

1 **STATE OF GEORGIA**

2 **CITY OF COLLEGE PARK**

3 **ORDINANCE 2018-09**

4 AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE PROVISIONS OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK
5 SIGN ORDINANCE; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING
6 ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

7 **WHEREAS**, the governing authority of the City of College Park, Georgia (the “City”) is
8 the Mayor and Council thereof;

9 **WHEREAS**, the City’s current sign ordinance is codified as Appendix A, Article 9 to the
10 Code of Ordinances, City of College Park, Georgia; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council finds it necessary to revise certain provisions of the
12 sign ordinance to further the goals of the City’s regulatory authority and to protect the health,
13 safety and welfare of the citizens of the City; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a properly-advertised hearing pursuant to the Georgia Zoning Procedures Act
15 has been held by the Mayor and Council prior to adoption of this Ordinance.

16 **BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF**
17 **THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA**, and by the authority thereof:

18 **Section 1.** The City of College Park Sign Code as it currently exists in Appendix A, Article
19 9 to the City Code is hereby revised and amended to read as follows:

20 **Article 9 – Signs Standards**

21 **9.1 Purpose, Intent and Applicability.**

22 A. The City Council finds that signs provide an important medium through which persons
23 may convey a variety of noncommercial and commercial messages. However, left
24 completely unregulated, the number, size, design characteristics, and locations of signs

25 in the City can become a threat to public safety as a traffic hazard, a detriment to property
 26 values and to the City's general public welfare, as well as create an aesthetic nuisance.
 27 The City further finds that signs have become excessive, and that many signs are
 28 distracting and dangerous to motorists and pedestrians, and substantially detract from the
 29 beauty and appearance of the City. The City finds that there is a substantial need directly
 30 related to the public health, safety and welfare to comprehensively address these concerns
 31 through the adoption of the following regulations.

32 B. The intent of this Article is to further the goals of the City of College Park's Comprehensive
 33 Plan; and establish the following purposes:

- 34 1. Balance the rights of individuals to convey their message through signs and the
 35 rights of the public to be protected against the unrestricted proliferation of
 36 inappropriate signs;
- 37 2. Further the goals, objectives and policies of the comprehensive plan;
- 38 3. Protect the public health, safety, welfare and morals;
- 39 4. Minimize vehicular and pedestrian hazards;
- 40 5. Maintain the historic character of the City;
- 41 6. Maintain an aesthetically attractive city in which signs are compatible with the use
 42 patterns of established zoning districts;
- 43 7. Ensure the protection of free speech rights under the State of Georgia and the
 44 United States Constitutions within the City;
- 45 8. Place reasonable controls on nonconforming signs that are by definition contrary to
 46 public health, safety and welfare while protecting the constitutional rights of the
 47 others of said nonconforming signs;
- 48 9. Provide for the maintenance of signs, and for the enforcement of the provisions of
 49 this Article;
- 50 10. Protect property values by minimizing the potentially adverse impacts and visual
 51 blight potentially created by signs;
- 52 11. Promote economic development; and
- 53 12. Ensure fair and uniform enforcement of sign regulations.

54 C. Applicability. The provisions of this Article shall apply to all signs erected within the
 55 corporate limits of the City that are directed to be viewed from any outdoor space(s). All
 56 erection, construction, enlargement, moving, altering or converting of signs in the City
 57 shall be performed in compliance with the requirements of this Article.

58 **9.2 Definitions**

59 For the purposes of this Article, the definitions contained in the zoning ordinance shall control. In
 60 addition, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them
 61 below, unless the context clearly indicates a contrary meaning:

- 62 **Abandoned (or dilapidated) sign.** Any sign that contains or exhibits broken panels, visible rust,
63 visible rot, damaged support structures, holes on or in the sign structure,
64 broken, missing, loose or bent parts, faded or flaking paint, non-operative
65 or partially non-operative illumination or mechanical devices or which is
66 otherwise dilapidated, unsightly, unkempt, or which is located on a property
67 or business without an occupational tax certificate.
- 68 **Aerial view sign.** Any sign designed primarily to be viewed from the sky from an airplane,
69 helicopter, etc., including, but is not limited to, any sign horizontally affixed
70 to a roof or attached to a roof such that the sign is not readily viewable from
71 the surrounding ground.
- 72 **Aggregate sign area.** The sum total of the area of any and all signs for a given lot. Entrance signs
73 and subdivision signs shall not be considered in the calculation of aggregate
74 sign area in those districts zoned residential.
- 75 **Animated sign.** A sign that all or any part thereof visibly moves mechanically, and/or as a
76 result of human activity, and/or as a result of air/wind driven inputs, or uses
77 movement or a change of lighting to depict action or to create a special
78 effect or scene. This includes Flashing Signs as defined herein and Tri-
79 Vision signs, but does not include flags, banners or canopies.
- 80 **Awning sign.** Any sign applied directly to or attached directly to an awning of any
81 structure.
- 82 **Banner.** A temporary sign of lightweight fabric, plastic or similar material designed
83 to be hung, either with or without a frame or other structure, from a building
84 or a pole. A flag, as defined in this article, shall not be considered a banner.
- 85 **Beacon.** See temporary sign.
- 86 **Billboard.** A permanent freestanding (ground) sign having an area of three hundred
87 (300) square feet or greater.
- 88 **Canopy sign.** See wall sign.
- 89 **Decal.** A picture, design or label made to be transferred (as to glass, wood, metal
90 or any other hard object) from specially prepared paper.
- 91 **Decision date.** The date upon which the chief building inspector makes a final decision on
92 the approval or denial of a sign permit application.

- 93 **Double-faced Sign.** A sign structure which has two display areas placed back-to-back, parallel
 94 to each other, where one sign face is designed to be seen from one direction
 95 and the other face from another direction.
- 96 **Eave.** The projecting lower edges of a roof overhanging the wall of a building.
- 97 **Electronic Sign.** A sign whose message may be changed at intervals by electronic process or
 98 by remote control, including the device known as a tri-vision sign, LCD
 99 sign or LED sign.
- 100 **Entrance sign.** Any ground sign placed at the intersection of a public street and a private
 101 entryway into an apartment, condominium, townhouse, office, or
 102 commercial or industrial development.
- 103 **Erect.** To build, paint, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend, or affix.
- 104 **Externally illuminated signs.** Any sign illuminated by an external light source directed
 105 toward such sign.
- 106 **Flag.** A flag is a sign consisting of fabric or similar material attached at one end
 107 to a pole or building and hanging freely such that it may flutter or move in
 108 the wind.
- 109 **Flashing sign.** Any sign whose illumination changes in intensity, scrolls, flashes or
 110 changes message or appearance more often than once every ten (10)
 111 seconds.
- 112 **Freestanding Sign.** Includes A-frame signs, sandwich signs, swinging signs and other similar
 113 signs not permanently secured or attached to the ground.
- 114 **Ground sign.** Any sign supported by braces or uprights permanently placed in the ground,
 115 and not supported by or suspended from any building.
- 116 **Hand held signs.** Any Animated Sign larger than six (6) inches by six (6) inches carried by a
 117 person intending to convey a message to be seen by someone other than the
 118 person carrying it.
- 119 **Height.** The vertical distance measured from the surface of the nearest adjacent
 120 street at a point on the street centerline nearest to and perpendicular to the
 121 proposed location of the sign to the highest point of the sign or sign
 122 structure.

- 123 **Internally illuminated signs.** Any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or
 124 outlines illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes located
 125 within the interior parts of the sign, and where resultant illumination
 126 radiates out in the direction of the viewer.
- 127 **Median.** A paved or landscaped area dividing any public right-of-way into travel
 128 lanes aligned parallel to the direction of travel.
- 129 **Mobile sign.** See temporary sign .
- 130 **Monument sign.** See ground sign .
- 131 **Moving sign.** See flashing sign .
- 132 **Mural.** A wall sign executed directly on a wall, covers the entire face area of the
 133 wall, which is meant to be decorative in nature, and where architectural
 134 elements of a given wall are incorporated harmoniously therein.. Murals
 135 shall not count toward the maximum permitted sign area.
- 136 **Neon Sign.** A sign composed of exposed, visible neon tubing. Neon signs shall also
 137 include signs similar in appearance but illuminated via other gases or liquids
 138 similar to neon.
- 139 **Nonconforming sign.** Any sign that does not conform to the provisions of this Article at
 140 the date of adoption of the ordinance from which this Article derives.
- 141 **Parapet sign.** See wall sign.
- 142 **Portable sign.** See temporary sign. As pertains to vehicles regularly used in the course of
 143 business or for travel to and from a place of business, such vehicle may
 144 display on the vehicle and may be parked in lots serving a place of business,
 145 provided that such vehicle is regularly used for transportation. Vehicles
 146 parked in commercial lots or on property located in the city for indefinite
 147 periods of time and not regularly used in the course of business that display
 148 messages shall be considered portable signs.
- 149 **Primary facade.** The exterior wall of the building most nearly parallel to street providing
 150 primary access to the lot.
- 151 **Projecting sign.** Any sign attached perpendicular to a building or other structure and
 152 extending horizontally more than twelve (12) inches from the plane of the
 153 building wall.

154	Reflectors.	Any device created for the purpose of reflecting light directed at the device
155		so as to render the device more visible.
156	Road frontage.	The distance that a lot borders any road or street that provides access to the
157		lot.
158	Roof line.	The highest continuous horizontal line of a roof. On a sloping roof, the
159		roofline is the principal ridgeline, or the highest line common to one or more
160		principal slopes of the roof. On a flat roof, the roofline is the highest
161		continuous line of the roof or parapet, whichever is higher.
162	Roof sign.	A sign that is attached to a building or structure and is displayed above the
163		lowest horizontal line of the roof of a building.
164	Sandwich sign.	A free-standing single or double-faced, hinged or un-hinged, temporary
165		sign designed to be used on a sidewalk or pedestrian way.
166	Secondary facade.	Any exterior wall of a building most nearly parallel to an adjoining street
167		that is not the primary facade.
168	Sign.	Every device, item, product, frame, letter, figure, character, mark, plane,
169		point, design, picture, stroke, stripe, trademark, or reading matter used or
170		intended to be used to attract attention or convey information when placed
171		in view of the general public. For purposes of this Article, the term “sign”
172		shall include the structure upon which a sign face is located. For the purpose
173		of determining number of signs, a single display surface or a single display
174		device containing elements organized, related and composed to form a unit
175		shall be considered to be one (1) sign. Where matters are displayed in a
176		random manner without organized relationship to elements, or where there
177		is reasonable doubt as to the relationship of elements, each element shall be
178		considered to be a single separate sign.
179	Sign area.	The total area within a continuous perimeter utilizing right angles enclosing
180		the limits of writing, representation, emblem, or any figure of similar
181		character together with any frame, other material, open space, or color
182		forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such sign from
183		the background against which it is placed. For double-face signs, the side
184		with the largest sign area shall be used in computing sign area. If the two
185		(2) faces of a double-face sign area of unequal area, the sign area shall be
186		the area of the larger face.
187	Sign face.	See sign area.

- 188 **Promotional event.** Any planned occurrence which does not take place on a daily, weekly,
 189 monthly or quarterly basis and is designed as a celebration or an irregular
 190 occurrence. Examples of a promotional event include: grand openings,
 191 seasonal sales, liquidations, going-out-of-business sales, vehicle shows or
 192 displays, craft shows, rummage sales, bake sales and festivals.
- 193 **Standard Informational sign.** Any temporary sign containing no reflective elements, flags
 194 or attachments that are not rectangular in proportion. supported by braces,
 195 stakes, metal frames or uprights not greater than three and one-half inches,
 196 placed into the ground, and not supported by or suspended from any
 197 building. Standard Informational Sign shall not include banners, beacons
 198 and streamers.
- 199 **Streamer.** See temporary sign.
- 200 **Structural change.** Any replacement, bolstering, augmenting or substitution of a support
 201 element of a sign structure, including but not limited to alteration or
 202 replacement of the foundation, support structures, columns or beams, sign
 203 frame or sign head.
- 204 **Subdivision sign.** Any ground sign or wall sign placed at the intersection of two (2) public
 205 streets or one (1) public street and a private street where one (1) street is the
 206 primary access to a single-family subdivision.
- 207 **Submission date.** The date stamped on a sign application indicating the date the application
 208 was actually received in the inspections department.
- 209 **Swinging sign.** Any sign mounted such that the sign may freely move back and forth.
- 210 **Temporary sign.** Any sign constructed of cloth, canvas, vinyl, paper, plywood, fabric or other
 211 lightweight material not well suited to provide a durable substrate or, if
 212 made of some other material, is neither permanently installed in the ground
 213 nor permanently affixed to a building or any structure which is permanently
 214 installed in the ground, and designed to be displayed for a limited time.
 215 Temporary signs include, but are not limited to, signs designed to be
 216 transported regularly from one (1) location to another, signs designed with
 217 wheels, regardless of whether the wheels remain attached to the sign, or
 218 signs tethered to an existing structure, skylights, balloons, streamers, flag
 219 strings, inflatable displays, beacons and mechanical or animated figures.

220 **Tri-Vision Sign.** A sign designed with a series of triangular slats or columns that
 221 mechanically rotate in sequence with one another to show three different
 222 sign messages in rotation.

223 **Wall sign.** Any sign attached parallel to or painted on an exterior building wall, which
 224 may include a door.

225 **Window sign.** Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or
 226 exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior
 227 (beyond the sidewalk immediately adjacent to the window), including signs
 228 located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the
 229 building.

230 **9.3 Permits**

231 A. **Application requirements.** All applications for sign permits must be complete and
 232 contain all required information. The chief building inspector shall deny any
 233 application upon a determination that the application does not contain all required
 234 information as set forth in this Article, or that such information is not sufficient to
 235 determine whether the permit should be issued or denied.

236
 237 B. **Permit required.** It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, repair, alter, relocate or
 238 maintain any sign as defined in this Article, except for those signs exempt from this
 239 Article, without first obtaining a permit from the chief building inspector in the manner
 240 set forth in this Article. It shall be unlawful to erect any sign not expressly permitted
 241 by this Article.

242
 243 C. **Permit application.** Application for permits to erect signs shall be made upon forms
 244 provided by the inspections department, and shall contain or have attached thereto the
 245 following information:

- 246
247 1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
- 248
249 2. Address of building, structure or lot upon which the sign is to be attached or erected;
- 250
251 3. The type of sign to be erected, the area of the sign, the height of the sign, the shape
 252 of the sign, how the sign is to be illuminated (if at all), and position of the sign in
 253 relation to nearby buildings or structures, property lines and other signs located on
 254 the lot;
- 255
256 4. Five (5) sets of accurately-scaled, color drawings of the plans, contents,
 257 specifications and method of construction and attachment to the building or the

258 ground for the sign as well as a scaled drawing of the site showing drives, structures
259 and any other significant site features;

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261 5. Name of person erecting the sign, that is, the contractor or builder;

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263 6. Written consent of the owner of the building and/or lot upon which the sign is to be
264 erected;

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266 7. If a wall sign, the dimensions of the wall on which the sign is to be placed with
267 appropriate drawings and photographs;

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269 8. A written list describing all other signs located on the lot indicating the sign type,
270 size and placement.

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273 **D. Approval of chief building inspector.** Approval of the chief building inspector must
274 be obtained prior to erection of any sign for which a permit is required. Such officer
275 shall examine the plans and specifications to determine whether the proposed sign
276 complies with the building code of the city, this Article, and any other applicable
277 provisions of the City Code, and shall then indicate his approval or denial thereon.

278

279 **E. Submission of sign permit applications.**

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281 1. All permit applications must be delivered to the inspections department at City
282 Hall.

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284 2. All permit applications must be stamped by the inspections department indicating
285 the submission date.

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287 3. Permit applications pertaining to lots in the downtown business district shall be
288 promptly forwarded by the chief building inspector to the Main Street manager
289 for review. Such applications must be returned to the chief building inspector
290 within fourteen (14) days of the submission date with a recommendation for
291 approval or denial and reasons therefor. If not returned by the Main Street
292 manager within said fourteen (14) days with a recommendation, the
293 recommendation shall automatically be deemed to be for approval.

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295 **F. Permit fees.** Each application for a sign permit must be accompanied by a payment in
296 the amount of the permit fee. The permit fee shall be as established by Mayor and
297 Council from time to time.

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G. Issuance, denial and revocation of permit.

1. Upon receipt of a complete application, the payment of all permit fees, the application contains no false material statements, and a determination that the proposed sign and the lot upon which the sign is to be placed comply with all requirements of this Article and all other applicable ordinances and laws of the city, the chief building inspector shall issue the permit;
2. Permits concerning applications submitted to the Main Street manager cannot be issued by the chief building inspector prior to review and recommendation of the Main Street manager; and
3. All sign permit applications shall be issued or denied within thirty (30) days of the submission date. Incomplete applications shall be rejected and a new application shall be submitted with all of the required information and assigned a new submission date. Should a decision on the application not be made prior to the expiration of a thirty-day period, the applicant shall be permitted to erect and maintain the sign under this statutory provision unless and until such time as the chief building inspector notifies the applicant of a denial of the application and states the reason(s) for the denial. No person erecting a sign under this provision shall acquire any vested rights to continued maintenance of such signs, and should the chief building inspector subsequently deny the application, the sign must be brought into compliance with this article; and
4. Upon making a final decision, the chief building inspector must stamp each application with a decision date and shall notify the applicant of such decision within three (3) days of the decision date in writing via hand delivery, certified mail, fax or e-mail to the address indicated on the application. If the decision is to deny the application, the reasons for said denial must be definitively stated.

- H. **Time period.** If the work authorized under a permit has not been completed within six (6) months following the date of issuance, the permit shall become null and void. A sixty (60) day extension may be granted to the six-month limit to alleviate hardship upon proof of hardship beyond the ability of the permit holder to rectify. No refunds will be made for permit fees paid for permits that expired due to failure to erect a permitted sign. If an individual later desires to erect a sign at the same location, a new application must be processed and another fee paid in accordance with the fee schedule applicable at such time.

- 338 I. **Display of permit.** Every sign constructed, erected or maintained for which a permit
339 is required by this Article shall be plainly marked with the permit number issued for
340 the structure. The permit number shall be firmly affixed thereon in a durable and
341 readily accessible manner.
342
- 343 J. **Altering permit.** Displaying a permit that has been tampered with, altered or
344 mutilated, or displaying a sign without a permit shall constitute a violation of this
345 Article punishable in Municipal Court.
346
- 347 K. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in a business of erecting or maintaining
348 signs within the City unless and until such entity shall have obtained an occupation
349 tax certificate in the state and a certificate of insurance from an insurance company
350 authorized to do business in the state evidencing that the entity has in effect public
351 liability and property damage insurance in the sum of \$25,000.00 for property damage
352 for any one claim, and public liability insurance in an amount not less than
353 \$100,000.00 for injuries, including accidental death, to one person. The certificate of
354 insurance shall state that the insurance carrier shall notify the City 30 days in advance
355 of any termination and/or restriction of the coverage, including nonrenewal,
356 cancellation, and non-payment of any premium. If the business has comparable
357 insurance from another City or County in Georgia, the installer's insurance provider
358 shall provide a current certificate of insurance to the City, prior to the installation of
359 signage.
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- 361 L. **Revocation.** If the chief building inspector finds that a sign permit was issued
362 pursuant to an incomplete application, application containing false material
363 statements, the permit was erroneously issued, or the sign violations the requirements
364 of the permit or any other applicable provisions of this Article, the Chief Building
365 Inspector may revoke the permit by issuing a letter of revocation to the permit holder.
366 The aggrieved permit holder shall have the right to appeal said revocation in
367 accordance with the appeal provisions stated herein.
368

369 **9.4 Construction Standards**

- 370 A. **Building code compliance.** All signs shall be constructed and maintained in
371 accordance with the provisions of the building code as adopted and from time to time
372 amended by chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances.
373
- 374 B. **Materials required.** All signs for which a permit is required by this Article shall be
375 constructed of non-combustible material.
376

- 377 C. **Reflectors.** Reflectors and lights shall be permitted on ground signs, roof signs and
 378 wall signs provided that the reflectors and lights shall be fitted with appropriate lenses
 379 so that no light generated creates a hazardous or dangerous condition.
 380
- 381 D. **Internal illumination.** The illumination of internally illuminated signs shall not
 382 exceed twenty (20) foot-candles of incandescent light measured at a distance of ten
 383 (10) feet from such structure.
 384
- 385 E. **External illumination.** Externally illuminated signs shall be lighted so that no lights
 386 are positioned in a manner that light glares or shines into the eyes of motorists or
 387 pedestrians so as to create a hazardous or dangerous condition.
 388
- 389 F. **Other code compliance.** All signs erected, replaced, altered, relocated or modified
 390 within the city pursuant to this Article shall conform to all other relevant sections of
 391 the Code of Ordinances, the zoning ordinance and any other applicable regulations of
 392 the City. Where any provisions conflict, the most stringent requirement shall control.
 393

394 **9.5 Special Limitations**

395 In addition to the limitations set forth in the other sections of this Article, the following limitations
 396 shall apply to the specific signs described below:
 397

- 398 A. **Wall signs.** No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, nor project
 399 beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached.
 400
- 401 B. **Roof signs.**
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- 403 1. Setback from roof edge. No roof sign shall be erected or maintained within five (5)
 404 feet of the outside wall toward which the sign faces.
 405
 - 406 2. Space between sign and roof. All roof signs shall maintain a minimum of five (5)
 407 feet of vertical clearance between the sign and roof.
 408
 - 409 3. Prohibited obstructions. No roof sign shall be placed on the roof of any building or
 410 structure in such manner as to prevent free passage from one part of the roof to any
 411 other part or interfere with openings in the roof.
 412
- 413 C. **Projecting signs.**
 414

- 415 1. No projecting sign shall be placed over streets, alleys or ways available for
416 vehicular traffic, except those provided in this Article, or maintained less than eight
417 (8) feet above the ground level when erected over pedestrian walkways.
418
- 419 2. All projecting signs shall be installed at an angle of ninety (90) degrees to the
420 building facade and shall be securely fastened to the building surface.
421
- 422 3. No projecting sign shall be erected within twenty (20) feet of another projecting
423 sign.
424

425 **D. Temporary signs.**
426

- 427 1. Temporary signs shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days from
428 the date the sign is first placed on the lot.
429
- 430 2. No temporary sign may be erected or placed on any lot more than once in any six-
431 month period for a single lot.
432
- 433 3. All temporary signs shall be securely installed, and shall meet all applicable safety
434 standards as prescribed by the building code, electrical code or as promulgated by
435 the chief building inspector and approved by Mayor and Council.
436
- 437 4. Under no circumstances shall any temporary sign be located so as to block the view
438 of a permanent sign, exceed the size of any permanent sign relating to the same
439 user, or installed in such a way as to create a safety hazard.
440
- 441 5. The erection or maintenance of any temporary sign in violation of this Article or
442 any other ordinances or laws of the city shall cause the chief building inspector to
443 give written notice to the owner thereof and to the owner of the property and
444 premises upon which the sign is located. Such notice shall state that the sign must
445 be removed within three (3) days. In the event the sign is not thereafter removed,
446 the city may cause its removal and impose the cost of the removal as a lien upon
447 the property upon which the sign is located.
448

449 **E. Awning signs.**
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- 451 1. No awning sign may be internally illuminated.
452
- 453 2. The sign area of any awning sign shall not exceed fifty (50) percent of the surface
454 area of the awning.

455
456 3. Entrance sign. All entrance signs shall be placed on private property and may not
457 be placed in the right-of-way.
458

459 F. **Subdivision sign.** All subdivision signs shall be placed on private property and shall
460 not be placed in the right-of-way, except that such signs may be placed in the median
461 of a street within the subdivision, provided the recorded homeowners' associations shall
462 assume full responsibility for the maintenance of such signs and associated
463 improvements, that the association documents shall hold the City harmless for any and
464 all liability associated with the sign and associated improvements and that such signs
465 shall be compatible with the architectural style of the dwellings within the subdivision.
466

467 G. **Flags.**
468

469 1. **Ground.** A flag may be flown from a metal pole permanently placed in the ground.
470 The length of the flag shall be no greater than one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) the height of the pole.
471 This guideline applies to poles twenty (20) feet and taller. Residential flags shall
472 not exceed three (3) feet in width or five (5) feet in length. Residential flagpoles
473 shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. Flag size for small industrial and
474 commercial buildings shall not exceed four (4) feet in width or six (6) feet in length.
475 Flagpoles for small industrial and commercial buildings shall not exceed twenty-
476 four (24) feet in height. Major industrial, municipal and government buildings flag
477 sizes shall not exceed six (6) feet in width or ten (10) feet in length. Major industrial,
478 municipal and government building flagpoles shall not exceed forty (40) feet in
479 height. The pole may be of varying diameter, depending on the length of the flag.
480

481 2. **Projecting.** A flag may be flown from a metal or wooden pole attached to a bracket
482 projecting from the side of a building or doorframe. The pole shall not exceed six
483 (6) feet in length, or one (1) inch in diameter. The flag flying from such pole shall
484 not exceed three (3) feet in width and five (5) feet in length. Additionally, the flag
485 displayed in such manner shall not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
486

487 3. **Window.** A flag may be hung in the window of either the primary facade or
488 secondary facade of a properly zoned property. The flag area shall be considered
489 against the percentage of window signs permitted for the zoned property as
490 delineated in Section 9.8.
491

492 4. **Limit.** The number of flags (ground, projecting or window) that may be flown or
493 displayed on each property is controlled by the limitations set forth in Section 9.8.
494 However, a maximum of three (3) flags (ground, projecting or window) will be

495 exempt from the limitations established in Section 9.8. Any additional flags
496 (ground, projecting or window) that are displayed shall be considered against the
497 allocation of the ground, projecting or window sign area permitted for each property
498 in Section 9.8.

- 499
- 500 5. **Condition of flags.** All flags flown or displayed shall be in serviceable condition
501 and fit for use. All stitching shall remain intact and the flags shall not become
502 tattered or faded.

503

504 H. **Billboards.**

- 505 1. Billboards may not be located within five hundred (500) feet of any residential
506 zoning district, park, playground, recreation area, scenic area or cemetery.
- 507
- 508 2. Permits for billboards to be erected on undeveloped property shall only be
509 considered for approval in accordance with section 3 of this article if submitted
510 with a sign scheme for the entire property.
- 511
- 512 3. No billboard shall have an area greater than four hundred (400) square feet nor be
513 erected at a height greater than twenty (20) feet.
- 514
- 515 4. No billboard shall be within five hundred (500) feet of another billboard on the
516 same side of the highway provided that multiple message billboards shall not be
517 located within five thousand (5,000) feet of another multiple message billboard on
518 the same side of the highway.
- 519
- 520 5. Multiple message billboards shall only be permitted under the following
521 circumstances:
- 522
- 523 a. Each message on a multiple message billboard shall remain fixed for a
524 minimum of ten (10) seconds;
- 525
- 526 b. Each transitional change shall occur within three (3) seconds or less;
- 527
- 528 c. Any such billboard shall contain a default design that will freeze the
529 message in one (1) legible position if a malfunction occurs.
- 530
- 531 d. Upon a finding by the City that a multiple message billboard or any display
532 or effect thereon causes glare or impairs the vision of a motorist or otherwise
533 interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle, and upon written
534 request by the City, the owner of the billboard shall promptly and within

535 forty-eight (48) hours reduce the intensity of the illumination of the
536 billboard to a level acceptable to the City or otherwise remedy the
537 interference.

538
539 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Article, mobile electronic multiple
540 message billboards that are otherwise in compliance with this subsection and are
541 illuminated entirely by the use of light emitting diodes, back lighting, or any other
542 light source shall not be illuminated or otherwise in use while within the city limits.

543
544 I. **Certain LED signs.** The following standards shall apply to all LED signs regulated
545 hereunder; any LED sign existing before the adoption of these provisions regulated
546 hereunder that does not comply with these standards shall be nonconforming. For the
547 purpose of this paragraph, "LED Sign" shall mean a digital sign, including but not
548 specifically limited to light-emitting diode (LED), liquid crystal display (LCD) and
549 other similar technology signs.

550
551 1. LED signs shall only be permitted for signs located within the BP, Planned
552 Business Park and OP, Office and Professional Districts.

553
554 2. Each such LED sign must be located a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) feet
555 from any single family residence, or any property zoned for single family
556 residential use.

557
558 3. No more than two (2) LED panels shall be allowed on any one (1) sign face.

559
560 4. The total area of each LED panel shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet.

561
562 5. Color of characters must contrast with the field of the sign to provide for maximum
563 visibility and legibility, and each character on the LED panel must be the same
564 color. The field of the sign shall be a solid color.

565
566 6. LED lights on signs shall remain, and appear to be, fixed and static. In no instance
567 shall LED lights on signs be, or appear to be, moving, changing, flashing, or
568 animated in any way.

569
570 7. The LED signs permitted in this paragraph shall not block sight distance for persons
571 entering and exiting the premises.

572
573 8. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article to the contrary, digital billboards
574 may be permitted under the following conditions:

- 575
- 576 a. For purposes of this section, "Digital Billboard" shall mean any LED sign
- 577 that also meets the definition of a billboard in this Article. "Interstate
- 578 highway" shall mean I-85 or I-285.
- 579
- 580 b. Digital billboards shall be limited to non-residential zoning districts.
- 581
- 582 c. Digital billboards shall be limited to parcels fronting on Interstate highways
- 583 only, shall themselves be positioned for viewing from such Interstate
- 584 highways.
- 585
- 586 d. No digital billboard shall be located within five hundred (500) feet of
- 587 another billboard on the same side of the Interstate highway.
- 588
- 589 e. No digital billboard shall be located within five thousand (5,000) feet of
- 590 another multiple message billboard (including digital multmessage
- 591 billboard) on the same side of the highway.
- 592
- 593 f. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, digital billboards
- 594 having a height up to seventy-five (75) feet shall be permitted.
- 595
- 596 g. All billboards must be stationary and may not contain any visible moving
- 597 parts, alternating or moving messages or have the appearance of having
- 598 moving parts or messages.
- 599
- 600 h. The display or message on a digital billboard may change no more
- 601 frequently than once every ten (10) seconds, with a transition period of one
- 602 (1) second or less.
- 603
- 604 i. All digital billboards must have installed an ambient light monitor which
- 605 shall continuously monitor and automatically adjust the brightness level of
- 606 the display based on ambient light conditions consistent with terms of this
- 607 Article. Maximum brightness levels for digital billboards shall not exceed
- 608 three-tenths (.3) foot-candles over ambient light levels measured within one
- 609 hundred fifty (150) feet of the sign. Certification must be provided to the
- 610 City demonstrating that the sign has been preset to automatically adjust the
- 611 brightness to these levels or lower.
- 612
- 613 j. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Article, the maximum allowable
- 614 surface display area for a digital billboard is six hundred seventy-two (672)

615 square feet. Such digital billboards shall be permitted up to the industry
 616 standard sign face height of fourteen (14) feet and width of forty-eight (48)
 617 feet.

618
 619 k. Properties having digital billboards permitted hereunder shall be unaffected
 620 by the square footage of any digital billboard permitted by the City of
 621 College Park as concerns compliance with the limitation of five hundred
 622 (500) square feet of aggregate sign area for every ten (10) contiguous acres.

623
 624 l. Digital billboards shall meet each of the requirements this Article that do
 625 not conflict with the provisions of this section. The repair or replacement of
 626 permitted digital displays on digital billboards shall be allowed without a
 627 permit so long as neither the size nor weight of the display is increased.

628 **9.6 Special Requirements**

629 A. All signs must be placed upon a lot, as defined in the zoning ordinance and the
 630 subdivision regulations, and only with express permission of the lot owner. Unless
 631 otherwise provided in this Article, no sign may be placed on the right-of-way. No sign
 632 may be placed on any lot that does not meet the minimum requirements of the zoning
 633 ordinance and subdivision regulations. No sign may be placed upon any lot that has
 634 road frontage only on an interstate or intrastate highway.

635
 636 B. Obstruction to doors, windows, or fire escapes. No sign shall be erected, relocated or
 637 maintained so as to inhibit safe and free ingress and egress of any door, any window,
 638 an emergency exit or any fire escape; nor shall any sign be attached to any standpipe
 639 or fire escape.

640
 641 C. Sign not to constitute traffic hazard. No sign shall be erected at the intersection of any
 642 streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision from pedestrians or vehicle
 643 operators. No sign shall be erected where, due to its proposed location, position, shape,
 644 color, size, height, and/or lighting would appear to be imitation of, or likely would be
 645 construed by pedestrians or vehicle operators for, an official traffic control device or
 646 signal.

647
 648 D. Posting on trees, poles, etc. No sign shall be tacked, painted, posted, marked or
 649 otherwise affixed on trees, utility poles or other similar structures, or on rocks, the
 650 ground itself or other natural features.

651
 652 E. No message may be displayed on any portion of the structural supports of any sign.
 653

- 654 F. Maintenance. All signs regulated by this Article shall be kept clean, neatly painted and
 655 free from all electrical and mechanical hazards, including, but not limited to, faulty
 656 wiring and loose connections. The premises surrounding signs shall be maintained by
 657 the owner in a sanitary and inoffensive condition, free and clear of all weeds, rubbish
 658 and debris.
- 659
- 660 G. Compliance of premises with City Code. No sign shall be allowed on any lot where
 661 such lot is in non-compliance with any provision of the City Code.

662 **9.7 Special Requirements by Zoning District**

- 663 A. No sign shall be illuminated, either internally or externally, in any residential district,
 664 except that entrance signs and subdivision signs may be illuminated from dusk until
 665 dawn.
- 666
- 667 B. All temporary signs are prohibited on lots zoned for residential use, except for standard
 668 informational signs, including stake signs, as specifically allowed in this Article.
- 669
- 670 C. The following requirements shall apply to all lots in the DB Downtown Business and
 671 Commercial District and other commercial zoned parcels:
- 672
- 673 1. The provisions of the City of College Park Downtown Design Guidelines as
 674 approved by the mayor and council on June 20, 2011 pertaining to signage
 675 (specifically paragraphs 1.1 through 1.7 of subsection 1.0 Signage), are hereby
 676 incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set out in their entirety, except
 677 as they conflict with any provisions of this Article, in which case the provisions of
 678 this Article shall control.
 - 679
 - 680 2. A building that has more than one (1) tenant occupying interior space shall be
 681 allowed one (1) wall sign placed near each public entrance into the interior of said
 682 building. The maximum sign area for any such wall sign shall not exceed twelve
 683 (12) square feet. Each wall sign may have multiple face panels but each face panel
 684 shall be of the same size, color and font.
 - 685
 - 686 3. Ground signs are permitted, subject to review and approval of sign plans submitted,
 687 as appropriate, by the Main Street Advisory Board. Ground signs shall be designed
 688 so as not to hinder pedestrian activity within the district.
 - 689
- 690 D. Projecting signs.
- 691

- 692 1. Projecting signs are prohibited over streets, alleys or ways available for vehicular
693 travel.
694
- 695 2. All projecting signs must be installed at a 90-degree angle to the building facade.
696
- 697 3. The lowest part of every projecting sign shall be placed a minimum of ten (10) feet
698 above the public sidewalk over which it is erected, and no sign or part thereof shall
699 extend a distance greater than six (6) feet from the building facade. No projecting
700 sign shall be allowed over public property if a ground sign can be accommodated
701 on the lot in front of a commercial establishment.
702
- 703 E. Roof signs are prohibited in residential districts.
704
- 705 F. Neon signs are prohibited except that a single sign per storefront on commercially
706 zoned properties, may be comprised of neon tubing provided such individual signs are
707 limited to three (3) square feet. No neon sign shall be lit unless the Commercial
708 establishment is open and operating.
709
- 710 G. Temporary signs, except as otherwise provided in this Article, are prohibited.
711
- 712 H. Flashing signs are prohibited.
713
- 714 I. Back lit and internally lit signs are allowed, provided that such signs conform to
715 material standards as to the gauge of the surface.
716
- 717 J. Freestanding signs placed on a public sidewalk abutting a commercial lot shall be
718 permitted, provided that no such sign shall exceed two (2) feet in width and three (3)
719 feet in height. Only one (1) such sign per lot is permitted, and there shall be a separation
720 of at least twenty (20) feet between such signs. The space utilized by freestanding signs
721 on public sidewalks shall comply with all Americans with Disabilities Act standards
722 and shall not impede the public right-of-way. Freestanding signs on sidewalks are
723 permitted to be displayed seven (7) days a week, during business hours only.
724
- 725 K. Murals are permitted in commercial, mixed-use, and industrial-zoned areas subject to
726 the following standards:
727
- 728 1. No part of any mural shall extend beyond the building wall on which it is painted.
729

- 730 2. Only oil-based alkyd enamel or polyurethane enamel, or newer 100% acrylic
731 exterior paints shall be used to create murals. No vinyl or other non-permanent
732 material shall be used.
733
- 734 3. Murals executed using spray paint shall be limited to air-brushing to ensure that
735 high quality paint is used.
736
- 737 4. An appropriate graffiti-resistant sealer or a suitable varnish or topcoat shall be
738 applied to the finished mural.
739
- 740 5. Murals may not contain elements that move, rotate or otherwise create a changing
741 image or message.
742
- 743 6. Murals may not use flashing or scrolling lights, an internal light source, or other
744 light feature, or contain electrical or mechanical components.
745
- 746 7. Murals may not be defamatory, obscene, treasonous or otherwise violate any state
747 or federal criminal statute.
748
- 749 8. Prior to being permitted, proof of ownership of the structure, or otherwise proof of
750 right to apply such mural to a specific structure, shall be provided to the City. The
751 owner, lessor or other responsible person managing the structure on which the
752 mural is located shall be liable for any violation of this or any other applicable
753 ordinance, law or regulation relating to the mural.
754
- 755 9. The mural must be properly maintained to ensure that material failure (e.g. peeling
756 paint) is corrected and vandalism removed promptly.
757
- 758 L. Banners are allowed for any lot during the period that a promotional event occurs on
759 that lot under the following conditions and subject to the following requirements:
760
- 761 1. Prior to the occurrence of the promotional event and the erection of any banner
762 under this subsection, a permit for the erection of such sign shall be obtained from
763 the chief building inspector. An application for such a permit shall specifically
764 describe the banner as to its construction, composition, the dimensions of the
765 banner, location where the banner is to be erected, the address of the lot where it is
766 be erected, state where the banner is to be attached to a building, pole, or other
767 structure, and identify the date(s) of the special event. The chief building inspector
768 shall render a decision within ten (10) days after the submission date of such
769 application.

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2. A permit issued under this subsection shall expire thirty (30) days after the date of issuance. The owner or permittee shall remove the banner no later than the expiration of the permit.
 3. A lot shall be eligible for a maximum of two (2) banners under this subsection per year.
 4. Any banner erected under this subsection shall not be placed within ten (10) feet of a public right-of-way or in any other manner as to obstruct the view of motorists or pedestrians.
 5. The maximum size allowance for any banner erected under this subsection shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet.
- 785 M. In commercial districts and buildings used for hotels and hospitality uses, as well as in
786 any other districts in which site plan approval is required prior to development, the
787 following sign requirements shall be observed, in addition to those limitations found in
788 the tables within:
789
1. A uniform design scheme shall be established for the development as a whole
790 and/or for each building in the development.
791
 2. Plans for the development shall include detailed descriptions of all signs, including
792 but not limited to, size, height, location, type, colors and materials to be used as
793 well as lighting and ownership responsibility.
794
 3. Plans for signs shall undergo the same review and approval process as is required
795 for other aspects of the development; provided that the chief building inspector may
796 make no modification of these regulations which would permit a sign otherwise
797 prohibited under this Article.
798
 4. All signs shall be designed, erected and maintained in accordance with an approved
799 plan.
800
- 801
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804
- 805 N. For properties zoned C1, C2, M1, M2, BP or OP, the maximum aggregate sign area
806 shall be five hundred (500) square feet for each ten (10) contiguous acres of land.
807
- 808 O. Decals not exceeding four (4) inches in width and twelve (12) inches in length or forty-
809 eight (48) square inches in size may be displayed on windows in non-residential

810 districts. A single decal shall not be considered in the calculation of maximum allowed
811 window signs; however, any additional decals shall be considered.

812

813 P. All signs in the Hospitality Campus District shall be controlled by the provisions of
814 this Article, except as provided below:

815

816 1. For any new development as a whole and for each building in the development, a
817 uniform design scheme of signs shall be established.

818

819 2. Plans submitted to the City for the development shall include detailed descriptions
820 of all signs, including but not limited to size, height, locations, type, colors and
821 materials to be used, lighting and ownership responsibility.

822

823 3. Plans for signs shall undergo the same review and approval process as is required
824 of other aspects of the development; provided that the chief building inspector may
825 make no modification of these regulations that would permit a sign otherwise
826 prohibited under this Article, nor may the chief building inspector regulate the
827 content of any sign.

828

829 4. All signs shall be designed, erected and maintained in accordance with a plan
830 approved by the chief building inspector.

831

832 5. In addition to permitted wall signs, secondary wall signs shall be permitted on any
833 facade. Such signs may exceed the one per facade maximum, but individual wall
834 signs shall be limited to an area of sixty-four (64) square feet per building occupant
835 and shall be installed at or below the third story of the building. Any sign installed
836 on any parking structure shall, except as to size, conform in style, shape, color
837 scheme and materials to the style, shape, color scheme and materials of the largest
838 sign on the primary structure on the lot.

839

840 6. No projecting, roof or window sign or signs shall be permitted.

841

842 Q. All signs on lots in the PD district shall be subject to the following regulations:

843

844 1. Sign regulations as found in the Planned Development District.

845

846 2. Sign regulations of the zoning district most closely associated with the proposed
847 use of the property as referenced in the Planned Development District and as
848 determined by the City Planner. Should any conflict between the sign regulations
849 arise, the most restrictive regulations shall apply.

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R. Industrial wall signs. The following requirements shall apply to all wall signs on buildings located in industrial districts, and shall be independent of billboards and other signs located on the property:

1. Wall signs visible from the interstate or a public right-of-way shall be limited to a maximum area of one hundred fifty (150) square feet.
2. No wall sign visible from a residential property shall exceed an area of fifty (50) square feet.
3. One (1) wall sign shall be permitted for each individual tenant space.
4. A requirement for design review shall be established. The design review shall consider such parameters as:
 - i. Relationship to other wall signs on the building as to sign separation, sign height and relative dimensions;
 - ii. Maximum distance from building wall; and
 - iii. Distance from top of building wall.

873 **9.8 Sign Standards**

874 In addition to all other regulations in this Article, all signs must conform to the standards contained
875 in this section. Sign types not found in a table are not permitted in the corresponding districts,
876 except as otherwise provided in this Article.

877
878

A. Lots zoned R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4.

	Ground Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Subdivision Sign
Maximum height	4 feet		4 feet	8 feet
Maximum width	2 feet		1.5 feet	8 feet
Maximum area	3 square feet	1 square foot	3 square feet	32 square feet

	Ground Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Subdivision Sign
Maximum number per lot	4	1	2 stake signs	1
Minimum setback from right-of-way	5 feet		5 feet	15 feet
Minimum setback from electrical power lines	10 feet		10 feet	10 feet

879

880 NOTE: In addition to these regulations, no person may maintain any sign or signs on a lot zoned
881 R-1, R-2, R-3, or R-4 so that the aggregate sign area on the lot exceeds twenty (20) square feet,
882 regardless of the construction, placement or type of sign or signs, unless otherwise explicitly
883 provided in this Article.

884 **B. Lots zoned MF.**

	Ground Sign	Projecting Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Entrance Sign
Maximum height	4 feet	3 feet		4 feet	8 feet
Maximum width	2 feet	3 feet		1.5 feet	8 feet
Maximum area	3 square feet	6 square feet	2 square feet	3 square feet	32 square feet
Maximum number of signs	4	1/building	1/building	2 standard informational signs	1/entrance
Required setback from right-of-way	5 feet			5 feet	5 feet

	Ground Sign	Projecting Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Entrance Sign
Required setback from electrical power lines	10 feet	5 feet		10 feet	10 feet
Maximum projection from building		4 feet			

885

886 NOTE: In addition to these regulations, no person may maintain any sign or signs on a lot zoned
887 MF so that the aggregate sign area for that lot exceeds eight (8) square feet per unit, regardless of
888 the construction placement, number or type of sign or signs, unless otherwise provided in this
889 Article.

890

891

892

893 Lots zoned C-1 and C-2.

	Ground Sign	Projecting Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Roof Sign	Entrance Sign	Window Sign	Billboard	Awnning Sign
Maximum Height	20 feet			4 feet	10 feet above eave	8 feet		20 feet	
Maximum Width	15 feet	10 feet		8 feet	Building width	8 feet		15 feet	
Maximum Area	1 square foot of road frontage up to 50 square feet	50 square feet	2 square feet per foot of road frontage up to 200 square feet	32 square feet	200 square feet	32 square feet	10% of the façade window space	1 square foot of road frontage up to 400 square feet.	50% of awning
Maximum number of signs	One sign per street frontage for a total	For each tenant space: 1/primary	For each tenant space: 1/primary	1	1/primary façade and 1/second	1/entrance		3	1 per tenant space

	of no more than 2 ground signs on a parcel	y façade and 1/secondary façade (if any)	y façade and 1/secondary façade (if any)		ary façade				
Required setback from right-of-way	10 feet			10 feet		10 feet		25 feet	
Required setback from electrical power lines	10 feet	10 feet		10 feet	10 feet	10 feet		10 feet	
Setback from I-85, I-285, U.S. 29 and Camp Creek Parkway	At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)			At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)		At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)		At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)	
Maximum projection from building		6 feet							

894

895 NOTE: In addition to these regulations, no person may maintain any sign or signs on a lot zoned
 896 C-1 or C-2, so that the aggregate sign area exceeds five hundred (500) square feet for every ten
 897 (10) contiguous acres, regardless of the construction, placement or type of sign or signs, unless
 898 otherwise expressly provided in this Article. No combination of ground signs and billboards shall
 899 exceed a total of three (3) such signs.

900

901

902 **C. Lots zoned M-1, and M-2.**

	Ground Sign	Projecting Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Roof Sign	Entrance Sign	Window Sign	Billboard
Maximum Height	20 feet			4 feet	10 feet above eave	8 feet		20 feet
Maximum Width	15 feet	10 feet		8 feet	Building width	8 feet		15 feet
Maximum area	1 square foot per foot of road frontage up to 50 square feet	50 square feet	2 square feet per foot of road	32 square feet	200 square feet	32 square feet	10% of the façade window space	1 square foot of road frontage up to 400 square feet
Maximum number of signs	One sign per street frontage, for a total of no more than two (2) ground signs on a parcel	1/tenant space	For each tenant space: 1/primary façade and 1/secondary façade (if any)	1	1/primary façade and 1/secondary façade	1/entrance		3
Required setback from right-of-way	10 feet			10 feet		10 feet		25 feet
Required setback from electrical power lines	10 feet	10 feet		10 feet	10 feet	10 feet		10 feet
Setback from I-85, I-285, U.S. 29 and Camp Creek Parkway right-of-way	At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)			At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)		At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)		At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)
Maximum projection from building		6 feet						

903

904

905 NOTE: In addition to these regulations, no person may maintain any sign or signs on a lot zoned
906 M-1, or M-2 so that the aggregate sign area exceeds five hundred (500) square feet for every ten
907 (10) contiguous acres, regardless of the construction, placement or type of sign or signs, unless
908 otherwise expressly provided in this Article. No combination of ground signs and billboards shall
909 exceed a total of three (3) such signs.

910

911

912 **D. Lots zoned BP and OP.**

	Ground sign	Projecting Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Entrance Sign	Window Sign	Billboard
Maximum Height	20 feet			4 feet	4 feet		20 feet
Maximum Width	20 feet	10 feet		8 feet	8 feet		20 feet
Maximum Area	1 square foot per foot of road frontage up to 50 square feet	50 square feet	32 square feet	32 square feet	32 square feet	10% of the façade window space	1 square foot per foot of road frontage up to 400 square feet.
Developments of less than 10 acres	1	1/tenant space	For each tenant space: 1/primary façade and 1/secondary façade (if any)	1	1/entrance		1
Development of more than 10 acres	One sign per street frontage, for a total of no more than two (2) ground signs on a parcel	1/tenant space	For each tenants space: 1/primary façade and 1/secondary façade (if any)	1	1/entrance		2
Required setback from right-of-way	10 feet			10 feet	10 feet		25 feet
Required setback from electrical power lines	10 feet	10 feet		10 feet	10 feet		10 feet
Maximum projection from building		6 feet					
Setback from I-85, I-285, U.S. 29 and Camp Creek Parkway	At least 10 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)						At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)

913

914 NOTE: In addition to these regulations, no sign or signs shall be maintained on a lot zoned BP or
915 OP that comprise an aggregate sign area in excess of five hundred (500) square feet for every ten
916 (10) contiguous acres, regardless of the construction, placement, number or type of sign, unless

917 otherwise expressly provided in this Article. No combination of ground signs and billboards shall
 918 exceed a total of two (2) such signs for every ten (10) contiguous acres.

919 **E. Lots zoned DB.**

	Ground Sign	Projecting Sign	Wall Sign	Window Sign	Awning Sign
Maximum Height	12 feet		Wall height		
Maximum Width	8 feet		Wall width		
Maximum Area primary façade	32 square feet	10 square feet	The lesser of 10% of the wall area or 200 square feet	Lesser of 25% of the window area or 24 square feet	50% of awning
Maximum area secondary façade	32 square feet	10 square feet	The lesser of 10% of the wall area or 50 square feet	Less of 25% of window area or 24 square feet	50% of awning
Maximum number of signs	One sign per street frontage, for a total of no more than two (2) ground signs on a parcel	For each tenant space: 1/primary façade	For each tenant space: 2/primary façade; 1/secondary façade		1 per tenant space
Required setback from right-of-way	6 feet	6 feet			
Required setback from electrical power lines	6 feet	6 feet			
Maximum projection from building		6 feet			
Above sidewalk or ground surface		10 feet			

920

921 NOTE: The total of all signs shall not exceed two (2) signs of each sign type permitted above for
 922 the primary facade and one sign of each sign type permitted above for each secondary façade,
 923 unless otherwise provided expressly in this Article. In addition to these regulations, no person may
 924 maintain any sign or signs on a lot zoned DB so that the aggregate sign area exceeds five hundred
 925 (500) square feet for every ten (10) contiguous acres, regardless of the construction, placement or
 926 type of sign or signs, unless otherwise provided expressly in this Article.

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929

930 **F. Lots zoned HC.**

	Ground Sign	Wall Sign	Temporary Sign	Entrance Sign	Awning Sign
Maximum height	10 feet		6 feet	8 feet	Ground floor
Maximum area	32 square feet	10% of façade	24 square feet	24 square feet	50% of awning
Maximum number of signs	One sign per street frontage, for a total of no more than two (2) ground signs on a parcel	1 per façade	1 per lot	1/entrance	1 per tenant space
Required setback from right-of-way	4 feet		4 feet	4 feet	
Required setback from electrical power lines	10 feet		10 feet	10 feet	
Setback from U.S. 20 and Camp Creek Parkway right-of-way	At least 25 feet (or as required by GDOT regulations)				

931

932 NOTE: In addition to those regulations set forth in the above table, no person may maintain any
933 sign or signs on a lot zoned HC district so that the aggregate sign area exceeds five hundred (500)
934 square feet for every ten (10) contiguous acres, regardless of the construction, placement or type
935 of sign or signs unless otherwise expressly provided in this Article.

936 **G. Exemptions for certain window signs.** Interior window signs located at least twenty-
937 four (24) inches inside a window shall not be counted for purposes of determining the
938 maximum area above, provided (1) the sign does not impede visibility into or out of
939 the building, and (2) the sign does not present an undue distraction to motorists or
940 otherwise threaten public safety.

941 **9.9 Unsafe and Unlawful Signs**

942 **A.** Upon a finding by the Chief Building Inspector that any sign regulated herein is unsafe
943 or unstable, or is a menace to the public health or safety, or is abandoned, or is
944 maintained in a dilapidated condition, or has been constructed or erected or is being
945 maintained in violation of the provisions of this Article, the Chief Building Inspector
946 shall notify the owner or occupant of the property on which the sign is located by
947 certified mail of such violation. Said notice shall include a brief and complete
948 statement of the violations to be remedied. If the owner or occupant of the property

949 where the sign is located cannot be located, notice to the owner or occupant of the
 950 property shall be effected by the Chief Building Inspector by affixing the notice to the
 951 sign or to the building on which the sign is erected for a minimum period of ten (10)
 952 days.

953
 954 B. Should the owner or occupant of the property fail to remove or alter the structure so
 955 as to comply with the standards of this Article within ten (10) days following such
 956 notice, the permit for such sign shall be revoked and the owner or occupant of the
 957 property shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Enforcement provisions of this
 958 Ordinance.

959
 960 C. The Chief Building Inspector may remove any sign constituting an immediate threat
 961 to the physical safety of persons or adjoining property summarily and without notice
 962 and cause the cost of such removal to be placed as a lien on the property upon which
 963 the sign is located.

964 **9.10 Non-conforming Signs**

965 A. Signs which, on the effective date of this Article, were approved and legally erected
 966 under previous sign restrictions and which became nonconforming with respect to the
 967 requirements of this Article, may continue in existence subject to the following
 968 restrictions:

969
 970 1. The owner of the sign shall secure a permit for the continuation of the sign subject
 971 to the restrictions of this section. Application for such permit must be filed within
 972 ten (10) days of the notice of nonconformance. There shall be no charge for this
 973 permit.

974
 975 2. No change shall be made in the size of any nonconforming sign, nor shall any
 976 structural changes be made in such a sign unless the sign is brought into compliance
 977 with the provisions of this Article. All nonconforming signs shall be maintained in
 978 good repair.

979
 980 3. Any nonconforming sign declared to be structurally unsafe by the Chief Building
 981 Inspector shall be removed or rendered safe and brought into compliance with the
 982 provisions of this Article. Minor repairs and maintenance of nonconforming signs
 983 shall be permitted

984
 985 4. No nonconforming sign damaged by fire or other causes to the extent of more than
 986 fifty (50) percent of its assessed value shall be repaired or rebuilt except in
 987 compliance with this Article.

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5. Except for businesses located in planned shopping centers or planned business parks, any signs erected in violation of this section may be removed from any public right-of-way by duly authorized employees of the City, and the responsible party may be cited for such violation.
 6. No business located in a planned shopping center or planned business park shall be allowed an otherwise conforming sign until it has removed any existing non-conforming signs.
- B. Any person may file with the inspections department an application for exemption from this Article for a permit for a sign. City staff shall, within thirty (30) days of the filing of the application, recommend that the Mayor and Council review such application for exemption where the following conditions are met:
1. The applicant agrees to remove at least one (1) non-conforming sign from the location at issue.
 2. The non-conforming sign to be removed is highly visible from any public right-of-way or adjoining property.
 3. The non-conforming sign to be removed has not been properly maintained.
 4. The proposed sign meets all the requirements of this Article.
 5. Other aspects of the addition of the proposed sign(s) to the location at issue reasonably suggest that the proposed sign would benefit community aesthetics in conformance with the purpose of this Article as described in section 1.
 6. If the provisions above are not met due to the inability of the applicant to remove at least one (1) non-conforming sign, and if any nonconforming signs on such lot were previously agreed to by the City, the City may waive the provisions of this subsection, so long as the aggregate sign area of all signs on such lot does not exceed four hundred (400) square feet for every ten (10) contiguous acres or major fraction thereof. For purposes of determining the aggregate sign area, the city shall exclude the sign area of all non-conforming signs which were previously agreed to by the City.

- 1026 C. The Mayor and Council shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of a recommendation
 1027 from city staff, or within sixty (60) days if a recommendation is not received, grant
 1028 such exemption where at least three (3) of the following conditions are met:
 1029
- 1030 1. Granting the exemption would further the purpose of this Article as described in
 1031 section 1.
 1032
 - 1033 2. The benefits of granting the exemption would outweigh the ill effects of allowing
 1034 the nonconforming sign proposed for removal to remain erected.
 1035
 - 1036 3. If an applicant is seeking to waive the removal of any non-conforming sign pursuant
 1037 to this section, there are no substantial new ill effects of allowing the non-
 1038 conforming sign to remain erected along with any new sign(s).
 1039
 - 1040 4. There is no negative effect on surrounding property values and that the erection of
 1041 the proposed sign(s) would afford the applicant a reasonable opportunity to
 1042 advertise.
 1043
 - 1044 5. The grant of an exemption in no way confers any vested rights upon the applicant
 1045 or the exempted plans, applications or requests.
 1046
- 1047 D. .
- 1048 1. A nonconforming sign shall not be replaced by another nonconforming sign,
 1049 including face material except that the substitution or interchange of poster panels
 1050 or painted boards on nonconforming signs shall be permitted. All nonconforming
 1051 signs shall be maintained in a safe manner and in good repair.
 1052
 - 1053 2. Minor repairs and maintenance of nonconforming signs shall be permitted.
 1054 However, no structural repairs, structural changes and/or changes in the size, shape
 1055 or technology currently being used on the sign shall be permitted except to bring
 1056 the sign out if its nonconforming condition and into compliance with the
 1057 requirements of this article.
 1058
- 1059 E. Nonconforming signs that met all requirements of the College Park Code when erected
 1060 may stay in place until one of the following conditions occurs:
- 1061 1. The deterioration of the sign or damage to the sign makes it a hazard;
 - 1062 2. The nonconforming sign is abandoned; or
 - 1063 3. The sign has been damaged to such extent that structural repairs are required to
 1064 restore the sign.
 1065

- 1066 F. Nothing in this section shall prohibit non-digital nonconforming billboards from being
 1067 converted to digital billboards in this Article. All applications for conversion of
 1068 billboards to digital billboards pending at the time this ordinance was adopted shall be
 1069 processed in the order in which they were received and in accordance with this Article.

1070 **9.11 Prohibited Signs**

- 1071 A. Flashing signs shall be prohibited.
 1072
- 1073 B. Aerial view signs shall be prohibited.
 1074
- 1075 C. Digital signs, including but not specifically limited to light-emitting diode (LED),
 1076 liquid crystal display (LCD) and other similar technology signs, are prohibited, unless
 1077 specifically authorized elsewhere in this Article.
 1078
- 1079 D. Signs that contain words, pictures or statements which are obscene, as defined by
 1080 O.C.G.A. §16-12-80, as amended.
 1081
- 1082 E. Signs that visually simulate and official traffic control device, warning sign, or
 1083 regulatory sign or which hide from view any traffic control device, signal or public
 1084 service sign, except as allowed
 1085
- 1086 F. Signs that interfere with road or highway visibility or obstruct or otherwise interfere
 1087 with the safe and orderly movement of traffic or which otherwise pose a hazard to
 1088 traffic due to structural deficiencies in the structure of such signs.
 1089
- 1090 G. Signs erected by nailing, fastening or affixing the sign in any manner to any tree, curb,
 1091 utility pole, natural feature, fence, street sign or other structure with the exception of
 1092 signs on fences and walls as permitted herein.
 1093
- 1094 H. Signs that obstruct any fire escape, any means of egress or ventilation or shall prevent
 1095 free passage from one part of the roof to any other part thereof, as well as any signs
 1096 attached to any fire escape.
 1097
- 1098 I. Any sign that is structurally unsound, or is a hazard to traffic or pedestrians.

1099 **9.12 Exemptions**

1100 The following signs are exempt from the permitting requirements of section 3 above; provided,
 1101 however, that such signs shall be subject to all other provisions of this article:
 1102

- 1103 1. Wall signs one (1) square foot and smaller; provided however that any combination of
1104 two (2) or more such signs located in such close proximity to each other as to form a
1105 discernible message shall be subject to the provisions of section 3 above.
1106
1107
1108
- 1109 2. Each lot is entitled to one sign that is less than thirty-six (36) square inches in sign area
1110 and that must be placed in any of the following locations:
1111
- 1112 a. On the front of every building, every unit in a multiple unit building, every
1113 residence, or every structure;
1114
- 1115 b. On each side of an authorized United States Postal Service mailbox;
1116
- 1117 c. On one post which measures no more than forty-eight (48) inches in height and four
1118 (4) inches in width and which shall not be placed in a public right-of-way.
1119
- 1120 3. Standard Informational Signs that meet the following criteria:
1121
- 1122 a. Standard Informational Signs not exceeding three (3) square feet, supported by
1123 braces or uprights placed into the ground, and located in districts zones R-1, R-2,
1124 R-3, R-4, RA, MF, and MFL.
1125
- 1126 b. For each lot during the period that it is being developed under an active City of
1127 College Park building permit, one Standard Informational sign that is no more than
1128 twelve (12) square feet in sign area, is no more than six (6) feet in height to the top
1129 of the sign component when placed and standing in ground, and is not placed within
1130 a public right-of-way. Any sign erected under this subsection shall be immediately
1131 removed upon the completion of the development or the expiration of the building
1132 permit, whichever occurs earlier.
1133
- 1134 c. For each lot during the period in which it is listed for sale or for rent, one Standard
1135 Informational sign that is no more than twelve (12) square feet in sign area, is no
1136 more than six (6) feet in height to the top of the sign component when placed and
1137 standing in ground, and is not located within a public right-of-way. Any sign
1138 erected under this subsection shall be immediately removed when the lot is no
1139 longer listed for sale or for rent.
1140
- 1141 d. For each period that starts forty-five (45) days immediately preceding a federal,
1142 state, county, or City of College Park election or referendum, including primary

1143 election, special election and runoff election, and that ends five (5) days after said
 1144 election or referendum:

1145
 1146 1. A maximum of four (4) standard informational signs not exceeding four (4)
 1147 square feet may be placed on any lot.

1148
 1149 2. Standard informational signs under this subsection may be placed in the
 1150 City's rights-of-way. No sign placed in any right-of-way under this
 1151 subsection shall impair the vision or safety of motorists, pedestrians or
 1152 bicyclists.

1153
 1154 (i) Where any such sign creates a public safety risk, the Chief Building
 1155 Inspector shall notify the person or entity that placed the sign of such
 1156 risk and, within three (3) calendar days after the notification, that
 1157 person or entity shall move the sign to a location where it will not
 1158 create a public safety risk or shall remove the sign entirely.

1159
 1160 (ii) Where any such sign creates an imminent danger to public safety,
 1161 the Chief Building Inspector immediately may move the sign to the
 1162 nearest location in the right-of-way where it will not create a public
 1163 safety risk. He then shall notify the person or entity, if known, that
 1164 placed the sign of its new location and the reason prompting the
 1165 move. That person or entity may maintain the sign on the new site,
 1166 relocate the sign to an alternate safe area or remove the sign entirely.

1167
 1168 (iii) The person or entity that places a sign in any right-of-way shall be
 1169 responsible for its removal immediately after the expiration of the
 1170 period stated in this subsection. Where that person or entity fails to
 1171 undertake such action, the City may remove the sign from the right-
 1172 of-way. The actions authorized under this paragraph are in addition
 1173 to any other lawful remedies available to the City.

1174
 1175 3. In the event of any conflict between any other provision in the Zoning
 1176 Ordinance of the City of College Park and this subsection, the regulations
 1177 in this subsection shall control.

1178

1179 **9.13 Exceptions for Large Ground Signs**

1180 A. Regardless of any other provisions of this Article to the contrary, ground signs not
 1181 exceeding sixty-five (65) feet in height measured to the top of the sign face, fifty (50) feet
 1182 in width and five hundred (500) square feet in area shall be allowed, subject to the
 1183 conditions of this Section, in the areas described in that Exhibit "A" attached to Ordinance
 1184 No. 2006-11, enacting this Section, which said Exhibit "A" is incorporated herein by
 1185 reference and shall be maintained in the office of the city clerk.

- 1186
1187 B. Any sign authorized by subsection (a) of this section shall be erected for no longer than
1188 two (2) years, provided that the owner of any such sign may apply to the building inspector,
1189 at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the initial term or any renewal term for
1190 erection of said sign, for subsequent one (1) year renewals. Such renewals shall be granted
1191 by the building inspector unless the building inspector makes a written finding either:
1192
- 1193 1. That the sign is not owned by the owner of the property on which the sign is erected;
1194 or
1195
 - 1196 2. That the sign is not located within seventy-five (75) feet of either: i) a vacant lot for
1197 which a current, valid permit has been issued for construction of a residential structure,
1198 but for which no certificate of occupancy has been issued; or ii) a residential structure
1199 for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued, but which has never been
1200 occupied by any resident.
1201
- 1202 C. The applicant shall pay an additional application fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for
1203 each permit and each renewal.
1204
- 1205 D. Except to the extent that signs described in subsection (a) are allowed by this section, such
1206 signs shall remain subject to the other requirements and limitations of this article.

1207 **9.14 Appeals**

1208 An applicant who is dissatisfied by a decision of the chief building inspector rendered under this
1209 Article may appeal to the board of zoning appeals under the procedures set forth in Article 12 of
1210 this Ordinance subject to the following:

- 1211
- 1212 1. The notice of appeal shall be in writing and must be delivered to the board of zoning
1213 appeals within ten (10) days after the applicant receives notice of the chief building
1214 inspector's decision. In the event that no appeal is made within the ten-day period, the
1215 decision of the chief building inspector shall become final;
1216
 - 1217 2. The board of zoning appeals shall hold the hearing on any such appeal no more than
1218 thirty-two (32) days following receipt of the appeal; and
1219
 - 1220 3. The board of zoning appeals shall render a final determination on the appeal not more
1221 than thirty-two (32) days following the date of the hearing. If a decision on an appeal
1222 is not made within this 32-day period, the appeal shall be considered denied for the
1223 same reason as that determined by the chief building inspector.
1224

1225 Any appeal of the decision of the board of zoning appeals shall be taken to the appropriate Superior
 1226 Court by a petition for a writ of certiorari as provided by law.

1227 **9.15 Variances Limited**

1228 Notwithstanding any other section of this Article or the zoning ordinance, a variance from the
 1229 provisions of this Article shall occur only pursuant to the following requirements. The board of
 1230 zoning appeals shall have the power to grant variances related to the height of signs, sign setbacks,
 1231 topographic conditions which would prevent the erection of a sign which is otherwise permissible
 1232 under this Article, and similar minor variances, according to their authority, and which are not
 1233 otherwise expressly prohibited herein. Neither the board of zoning appeals nor any other duly
 1234 administrative body or officer shall have the power or authority to vary the express terms of this
 1235 Article related to the number of signs, the total area of signs permitted on a lot, distance and spacing
 1236 requirements, or removal of illegal signs. Further, the board of zoning appeals shall have no power
 1237 to permit within any zoning district within the City of College Park any Sign not otherwise
 1238 authorized by this Article.

1239 **9.16 Enforcement and Penalties**

1240 (a) Any person found in violation of any provision of the Article shall be subject to a fine not
 1241 to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day. A separate offense shall be deemed
 1242 committed each day during or upon which a violation occurs or is permitted to continue.
 1243

1244 (b) The chief building inspector, or designee, shall be authorized to enforce the provisions of
 1245 this Article and shall be authorized to issue citations for violation of this Article by any
 1246 person, including, as applicable, the owner, manager or tenant of the space upon which a
 1247 sign is located, for a sign erected, altered, maintained, converted or used in violation of this
 1248 Article or violation of any other applicable ordinance, including, but not limited to, the
 1249 building and electrical codes.
 1250

1251 (c) The City may seek affirmative equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction to cause
 1252 the removal or repair of any sign in violation of this Article or other city ordinances.
 1253

1254 (d) The chief building inspector, or designee, may remove any sign or structure illegally placed
 1255 upon a public right-of-way without any notice and may dispose of any such sign or
 1256 structure. Such removal and disposal of illegally placed signs shall not preclude the
 1257 prosecution of any person for illegally placing such signs in the public right-of-way.

1258 **9.17 Severability**

1259 (a) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the mayor and council that all
 1260 sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this article are or were,

1261 upon their enactment, believed by the mayor and council to be fully valid,
1262 enforceable and constitutional.

1263

1264 (b) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the mayor and council that, to the
1265 greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence,
1266 clause or phrase of this article is severable from every other section, paragraph,
1267 sentence, clause or phrase of this article. It is hereby further declared to be the
1268 intention of the mayor and council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law,
1269 no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this article is mutually
1270 dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
1271 article.

1272

1273 (c) In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this
1274 article shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional
1275 or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of
1276 competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the mayor and council that
1277 such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest
1278 extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise
1279 unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or
1280 sections of the article and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all
1281 remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of the article
1282 shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

1283

1284 **Section 2.** The preamble of this Ordinance shall be considered to be and is hereby
1285 incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein.

1286 **Section 3.** (a) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that all
1287 sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are or were, upon their
1288 enactment, believed by the Mayor and Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

1289 (b) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that, to the greatest
1290 extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
1291 Ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
1292 Ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that, to the
1293 greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance

1294 is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
1295 Ordinance.

1296 (c) In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance
1297 shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable
1298 by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of
1299 the Mayor and Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the
1300 greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any
1301 of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of the Ordinance and that, to
1302 the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and
1303 sections of the Ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable and of full force and
1304 effect.

1305 **Section 4.** All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly
1306 repealed.

1307 **Section 6.** The effective date of this Ordinance shall be the date of adoption unless
1308 otherwise specified herein.

1309 **ORDAINED**, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

1310 **CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA**

1311
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1313
1314
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1316 _____
1317 **Jack P. Longino, Mayor**

1318
1319 **ATTEST:**
1320
1321
1322 _____
1323 **Shavala Moore, Interim City Clerk**
1324

1325

1326 **APPROVED BY:**

1327

1328

1329

1330 **Steven M. Fincher**, City Attorney
