



SIGNS IN A NUTSHELL¹



¹This chart only pertains to permanent signs. See Chapter 4.9 of the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code (the "UDC") for full regulations pertaining to signs, both permanent and temporary. Temporary signs are regulated by UDC Sec. 4.9.9.

²The Register of Deed's website contains all approved planned developments.

³See the UDC Sec. 4.9.2B for a map of the CBID, SCBID and Uptown areas. The University District Overlay is outlined on the Zoning Atlas.

⁴See municode.com for a link to the City of Memphis Code of Ordinances.

⁵See map in UDC Sec. 4.9.2B; there are small sections of Uptown and the SCBID that are not within the CBID and do not require review by the Downtown Memphis Commission. No section of the University District is within the CBID.

⁶Billboards are those signs that advertise products or goods not related to the subject site. See definition of "permanent, off-premise sign" in UDC Sec. 12.3.4.

⁷A sign that does not meet any of the current sign regulations of the UDC, such as setback, height and size limitations of UDC Chapter 4.9 is considered nonconforming. Due to the absence of sign regulations for many years, a great majority of signs in Memphis and Shelby County are currently nonconforming.

⁸See UDC Sec. 4.9.8M(3) for further details.

⁹See UDC Sec. 4.9.8M(1)(c) for further details.

¹⁰See UDC Sec. 4.9.8M(5) for further details.

¹¹See UDC Sec. 4.9.8M(1)(a) for further details.

¹²If the site is unique and complying with the UDC presents upon the owner a practical difficulty or undue hardship, the owner may pursue a variance request with the Memphis and Shelby County Board of Adjustment. See UDC Sec. 9.22.

¹³Signs in the residential districts may be up to 32 square feet if the site has enough acreage. See UDC Sec. 4.9.7B for further details.

¹⁴Signs in the office district may be up to 50 sq ft if attached to the building, if above 35 ft in height. Also, detached signs may be 0 ft if 10 ft in height or less. See UDC Sec. 4.9.7C for further details.

¹⁵See UDC Sec. 4.9.7D(3)(a).

¹⁶See UDC Sec. 4.9.6E(2)(g) for video signs and UDC Sec. 4.9.6E(2)(h) for electronic message signs.