

CITY COUNCIL

READ FILE COVER SHEET

Subject: **Ordinance 1134 concerning Amending Portions of Chapter 151
regarding Electronic Signs**
(Public Hearing)

Date: **11/22/2023**

Notice: Any comments made after 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the Council Meeting will not be seen in the agenda packet.

Purpose:

- FYI
 Read and Comment as Needed
 Action Required by December 4, 2023
 In Confidential File Drawer

Approve:

Johnny Boker Yes No No Comment

Comment: _____

Casi Boyer Yes No No Comment

Comment: _____

Vicki Jones Yes No No Comment

Comment: _____

Jim Ringsaker Yes No No Comment

Comment: _____

Jason Robertson Yes No No Comment

Comment: _____

Tammy Lynn Schneegas Yes No No Comment

Comment: _____

Note: N/A

CITY COUNCIL
OF
HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 1134

Introduced by _____ Council Member Schneegas

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LAND USE ARTICLES OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND SECTIONS 33 AND 34 OF THE HAVRE DE GRACE CITY CHARTER TO AMEND PORTIONS OF CITY CODE CHAPTER 151 REGARDING ELECTRONIC SIGNS

On: 11/20/2023

at: 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing is scheduled for December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

EXPLANATION
Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.
[Bold Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Amendments proposed prior to final adoption will be noted on a separate page with line references or by handwritten changes on the draft legislation.

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31 Pertinent sections of City Code Chapter 151-Signs are amended below with additions shown as
32 underlined, and deletions shown within **[bold brackets]**.

33
34 § 151- Signs

35
36 § 151-6 **Definitions.**

37 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

38
39 **NIT**

40 Brightness is generally expressed in a numerical value (NIT). A nit is a unit of measurement
41 of luminance, or the intensity of visible light, where one nit is equal to one candela
42 (candlepower) per square meter (CD/M2).

43
44 § 151-21 **Electronic message centers.**

45
46 A. In the C/Commercial District, electronic message centers are permitted with a maximum
47 sign area of 16 square feet. The Board of Appeals may approve an electronic message
48 center up to 24 square feet as a special exception.

49
50 B. Electronic Message Centers shall be permitted on a municipal property as approved by the
51 City Council and at any property housing Emergency Services.

52
53 (1) All Electronic Message Centers shall not exceed 24 square feet and shall be
54 permanently installed on an appropriate foundation.

55
56 (2) Electronic Message Centers that are located at an Emergency Services location, may
57 provide advertisements that support the mission of the service. Additionally, the City
58 Administration shall have the availability to use the signs as a means of outreach for
59 public safety information

60
61 C. [B] Additional general electronic message center regulations:

62
63 (1) One electronic message center is permitted per property. Where a shopping center or
64 industrial park has been subdivided, only one is permitted.

65
66 (a) The sign may provide advertisements for all businesses within the shopping
67 center or business park.

68
69 (b) The Board of Appeals may approve additional electronic message centers for
70 individual lots as a special exception up to 16 square feet.

71
72 (2) An electronic message center sign may be a portion of a building sign or freestanding
73 sign, or may comprise the entire sign area.

74
75 (3) All electronic message center signs shall have automatic dimming controls, either by
76 photocell (hardwired) or via software settings, in order to bring the electronic
77 message center lighting level at night into compliance with § **151-22** of this code,
78 Sign illumination standards.

79 (4) Electronic message center signs shall have a minimum display time of eight seconds.
80 The transition time between messages and/or message frames is limited to three
81 seconds, and these transitions may employ fade, dissolve, and or other transition
82 effects.

83
84 (5) The following electronic message center display features and functions are
85 prohibited: continuous scrolling and/or traveling, flashing, spinning, rotating, and
86 similar moving effects, and all dynamic frame effects or patterns of illusionary
87 movement or simulating movement.

88
89 (6) Full-motion video or film display via an electronic file imported into the electronic
90 message center software or streamed in real time into the sign is prohibited.

91
92 (7) Temporary or portable electronic message centers are not permitted.
93

94 § 151-22 Sign illumination standards.

95
96 Signs may be illuminated consistent with the following standards:
97

98 A. A sign in any district may be illuminated at night. Electronic message centers shall **[not be**
99 **operational between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.]** be equipped with automatic
100 dimming capabilities, and shall dim as required in Section 152-22 B of this code.

101
102 B. Electronic Message Centers shall have a maximum luminance of 8,000 nits during daylight
103 hours and 500-800 nits at nighttime.

104
105 C. [B] Signs that have external illumination, whether the lighting is mounted above or below the
106 sign face or panel, shall have lighting fixtures or luminaires that are fully shielded.

107
108 D. [C] The light from any illuminated sign or from any light source, including interior of a
109 building, shall be so shaded, shielded or directed that the light intensity or brightness shall
110 not adversely affect surrounding or facing premises nor adversely affect safe vision of
111 operators of vehicles moving on public or private roads, highways, or parking areas. Light
112 shall not shine or reflect on, or into, residential structures. Illumination projected onto a sign
113 must be confined as completely as possible to the face of the sign.

114
115 E. [D] On-premises signs do not constitute a form of outdoor lighting at night and are exempt
116 from any other outdoor lighting regulations that the City has adopted or will adopt in the
117 future.

118
119 **NOW, THEREFORE**, it is determined, decided, and ordained by the City Council that the
120 foregoing is hereby approved.

121
122 ADOPTED by the City Council of Havre de Grace, Maryland this ____ day of ____, 2023.

123
124 SIGNED by the Mayor and attested by the Director of Administration this ____ day of ____,
125 2023.

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ATTEST:

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF HAVRE DE GRACE

Stephen J. Gamatoria
Director of Administration

William T. Martin
Mayor

Introduced/First Reading: 11/20/2023
Public Hearing:
Second Reading/Adopted:
Effective Date:

Public Hearing