The name of the Hearing Examiner;
6 (3) The address of the property on which the nuisance is situated;
7 (4) The legal description of the property on which the nuisance is situated;
8 (5) A citation to the appropriate definition of nuisance;
9 (6) A citation to this ordinance;
10 (7) A description of the nuisance;
11 (8) A statement substantially the same as the following:

12
13 Pierce County seeks a special assessment on the property described in this
14 notice. That special assessment, if granted, shall be a lien upon the property
15 that shall be of equal rank with state, county, and municipal taxes. The
16 special assessment is sought to defray or reimburse the County for the cost
17 of abating the described nuisance located within the right-of-way abutting
18 the described property.

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20 You may contest this special assessment and lien by appearing in person at
21 the hearing or by providing a written statement in advance to the Hearing
22 Examiner. To be considered, the Hearing Examiner must receive the
23 written statement in time for consideration at the hearing.

- 24 b. The notice shall be served by means of personal service or by mailing a
25 copy of the notice by certified mail with a five day return receipt requested.
26 Proof of service shall be made by a written declaration by the person
27 effecting the service, declaring the time and date of service, and the manner
28 by which service was made. Notice shall be given at least 14 days prior to
29 the date set for the hearing.
- 30 c. The notice shall be filed with the County Auditor. The filing of the notice
31 shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens notices provided by
32 law.
- 33 d. The hearing shall be a non-land use hearing governed by PCC Chapter 1.22.
34 At the hearing, the County has the burden of proving by a preponderance of
35 the evidence each of the following:
36 (1) That a nuisance is described in the notice;
37 (2) That the nuisance exists, or existed at the time abatement commenced;
38 (3) That the nuisance is located on the property described in the notice or
39 was located on the property at the time the abatement commenced; and
40 (4) The cost to Pierce County of abating the nuisance. Should the Hearing
41 Examiner determine that the nuisance exists or existed and that the
42 nuisance is or was located on the property described in the notice, then
43 the Hearing Examiner shall issue an order specially assessing a lien
44 against that property in the amount of the cost to Pierce County of
45 abating that nuisance. The order shall also recite that the special
46 assessment is a lien upon that property.



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- e. The order creating the special assessment shall be certified and filed with the County Auditor and with the County Assessor-Treasurer.
- 4. Copies of the order shall be served upon all persons holding an interest in the property described in the notice. Service shall be by personal service or by mail to such person at that person's last known address. A failure in service of the order shall not affect the validity of the order or the validity of the lien.
- 5. Special assessments levied pursuant to this Chapter remaining unpaid after 30 days from the date the special assessment was filed with the County Auditor and with the County Assessor-Treasurer shall become delinquent and shall bear interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from and after said date.
- 6. The validity of any assessment made under the provisions of this Chapter shall not be contested in any action or proceeding unless the same is commenced within 30 days after the date the special assessment was filed with the County Auditor and with the County Assessor-Treasurer.
- 7. The remedies provided in this provision are nonexclusive.



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Chapter 18B.10

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sections:

- 18B.10.010 Purpose.**
- 18B.10.015 Applicability.**
- 18B.10.020 Definitions.**
- 18B.10.030 Permits.**
- 18B.10.040 Variance.**
- 18B.10.050 Reconsideration and Appeal Procedures.**
- 18B.10.060 Fees.**
- 18B.10.070 Violations, Penalties, and Compliance.**
- 18B.10.080 Severability.**

18B.10.010 Purpose.

This Chapter establishes general requirements and regulations for signs and/or street graphics located within Pierce County.

18B.10.015 Applicability

This Title applies to the construction, placement, and installation of all signs and street graphics located within Pierce County. The definitions, permit requirements, and other general provisions contained within this Chapter apply throughout this Title except when conflicting with specific standards for sign design required in community plan areas.

18B.10.020 Definitions.

See Chapter 18.25 for a complete list of defined terms.

18B.10.030 Permits.

A. Permits Required.

1. No sign or street graphic shall hereafter be erected, re-erected, constructed, or altered, except as provided by in this Title, and provided that a permit for the same has been issued by the Department. A permit shall be required for each sign(s) or street graphic(s) installed at one time on contiguous property.
2. Subdivision directional signs or street graphics of any size shall require a permit.
3. Signs and street graphics not requiring a permit must still comply with the requirements of this Title.
4. The required permit tag shall be located on the sign where it is visible at ground level.

B. Permit Exemptions.

1. **General.** Exemption from the sign or street graphic permit request of this Chapter shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any sign or street graphic constructed, erected, or located in any manner in violation of the provisions of this Title or any other laws or ordinances of Pierce County or the State of Washington, including the prohibition against placing signs upon County right-of-way. Signs that do not require a sign permit shall be subject to all applicable sign design standards for the



1 various communities. See Section 18B.80.015, Exempt Signs, for exemptions
2 applicable to the Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Communities Plan area.

3 2. **Exemptions.** A sign permit will not be required for the following:

- 4 a. Professional nameplates not exceeding two square feet in area;
- 5 b. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into
6 masonry surfaces, or when constructed of bronze, brass, or other noncombustible
7 materials;
- 8 c. Signs of the State, County, city, or public service companies indicating danger,
9 aids to service or safety, traffic control or traffic direction signs, or Adopt-A-
10 Road Litter Control Program signs;
- 11 d. Signs inside a building;
- 12 e. A-boards and similar signs if under 20 square feet per face (under 12 square feet
13 in Upper Nisqually);
- 14 f. Entrance and exit signs (parking signs) under six square feet per face;
- 15 g. Political signs.
- 16 (1) Signs relating to the nomination or election of any individual for a public
17 political office or advocating any measure to be voted on at any special or
18 general election are political signs and exempt from the sign permit
19 requirement; provided, that such political signs shall not be displayed more
20 than 10 days after the date of the election for which intended. In cases
21 where a general election follows within 50 days of a primary election, those
22 signs for candidates whose names will appear on the ballot in the general
23 election may be displayed during the interim period and up to 10 days after
24 the general election. If political signs are not removed within the specified
25 times, they will be subject to removal by Pierce County in addition to any
26 other remedies provided in this Chapter;
- 27 (2) No political sign shall be erected upon any private property without
28 permission of the resident or owner thereof; and
- 29 (3) Political signs shall not exceed 16 square feet in area and shall not obstruct
30 safe visibility of any mobile or pedestrian traffic.
- 31 h. Repainting, cleaning, or other normal maintenance or repair of a street graphic or
32 street graphic structure for which a permit has previously been issued, so long as
33 the street graphic structure, design, color, material, or content, etc. is not
34 modified in such a way as to conflict with the intent of the Comprehensive Plan
35 or these regulations;
- 36 i. The changing of the advertising copy or message of an approved readerboard,
37 theater marquee, or billboard;
- 38 j. Temporary window graphics;
- 39 k. Construction signs which identify the architects, engineers, contractors, and other
40 individuals or firms involved in the construction, but not including any
41 advertisement of any product, and signs announcing the character of the building
42 enterprise or the purpose for which the building is intended, during the
43 construction period, to a maximum area of 50 square feet for each firm. The signs
44 shall be confined to the site of the construction and shall be removed within 14
45 days of the beginning of the intended use of the project;
- 46 l. Real estate signs advertising the sale or lease of the property or part of the
47 property on which the signs are displayed, up to a total area of 20 square feet.



1 Such signs shall be removed within 14 days of the sale or lease or expiration of
2 the listing and in no case shall be allowed to remain on-site for more than one
3 year without obtaining a sign permit. Such signs may be illuminated, except that
4 such illumination shall not blink, fluctuate, or move. Light rays may shine only
5 upon the sign or upon the property within the premises, but shall not shine over
6 the property lines in any direction except by indirect reflection;

7 m. Portable off-premise residential directional signs announcing directions to an
8 open house at a specified residence which is offered for sale or rent shall not
9 exceed six square feet in area for each sign, and shall not exceed 42 inches in
10 height. Such signs shall be permitted only when the agent or seller is in
11 attendance at the property for sale or rent and may be located on the right-of-way
12 outside of vehicular and bicycle lanes.

13 mn. Rental signs on the premises announcing rooms for rent, room and board,
14 apartment or house for rent, and not exceeding four square feet in area and not
15 illuminated except as allowed in subsection l. above;

16 no. Governmental or official notices, flags, emblems, or insignia;

17 op. Religious or other holiday decorations;

18 pq. Garage sale signs; and

19 qr. Banners that are maintained in good repair, contain the date of installation, and
20 are securely attached to a building or a permitted support structure.

21 C. **Application Requirements.**

22 1. **Preliminary Review.** The provisions for conducting a preliminary review of a
23 proposed sign or street graphic application are set forth in Chapter 18.40,
24 Development Regulations - General Provisions.

25 2. **Application Filing.**

26 a. Sign and street graphic applications shall be reviewed for completeness in
27 accordance with Department submittal standards checklists and pursuant to
28 Chapter 18.40, Development Regulations - General Provisions.

29 b. Applications for permits shall contain the name and address of the owner and
30 user of the street graphic, the name and address of the owner of the property on
31 which the street graphics are to be located, the location of the street graphic
32 structure, drawings or photographs showing the design (color, shape, materials,
33 lighting, etc.) and dimensions of the street graphic, and details of its proposed
34 location and other pertinent information as the Department shall require to
35 insure compliance with the provisions of this Title.

36 D. **Public Notice.** Public notice provisions for notice of application, environmental action,
37 if applicable, and final decision pursuant to this Title are outlined in Chapter 18.80,
38 Development Regulations – General Provisions.

39 E. **Review.**

40 1. **Initial Review.** The Department shall conduct an initial review of any sign or street
41 graphic application in accordance with the provisions outlined in Chapter 18.60,
42 Development Regulations – General Provisions.

43 2. **Review Criteria.** The Department shall review all applications for signs in
44 accordance with the criteria set forth in Chapters 18B.20 or 18B.30, as applicable,
45 and under Title 18J, Development Regulations – Design Standards and Guidelines, if
46 the proposal is located within an area that is regulated under an adopted
47 community(ies) plan.



3. **Approval.** The application for a sign or street graphic shall be approved if the Director finds that the proposal meets the intent and requirements of these regulations.
 4. **Denial.** Noncompliance with any regulations or criteria set forth in this Title may be considered grounds for denial of a sign or street graphic application.
- F. **Time Period for Final Decision.** The provisions for issuing a notice of final decision on any application filed pursuant to this Title are set forth in Chapter 18.100, Development Regulations – General Provisions.
- G. **Expiration of Permits.** A sign or street graphics permit shall expire if the permit is not exercised within one year of its issuance. No extensions of the expiration date shall be permitted.
- H. **Compliance with Building Codes.** All signs or street graphics authorized through this Title must comply with the Uniform Building Code or other building codes adopted by the County for structural requirements.

18B.10.040 Variance.

- A. **General.** An applicant who seeks an exception from the provisions in Chapter 18B.20, Chapter 18B.40, and Chapter 18B.60 may pursue a variance. An applicant who seeks an exception from the provisions in Chapter 18B.100 may seek relief only through the procedure in 18J.10.050.
- B. **Application Requirements.**
1. **Preliminary Review.** The provisions for conducting a preliminary review of a proposed variance are set forth in Chapter 18.40, Development Regulations – General Provisions.
 2. **Application Filing.** Variance applications shall be reviewed for completeness in accordance with Department submittal standards checklists and pursuant to Chapter 18.40, Development Regulations – General Provisions.
 3. **Public Review.** Variance applications shall be available for inspection by the public upon request.
 4. Applicant must demonstrate compliance with each of the following required findings:
 - a. Exceptional or unusual circumstances not resulting from any act of the applicant apply to the project location and not generally to other properties in the vicinity.
 - b. The sign proposal is outstanding in design.
 - c. The variance request is the minimum necessary to serve its intended purpose.
 - d. The variance request is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the Comprehensive Plan and the Development Regulations.
- C. **Public Notice.** Public notice provisions for notice of application, public hearing, and final decision pursuant to this Title are outlined in Chapter 18.80, Development Regulations – General Provisions.
- D. **Review.**
1. **Initial Review.** The Department shall conduct an initial review of any variance application in accordance with the provisions outlined in Chapter 18.60, Development Regulations - General Provisions.

- 1 2. **Public Hearing Required.** After all requests for additional information or plan
2 correction have been satisfied, the Department shall set a date for a public hearing
3 before the Pierce County Hearing Examiner. The public hearing shall follow the
4 procedures set forth in Chapter 1.22 PCC.
- 5 3. **Examiner's Authority.** The Examiner shall have the authority to grant a variance,
6 when in the opinion of the Examiner, the findings described in this Section have
7 been met. The Examiner has the authority, as part of the approval of the variance, to
8 establish expiration dates or time periods within which the approval must be
9 exercised. Upon expiration the permit or approval shall be considered null and void.
10 No extensions of the expiration date shall be permitted.
- 11 4. **Required Findings.** Before any variance may be granted, it shall be shown that:
12 a. Exceptional or unusual circumstances not resulting from any act of the applicant
13 apply to the project location and not generally to other properties in the vicinity.
14 b. The sign proposal is outstanding in design.
15 c. The variance request is the minimum necessary to serve its intended purpose.
16 d. The variance request is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the
17 Comprehensive Plan and the Development Regulations.
- 18 5. **Denial.** Noncompliance with any review criteria may be considered grounds for
19 denial of a variance application.
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21 **18B.10.050 Reconsideration and Appeal Procedures.**

22 Procedures for appeal of any administrative decision and procedures for reconsideration or
23 appeal of a Hearing Examiner decision issued pursuant to this Title are set forth in Chapter 1.22
24 PCC.
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26 **18B.10.060 Fees.**

27 Fees for applications filed pursuant to this Title are set forth in Chapter 2.05 PCC.
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29 **18B.10.070 Violations, Penalties, and Compliance.**

- 30 A. **Civil Infraction.** Any violation or failure to comply with any permit or written order or
31 decision issued pursuant to this Chapter constitutes a Class 1 civil infraction as defined
32 in Chapter 1.16 PCC.
- 33 B. **Misdemeanor.** Any violation of any provision of this Chapter or engaging in any
34 activity without a permit as required by this Chapter constitutes a misdemeanor.
- 35 C. **Separate and Continuing Offenses.** Each violation of this Chapter or of any permit or
36 written order or decision issued pursuant to this Chapter shall be a separate offense and
37 in the case of a continuing violation, each day of any continuance shall be deemed a
38 separate and distinct offense.
- 39 D. The regulations for compliance with the provisions of this Title are set forth in Chapter
40 18.140, Development Regulations - General Provisions.
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42 **18B.10.080 Severability.**

43 If any provision of this Title or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid,
44 the remainder of the regulations or the application of the provision to other persons or
45 circumstances shall not be affected.



Chapter 18B.20

SIGN STANDARDS

Sections:

- 18B.20.010 Purpose.
- 18B.20.030 Special Permission Required for Signs within County Right-of-Way.
- 18B.20.040 Sizes and Types of Signs Permitted in Various Zones.
- 18B.20.050 Setbacks for Signs.
- 18B.20.060 Maximum Height - Generally.
- 18B.20.070 Maximum Height - Airport Hazard Areas.
- 18B.20.080 Minimum Clearance Above Ground.
- 18B.20.090 Electric Power Lines - Clearance.
- 18B.20.100 Visibility.
- 18B.20.110 Marquee - Canopy - Awnings - Eyebrow.
- 18B.20.120 Off-Site Readerboard Signs.
- 18B.20.125 On-Site Readerboard Signs.
- 18B.20.130 Entrance and Exit Signs.
- 18B.20.140 A-Board and Similar Type Signs.
- 18B.20.150 Signs on Fences.
- 18B.20.160 Temporary Signs.
- 18B.20.170 Removal of Sign - Time Period.
- 18B.20.180 Billboards.

18B.20.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide minimum sign standards to safeguard life, health, property, and the general welfare. These standards control the quality of materials, construction, size, location, electrification, and maintenance of all signs and sign structures within the unincorporated areas of Pierce County except when conflicting with the standards in those areas in the County that have a specific sign design Chapter (see Chapters 18B.40, 18B.60 and 18B.100).

18B.20.030 Special Permission Required for Signs within County Right-of-Way.

No person, organization, or agency shall place, erect, or install any sign within a County road right-of-way without the express permission in writing of the County Engineer except as otherwise provided in Chapter 8B.10 PCC (see PCC Chapter 12.28, Objects Within County Rights-of-Way).

18B.20.040 Sizes and Types of Signs Permitted in Various Zones.

A. GROUP I: MSF and HSF

1. Nameplates, not greater than two square feet in gross area, not over four feet in height if detached from the residence, and nonflashing.
2. Identification signs and real estate signs not greater than 20 square feet in area nor 15 feet in height and nonflashing.
3. Construction signs not greater than 50 square feet in area nor 15 feet in height; nonflashing.



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- B. **GROUP II: Rsv5, RSep, R10, R20, R40, and ARL**
 - 1. Nameplates, identification, real estate and construction signs as permitted in GROUP I above.
 - 2. Business signs which advertise only agricultural products raised and sold on the premises, not greater than 20 square feet in area nor 15 feet in height and nonflashing.
 - C. **GROUP III: FL**
 - 1. Nameplates, identification, real estate, and construction signs, as permitted in GROUP I above.
 - 2. Business signs, not greater than 35 feet in height nor 60 square feet in gross area and nonflashing.
 - D. **GROUP IV: MUC, CC, AC, NC, HRD, MUD, RAC, RNC, GC, and PI**
 - 1. Nameplates, identification, real estate, and construction signs, as permitted in MSF zones.
 - 2. Business signs, not greater than 35 feet in height nor 60 feet in gross area and nonflashing.
 - 3. Business identification signs not greater than 35 feet in height nor 180 square feet in gross area and nonflashing.
 - E. **GROUP V: EC**
 - 1. Advertising, business identification, business, construction, and real estate signs, subject to the requirements of this Section.
 - a. Limited as to area, height, setback, and illumination only by the structural and traffic safety requirements of the Uniform Building Code.
 - F. **Application for Discretionary Land Use Review.** The Department may prescribe reduced area and height, more controlled illumination, and greater setback for those uses in which discretionary land use approval is required.

29 **18B.20.050 Setbacks for Signs.**

30 The setback point shall be that portion of any sign or sign structure that is closest to the
31 property line. Table 18B.20-1 provides minimum setback standards for signs.
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Table 18B.20-1 Minimum Setback Standards			
Sign Type	Ground Clearance	Setback from Street	Setback from Interior Yard
Monument*	0-feet	15-feet**	2-feet
Pole*	Less than 10-feet	15-feet	2-feet
Pole*	10-feet to 13-ft 6 inches	5-feet	2-feet
Pole*	More than 13-feet 6 inches	2-feet	2-feet
See also Diagrams 1 and 2 on Figure 18B.20-1 following this Chapter. *Signs must comply with all sight triangle provisions. See Section 17B.10.060 A. PCC **Monument signs that comply with sight triangle provisions may reduce the required setback to 5 feet.			

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1 **18B.20.060 Maximum Height - Generally.**

2 Maximum height of all signs or sign structures, including trim, shall be 35 feet above ground,
3 except for the provisions included in Sections 18B.20.040, 18B.20.070, 18B.20.120 and
4 18B.20.125.

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6 **18B.20.070 Maximum Height - Airport Hazard Areas.**

7 The maximum height for sign or sign structures in airport hazard areas shall be as governed
8 by the Department and/or F.A.A. and/or any other governmental agency having proper
9 jurisdiction.

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11 **18B.20.080 Minimum Clearance Above Ground.**

- 12 A. The minimum clearance to the closest portion of the sign above the ground immediately
13 thereunder shall be 10 feet.
14 B. Exceptions.
15 1. Billboards and/or bulletin boards, see Section 18B.20.180.
16 2. Monument signs.
17 3. Any sign that meets the requirements specified in 18B.20.050.

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19 **18B.20.090 Electric Power Lines - Clearance.**

20 Horizontal and vertical clearance of signs or sign structures from energized power lines shall
21 not be less than 12 feet.

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23 **18B.20.100 Visibility.**

24 No sign or sign structure shall be placed or erected in any place or manner where by reason
25 of its position it will obstruct safe visibility of any mobile or pedestrian traffic.

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27 **18B.20.110 Marquee - Canopy - Awnings - Eyebrow.**

- 28 A. No sign shall be designed as a marquee, canopy, awning, or eyebrow, either in part or
29 whole, that will change the required setback or setbacks for the building to which it may
30 be attached.
31 B. Signs may be placed on the outer face of a marquee, provided they shall not exceed 18
32 inches in thickness and such marquees are constructed as specified by the Uniform
33 Building Code.

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35 **18B.20.120 Off-Site Readerboard Signs.**

- 36 A. One off-site readerboard sign shall be permitted for the following civic uses:
37 1. Religious Assemblies
38 2. Schools
39 3. Public Safety Services
40 4. Libraries
41 B. Off-site readerboard signs shall be subject to the following criteria:
42 1. Only one off-site readerboard sign shall be permitted for each use to a maximum size
43 of 20 square feet and 15 feet of height regardless of zone classification.
44 2. The off-site readerboard sign shall be located within one mile of the lot that contains
45 the permitted civic use.
46 3. The readerboard shall only be illuminated by indirect lighting.
47 4. The readerboard shall comply with the provisions for sign setbacks.



- 1 5. The readerboard shall be limited to only advertising the permitted civic use or
2 community events only.
- 3 6. Authorization from the property owner where the off-site readerboard is proposed
4 shall be required for a complete permit application.
- 5 7. Individual civic uses that are located on the same or adjacent sites and are permitted
6 to display off-site readerboard signs may co-locate one readerboard sign, not to
7 exceed 40 square feet in area and 15 feet in height regardless of zone classification.

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9 **18B.20.125 On-Site Readerboard Signs.**

- 10 A. One on-site readerboard sign shall be permitted for the following civic uses:
 - 11 1. Religious Assemblies
 - 12 2. Schools
 - 13 3. Public Safety Services
 - 14 4. Libraries
- 15 B. On-site readerboard signs shall be subject to the following criteria:
 - 16 1. Only one off-site readerboard sign shall be permitted for each use to a maximum size
17 of 20 square feet and 15 feet of height regardless of zone classification.
 - 18 2. The off-site readerboard sign shall be located within one mile of the lot that contains
19 the permitted civic use.
 - 20 3. The readerboard shall only be illuminated by indirect lighting.
 - 21 4. The readerboard shall comply with the provisions for sign setbacks.
 - 22 5. The readerboard shall be limited to only advertising the permitted civic use or
23 community events only.

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25 **18B.20.130 Entrance and Exit Signs.**

- 26 A. Entrance and exit signs and/or other similarly worded signs, when used for the sole
27 purpose of controlling mobile traffic, shall be limited to the following:
 - 28 1. Number: Only one sign for each entrance or exit.
 - 29 2. Horizontal: Not to exceed 36 inches in height above ground level. The maximum
30 size shall be six square feet.
 - 31 3. Vertical: Not to exceed 16 inches in width. The maximum size shall be six square
32 feet.
- 33 B. See also Section 18B.20.100 covering visibility and Diagram No. 1 on Figure 18B.20-1
34 following this Chapter.

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36 **18B.20.140 A-Board and Similar Type Signs.**

37 Placing of A-board and other similar type signs, whether portable or stationary, shall be
38 governed by Section 18B.20.100 and shall not be less than 15 feet from a street property line
39 except as otherwise provided in Chapter 18B.10 PCC.

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41 **18B.20.150 Signs on Fences.**

42 No sign shall be used for a fence nor shall any fence be used for a sign.

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44 **18B.20.160 Temporary Signs.**

45 ~~Temporary signs or sign structures designating residential development areas may be~~
46 ~~permitted upon receiving special permission from the Department and a permit for same from the~~
47 ~~Building Official. Such signs or sign structures shall be limited to a 2-year period.))~~ Off-site



1 directional signs for residential developments shall be limited to six signs. Each sign shall not
2 exceed 16 square feet in area, and shall include only the name of and directions to the residential
3 development. The sign(s) shall be placed a maximum of two road miles from the nearest
4 residential development entrance. No two signs for one residential development shall be located
5 closer than 500 feet from one another on the same street. A single permit is required for all signs
6 and shall be issued for a one year period. The permit number and the permit expiration date
7 must be clearly displayed on the face of each sign. The permit is renewable for one year
8 increments up to a maximum of three years, provided that extensions will only be granted if the
9 sign permit applicant has complied with the applicable regulations.

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11 **18B.20.170 Removal of Sign - Time Period.**

12 Every person maintaining a sign shall, upon vacating the premises where a sign is
13 maintained, remove or cause to be removed the sign within a 30-day period. Upon failure to
14 comply with the provisions of this Section, the Building Official shall issue a notice to the owner
15 to remove the sign within a 10-day period or be in violation of this Chapter.

16
17 **18B.20.180 Billboards.**

18 Billboards are considered a commercial use type as defined in Chapter 18A.33. See Title
19 18A, Development Regulations - Zoning, to determine if a billboard is a permitted use in the
20 various zone designations. See Section 18A.33.270 C. for a description of the billboard use type.
21 The following standards shall apply to all billboards located in Pierce County.

- 22 A. Billboards shall not be erected or maintained which have any moving parts.
23 B. Billboards shall not be erected or maintained which have any projections that extend
24 more than three feet out from the surface of the billboard face.
25 C. Except as permitted under this Section, no person shall erect a billboard which is visible
26 from the main traveled way of the following streets, roads, or highways located in the
27 unincorporated area of Pierce County:
28 State Route 512
29 State Route 16
30 State Route 302 and Key Peninsula Highway
31 State Route 410
32 State Route 167
33 Canyon Road
34 State Route 162
35 State Route 7 (Pacific Avenue)
36 D. Size. The maximum square footage allowed for a billboard face, except in the
37 Employment Center zone, is 300 square feet with an extension of up to 20 percent of the
38 total square footage for cut-outs or space extensions. Any cut-outs or space extensions
39 shall not extend more than five and one-half feet above the top of the billboard, nor
40 more than two feet out from the sides of the billboard, and not more than one and one-
41 half feet below the bottom of the billboard. In the EC zone, the maximum square
42 footage allowed for a billboard face is 672 square feet, and cut-outs and space
43 extensions shall not be permitted.
44 E. Lighting. Billboards shall not be erected or maintained which contain, include, or are
45 illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights. Billboards shall not
46 include lighting unless it is so effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light
47 from being directed at any portion of the traveled ways of the highway or is of such low



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intensity or brilliance as not to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle. Signs found to be too bright, in the opinion of the Pierce County Building Official, shall be adjusted in accordance with the instructions of the Building Official.

F. Spacing. The minimum distance between billboards in all zone classifications shall be 1,000 feet. The distance shall be measured from the outer edge of the billboard. Measurements shall be along or parallel to the edge of the traveled way on which the billboard face is directed.

G. Setbacks for Billboards. The setback of a billboard shall be not less than 15 feet from a street property line nor less than two feet from a side property line. The setback point shall be that portion of any billboard structure that is closest to the property line. Such structures may be built solid from the ground up.

