

ORDINANCE NO. 2817

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 15,  
CHAPTER 15.11, SECTIONS 15.11.040 AND  
15.11.050, OF THE OFFICIAL CODES OF THE  
CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA,  
PERTAINING TO THE SIGN CODE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA:

Section 1. That Title 15, OCCGF, Chapter 15.11, Sections 15.11.040 and 15.11.050, pertaining to the Sign Code, be amended as depicted in Exhibit A, where any language indicated by a strike-out be removed.

PASSED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA,  
this 15th day of January, 2002.

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Randall H. Gray, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
David V. Gliko, City Attorney

State of Montana        )  
County of Cascade     : ss.  
City of Great Falls    )

I, Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2817 was placed on its final passage and passed by the Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, at a meeting thereof held on the 15th day of January, 2002, and approved by the Mayor of said City on the 15th day of January, 2002.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said City on this 15th day of January, 2002.

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Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

State of Montana        )  
County of Cascade     : ss.  
City of Great Falls    )

Peggy J. Bourne, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That on the 15th day of January, 2002, and prior thereto, she was the City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana; that as said City Clerk she did publish and post as required by law and as prescribed and directed by the Commission, Ordinance No. 2817 of the City of Great Falls, in three conspicuous places within the limits of said City to-wit:

- On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Civic Center Building;
- On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Cascade County Court House;
- On the Bulletin Board, Great Falls Public Library

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Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

EXHIBIT AChapter 15.11SIGN CODE**Sections:**

15.11.010	Title.
15.11.020	Scope--Purpose.
15.11.030	Enforcement.
15.11.040	Individual certificate required.
15.11.050	License--Required--Fee.
15.11.060	License--Insurance and bond.
15.11.070	Appeal.
15.11.080	Definitions and abbreviations.
15.11.090	Permit Required.
15.11.100	Sign Permit--Application.
15.11.111	Owner permit.
15.11.120	Exemptions.
15.11.130	Fees and payment.
15.11.140	Maintenance.
15.11.150	Inspection.
15.11.160	Design.
15.11.170	Material requirements.
15.11.180	Political signs.
15.11.190	On-premise signs -- Permitted Uses and Conditional Uses in Residential Districts.
15.11.200	On-premise signs -- Commercial - Industrial Districts.
15.11.210	On-premise signs -- Business Improvement District.
15.11.211	On-premise signs - Premises exceeding 30,000 square feet.
15.11.212	Off-premise signs
15.11.220	Bench signs/transit shelter signs.
15.11.221	Freestanding signs.
15.11.230	Parking of advertising vehicles prohibited.
15.11.240	Shopping center identification signs.
15.11.250	Electrical signs.
15.11.260	Existing signs--Signs not in use or abandoned.
15.11.270	Nonconforming signs.
15.11.280	Violations and penalties.

**15.11.010 Title.** This chapter shall be known as the Great Falls Uniform Sign Code, may be cited as such, and will be referred to in this chapter as "this Code." (Ord. 2666 (Exh. B), 1994; Ord. 2651 (Exh. B), 1993; Ord. 2377 §2(part), 1985).

**15.11.020 Scope--Purpose.** The purpose of this Code is to provide standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, quality of materials, construction, location, electrification and maintenance of all signs and sign structures.

A. Intention. The regulations of this Code are not intended to permit any violation of the provisions of any other lawful ordinance.

B. Restrictions.

1. No sign shall be erected or placed in such a manner as to confuse or obstruct the view or interpretation of any official traffic sign, signal or device.

2. No sign shall exceed in area as hereinafter provided. (Ord. 2377 §2(part), 1985).

**15.11.030 Enforcement.** A. Authority. The Community Development Director or a duly authorized representative is hereby authorized and directed to enforce all the provisions of this Code.

B. Right of Entry. The Community Development Director or a duly authorized representative's right of entry in the enforcement of this Code shall be in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 104.2.3(c) of the current adopted edition of the Uniform Building Code. (Ord. 2786, 2001; Ord. 2666 (Exh. B), 1994; Ord. 2377 §2(part), 1985).

**15.11.040 Sign certificate required.** A. Any person who is now or in the future may become engaged in the installation or repair of signs, including outline and accent lighting commonly known as neon, in or about the buildings of the City is required to have an individual sign electrician/journeyman's certificate, ~~sign contractor/electrical~~, or currently licensed as a master or journeyman electrician by the State of Montana and the City of Great Falls. (Ord. 2786, 2001).

B. The Building Official or duly authorized representative shall arrange for an examination of the applicant's knowledge of the installation, erection and/or wiring of signs. Examination shall be provided by a nationally recognized firm for such testing. A person desiring a sign electrician/journeyman's certificate ~~or a sign contractor/electrical certificate~~ shall make application to the Building Official (or duly authorized representative) to schedule a time and place for an appropriate examination to determine the qualifications of the applicant. Successful applicants shall score a minimum of 75 percentage points. Unsuccessful applicants shall be required to wait 90 days before applying for re-examination. Examination is required for each initial application and is not required for renewal of the license, unless the license has been expired for more than thirty calendar days. (Upon notification of a successful applicant, the Community Development Director or a duly authorized representative shall authorize the issuance of the certificate.) Examination fees shall be established by City Commission resolution. (Ord. 2786, 2001)

C. Certificate fees for ~~sign contractor/electrical~~, sign electrician/journeyman and sign erector shall be established by City Commission resolution. All certificates or special licenses shall expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which such certificate or special license is issued, unless otherwise specified. Renewals shall be obtained on or before the expiration date. (Ord. 2786, 2001; Ord. 2666 (Exh. B), 1994; Ord 2636 § (part), 1992; Ord. 2377 § (part), 1985).

**15.11.050 License -- Required -- Fee.** Any person or firm who engages in the business of installation, alteration, maintenance or repair of signs, in or about the buildings of the City is required to have a sign contractor's license as follows:

A. Sign Contractor's Class A License. Fabricate, install, repair, alter, add to, or change any electrical wires, apparatus, raceways, conduit or any part thereof on electrical signs, ~~and are qualified to erect signs.~~ Such contractor may contract for, and take out permits for the erection of signs. ~~Such contractor shall have a sign contractor/electrical certificate or be a master electrician licensed by the State of Montana and the City of Great Falls, or employ the same.~~

B. Sign Contractor's Class B License. Installation and erection or maintaining non-illuminated signs and employ an individual with a sign erector's certificate.

C. License fees shall be established by City Commission resolution.

D. All certificates or special licenses shall expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which such certificate or special license is issued, unless otherwise specified. Renewal licenses shall be obtained on or before the expiration date. (Ord. 2786, 2001; Ord 2636 § (part) 1992; Ord. 2377 § (part), 1985).