

ORDINANCE # 2013-17
PRODUCED BY Alexius
DATE INTRODUCED 8/6/13
COM NUMBER 2013-08-02
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APPROVED/TABLED 29/17/13
EFFECTIVE 10/4/13
BOOK # _____ PAGE # _____

ADOPTION

INTRODUCTION

CITY OF COVINGTON ORDINANCE NUMBER 2013-17

ORDINATION # _____
ENDED BY ORDINANCE # _____
DATE AMENDED 5

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON AMENDING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES: APPENDIX B, COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF 2010, PART 3. USE DISTRICTS (ZONING CASE NO. 13-07-03TXT)

WHEREAS, certain amendments have been suggested to the sections of the Code addressing the Historic Covington Downtown mixed-use overlay district; and

WHEREAS, the Covington City Council deems these amendments appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Covington; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held its public hearing in accordance with law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 3. Use Districts, Sec. 3.31 shall be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3.31. HDC-MUOD Historic Downtown Covington mixed-use overlay district.

3.3102. "Historic Downtown Covington" defined. The HDC-MUOD is comprised of the majority of the historic core of the City of Covington. The district encompasses approximately 45 square blocks and is generally bounded to the west by North and South Jefferson Avenue between East 20th Avenue and North Columbia Street; to the south by East 20th Avenue between South Jefferson Avenue and South America Street; Columbia and the Avenue; to the east by the Bogue Falaya River; and to the north by North Collins Boulevard, and the Village Walk Way and Theard Street extension (see figure 31.1). This boundary encompasses the city's National Register of Historic Places designated historic district, hereafter known as the Division of St. John, which has been identified separately in figure 31.2, as well as significant properties surrounding the National Register district.
Figure 31.1 Historic Downtown Covington MUOD Boundaries

3.3111. Signage. In addition to other regulations applicable to signs within this Part 6 of this appendix B, the following limitations/regulations shall apply to all properties within the HDC-MUOD.

1. General provisions:
 - a. The following general provisions for signs in the HDC-MUOD:
 - i. Light colored letters on a dark background or as approved by the Covington Historic District Commission (CHDC).
 - ii. The use of nationally distributed signs that are not compatible with the character of the building is not allowed unless approved by the CHDC.
 - iii. Window and door signage should complement other facade signage and should not obscure visibility into the business. Signage other than business identification and operating hours must be approved by the CHDC.

b. No signs shall be displayed or placed in any manner whatsoever so as to disfigure or conceal any significant architectural feature or detail of any building.

c. What signs may advertise. No sign of any character shall be displayed in the historic district unless such sign advertises a bona fide business conducted in or on the premises and, if it does do so, not exceeding 50 percent of the area of such sign may be used to advertise products or commodities actually sold on the premises.

d. Computation of frontage. If a building has frontage on more than one public right-of-way, the sign area(s) for each building wall or property frontage will be computed separately. The sign area(s) thus calculated shall be permitted to then be applied to permitted signs placed on each separate wall or property line frontage.

2. Primary signs:

a. Number of primary signs. In general, one primary sign is allowed to each store, shop, or bona fide place of business, and this sign shall be no larger than the maximum stipulated in this section. In the case of a business operated on a corner lot that has frontage on two public rights-of-way, one primary sign facing each right-of way is allowed and shall be regulated as if each side were a separate storefront.

b. Surface area of signs. The surface area of any sign shall be in direct proportion to the amount of front footage of each ownership and shall be as follows:

GRAPHIC LINK: [Click here](#)

i. Single-faced signs attached flat against the wall and including painted wall signs, there shall be allowed one square foot of sign surface area to each five feet of lot frontage. No sign is required to be less than six square feet. In no case shall the maximum allowable square footage exceed 12.

ii. Double-faced signs, suspended by brackets or arms perpendicularly from the wall of the building, the surface area shall be the sum of the areas of each face not to exceed a total of 16 square feet. In case of multiple businesses operating at a single location, the total face area of signage may be increased to one and one-half times the maximum stipulated in this section.

iii. No sign of any description shall be hung less than ten feet above the sidewalk unless it is above or an integral upper part of a marquee; or suspended below a marquee not lower than the lowest edge of such marquee.

iv. Monument signs shall be limited to 12 square feet in size, but in all cases must be approved by the CHDC.

Table 331.1

TABLE INSET:

Sign Type	Sign Size	Lot Frontage
Single-faced sign	1 sq. ft.	Per 5 linear ft of frontage
Double-faced sign	Sum of each face	
	16 sq. ft. (combined max)	N/A
Monument sign	12 sq. ft. (max)	N/A

4. 3. Prohibited signs: In addition to the prohibited signs listed in Part 6 sign regulations, the following signs are prohibited in the HDC-MUOD:

~~a. Banners (unless 32 square feet maximum and for temporary usage as detailed in section 6.109.2).~~

~~b. a. Inflatable signs.~~

~~c. b. Internally illuminated signs.~~

~~d. c. Pole or post-mounted signs unless approved by the city.~~

5. 4. Procedures; application and fees for sign permits:

a. Requirement to obtain a sign permit. It shall be unlawful to construct, erect, alter, relocate or display any sign without first obtaining a sign permit from the building official or code enforcement official and paying the fee required herein, unless specifically excluded from the requirement of a permit by section 6.105 provided that no permit shall be required for (i) the repair of a sign, or (ii) change in addition of tenants, occupants, activities or messages on ground signs.

b. The certificate of appropriateness for a sign permit in the HDC-MUOD may be issued administratively providing the following conditions are met:

1 i. The proposed sign meets all of the general provisions outlined in section 3.31
2 and Part 6 of this Appendix B; and

3 ii. The proposed sign complies with all of the square footage, location, height and
4 material requirements set forth in section 3.311.

5 If the above conditions are met, the City Planner or his designee may issue a certificate
6 of appropriateness. If the above conditions are not met or the City Planner or his
7 designee determines that the sign change is not minor, the application will be referred to
8 the CHDC for a public hearing on the issuance of the certificate of appropriateness.

9 ~~b-~~ c. Application requirements. All applications for permits to display, replace or
10 continue signs within the historic district shall be submitted to the historic district
11 commission for approval before a permit may be issued by the city building official. All
12 signs under this section shall be further governed by the existing regulations of the
13 building code and all sign ordinances of the city not in conflict with this section.

14 ~~e-~~ d. In applying to the city for the issuance of a sign permit the following shall be
15 required:

16 i. All applications for permits to display signs within the historic district shall be
17 submitted to the commission for approval on forms furnished by the historic district
18 commission. Sketches and drawings in triplicate showing details of construction and
19 foundation when required by the building code of the city and shall delineate size,
20 shape, design, coloring, lighting, and position in relation to the building for or upon
21 which it is displayed shall accompany such application. In the design and erection of all
22 signs, the effect of wind shall be carefully considered.

23 ii. Written consent of the owner of the property or his agent granting permission for
24 the construction, maintenance and display of the sign or sign structure;

25 iii. Name, address and telephone number of the property owner, the sign owner, the
26 sign contractor and any designated contact person; and

27 iv. A description of the size and location of all existing signs owned, leased or
28 otherwise being used on the same property by the entity making application for a sign
29 permit.

30 ~~d-~~ e. Required fees for sign permits. The schedule of fees shall be established by the
31 city council pursuant to section 1.501 of this ordinance. This schedule of fees shall be
32 available from the City of Covington Planning Department and may be altered or
33 amended only by the city council.

34 ~~e-~~ f. Duration of permit. A sign permit shall remain in effect for six months from
35 issuance of the permit, and if the sign is not completed within such six-month period, the
36 permit shall expire.

37
38 ~~6-~~ 5. Special sign permits:

39 a. Authority to issue. Upon application by the owner, occupant, tenant or other
40 appropriate party, the Covington Historic District Commission has the authority to issue
41 special sign permits for signs not in conformity with this overlay sign code.

42 b. Criteria for special sign permit. In granting a special sign permit, the historic
43 district commission shall consider the effect of the proposed sign on the safety and
44 general welfare of the HDC-MUOD. The historic district commission shall consider
45 certain necessary criteria when issuing a special sign permit. These criteria may include
46 but are not limited to the following:

47 i. Such sign would not substantially deviate from the character of the historic
48 district.

49 ii. Other conditions are placed on the issuance of the sign permit that mitigate its
50 nonconformity.

51 iii. Traffic, landscaping, parking, access, unique design, lighting, location and sight
52 visibility shall be considered.

53
54 ~~7-~~ 6. Enforcement and penalty:

55 a. Maintenance of signs, compliance, penalties. Each sign that has been erected in
56 accordance with the provisions of this overlay sign code shall be maintained in
57 substantially the same condition as when constructed. Failure to properly maintain any
58 sign, including exterior painting, shall constitute a violation of this HDC-MUOD and
59 thereto shall be subject to those fines and penalties as may be provided for in [this]
60 appendix B, zoning, of [to] the City of Covington Code of Ordinances.

1 b. Officials responsible for administration. The city planner shall administer the
2 provisions of this HDC-MUOD. In the absence of a city planner, this ordinance shall be
3 administered by the building Official or code enforcement officials. The city planner
4 and/or the building official or code enforcement official s shall have the power and
5 authority to make inspections of signs or property necessary to carry out their duties in
6 the coordination and the enforcement of the provisions of this HDC-MUOD.
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9 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all other sections of Appendix B,
10 Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, shall remain the same and in full force.

11 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of this ordinance
12 shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein
13 which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the
14 provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

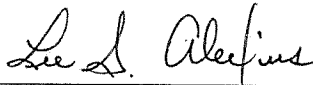
15 **WHEREUPON**, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having
16 been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council of the City
17 of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole,
18 the vote thereon being as follows:

19 **MOVED FOR ADOPTION** by Wright, seconded by Callahan.

20 **YEAS:** 7 **NAYS:** 0

21 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0

22 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 17th day of September, 2013.

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26 LEE S. ALEXIUS
27 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
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31 BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
32 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL
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35 Presented to the Mayor this 19th day of September, 2013, at 11:05 o'clock
36 A.M.

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39 BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
40 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL
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42 Approved or Vetoed by the Mayor on this 19th day of September,
43 2013.

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46 MICHAEL B. COOPER
47 MAYOR

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Received from the Mayor on the 19th day of September, 2013, at 2:10
o'clock P.M.

Bonnie D. Champagne
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL