

1/12/2018
P. & S.

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 4-4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by adding a new Section 4-4-315, as follows:

4-4-315 Window restrictions.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no more than twenty-five percent of public-facing window space of any business licensed under Title 4 of this Code may be obstructed. For purposes of this section, "public-facing windows" shall mean any windows on the first or second floor of a building that can be seen from the public way. Windows shall be considered obstructed if items are placed in such a way that does not allow views of indoor commercial space or product display areas. For purposes of this section, any sign installed pursuant to a valid permit issued under Section 13-20-550 or exempt from the requirement to obtain a sign permit pursuant to Section 13-20-550 is excluded from the coverage restrictions of this section.

(b) Any business that fails to obtain a sign permit as required by Section 13-20-550 of this Code for a sign to be placed in a public-facing window of such business shall be in violation of this section.

(c) Signs exclusively listing the hours of operation and signs required under Title 4 or Title 7 of this Code or by state or federal law shall not be counted towards the amount of public-facing window that is obstructed.

(d) All public-facing windows of a business licensed under Title 4 of this Code must be clear and non-reflective such that they allow views of indoor commercial space or product display areas from the public way. This subsection (d) shall not apply to cannabis businesses licensed under the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705/).

(e) No business licensed under Title 4 of this Code shall place lights on a public-facing window of such business in such a way that any single side, or all four sides, of such public-facing window appears to be framed or otherwise outlined by lights.

(f) The Commissioner shall issue a written notice for any signs, window tinting, or other items that violate the requirements of this section. The notice shall provide a ten-day opportunity to cure by removing the signs, window tinting, or other items. No fine shall accrue until after the expiration of the written notice.

(g) The Commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules to implement this section.

(h) This section shall not apply to, or be enforced against: (i) children's services facilities licensed under Chapter 4-75 of this Code; (ii) the first and second floors of any hotel licensed under Section 4-6-180 of this Code; or (iii) any sleeping or dwelling units of any hotel licensed under Section 4-6-180 of this Code.

SECTION 2. Section 13-20-510 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by inserting the language underscored, as follows:

13-20-510 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the following additional definitions shall apply:

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance.)

"*Twirl time*" means the time it takes for static text, images or graphics on a dynamic image display sign to change to different text, images or graphics.

"Storefront" means an area within a building that is: (a) currently occupied by a nonresidential use; (b) currently vacant but was previously occupied by a nonresidential use; or (c) newly built and can be occupied by a nonresidential use.

SECTION 3. Section 13-20-550 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by deleting the language struck-through, and inserting the language underscored, as follows:

13-20-550 Permits required.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance.)

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the contrary, a sign permit is not required to erect, maintain, install, alter, repair, or enlarge (i) a fast-track ~~on-premise ground-level interior window~~ business sign as defined in Section 4-4-100 of this Code, or (ii) an on-premise sign that is:

(1) constructed wholly from paper, fabric, vinyl, or similar materials and placed in or attached to an exterior-facing window for no more than 60 days; or

(2) painted directly onto the an exterior-facing window or made of plastic film or similar material and fully adhered to the an exterior-facing window by means of adhesive or static cling for any duration; provided that the total area of all such signs covered by this subsection (d) in a single window for a storefront does not exceed 25% of the glazing total exterior-facing window area of that window storefront. For purposes of this subsection, lettering that is painted directly onto the glass of an exterior-facing window and less than 2 inches in height ~~will~~ shall not be counted in the calculation of the 25% of the total exterior-facing window area of a storefront if it is an ~~on-premises~~ on-premise sign. For purposes of this subsection, a glazed panel in an exterior-facing door shall be treated as an exterior-facing window. The signs authorized by this subsection (d) shall not be counted in the calculation of the total sign area restrictions imposed by Section 17-12-1003.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance.)

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take full force and effect 90 days after passage and publication.

