



Signs in the City of Lincoln



Like any city, Lincoln has adopted a number of ordinances to maintain a healthy, safe and pleasant environment in which to live, work and play. Some ordinances address health and safety needs, while others help improve the appearance of your community.

Are you planning to install a temporary banner, a new sign, a sign in your window, or change an existing sign?

Every business needs good identification to effectively serve the public. The City of Lincoln Community Development Department is available to help you with your permanent and temporary signs to provide for the most effective identification of each business and achieve a positive impact on the character and quality of the community.

Please be aware...many signs require review and approval from the City's Planning Division. For such signs, a sign permit is required from the Community Development Department before installation or display of the sign.

Lincoln Municipal Code section 16.01.060 identifies those signs that are **exempt** from the requirement of a sign permit, provided the sign meets certain conditions. For example, exempt signs include construction site signs, no trespassing/parking signs, temporary pennants and bunting, real estate signs, and window signs not exceeding 35% of the area of the window, among other things.

Lincoln Municipal Code section 16.01.070 identifies signs that are prohibited in the City of Lincoln. The most common of these signs to which Code Enforcement is often requested to respond are:



Feather Signs or Banners



Temporary banners as a permanent sign



Air dancers



Abandoned or dilapidated signs

Starting at section 16.01.080, the Lincoln Municipal Code describes the requirements for the size, location and types of signs that may be displayed in the community **with** a permit. Chapter 16.02 more specifically addresses the placement and size specifications for **permanent** signs. Note, however, that some commercial developments have their own covenants, codes and restrictions (CC&R's) that may impact the size, location and number of signs a business is allowed to display and may be more restrictive than the Lincoln Municipal Code.

The regulations regarding placement, number and size of **temporary** signs, such as signs advertising the sale of a home or sandwich board/portable A-frame signs, are contained in the Lincoln Municipal Code at section 16.03.030. Staff understands this can be confusing when A-frames and sandwich board style signs require a permit, while real estate signs do not, and we are here to help!

All of these code sections can be found on the City's website at:

https://library.municode.com/ca/lincoln/codes/code_of_ordinances

If you would like more information about the laws regarding signs, please contact the Planning Division at (916) 434-3370. You may also come into the office on 6th Street on the 2nd floor to discuss your proposed sign. The public counter is open weekdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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