TOWN OF ONONDAGA
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW E-2026

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 285 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ONONDAGA REGARDING ANIMATED AND ANNOUNCEMENT SIGNS

Be it enacted by the Town of Onondaga Town Board that this Local Law amends Chapter 285 of the Code of the Town of Onondaga, as follows:

Section 1.

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the New York State Constitution and New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10.

Section 2.

So that Section 285-34(C)(6)(c) of the Town of Onondaga Town Code is hereby amended so as to read, in its entirety, as follows:

"(c) Animated signs. An animated sign is a sign or any portion thereof having movement effected by mechanical or natural means, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, rotating signs, wind signs and signs where movement is simulated by illumination devices. This term shall include the use of blinking, flashing and general intermittent light, as opposed to light of a constant intensity and value."

Section 3.

So that Section 285-34(D)(2) of the Town of Onondaga Town Code is hereby amended so as to read, in its entirety, as follows:

"(2) Announcement signs.

a. Announcement signs for churches or other places of worship, fire stations, emergency service facilities, and educational institutions.

[1] General: Signs may be double-faced and may be exterior-lighted by shielded floodlights such that there is no glare or distraction to drivers on nearby roads or glare onto adjoining properties. Except in Residential and Country R-C, Residential R-1, R-2 and R-3, Planned Residential and Planned Residential Community Districts, signs may be interior lighted with non-glaring lights.

[2] Surface area: 32 square feet maximum.

[3] Location: affixed to building wall or freestanding in front yard with setback of 15 feet, minimum dimension, from front property line and 25 feet, minimum dimension, from other property line.

[4] Height: eight (8) feet, maximum dimension, grade to top of sign.

[5] Announcement signs which contain electronic messages that change, flash or revolve once in a five (5) minute period are permitted subject to the following restrictions:

[i] Images must remain static with no animation, scrolling, or flashing during dwell time with a dwell time for a minimum of ten minutes per image. In the case of an emergency, the obligation to remain static for five (5) minutes may be overridden or interrupted.

[ii] Maximum nighttime brightness is 0.3 footcandles, 150 nits, and 3.2 lux.

[iii] The sign must be equipped with an automatic photocell or ambient light sensor with the ability to manually override, if necessary, to ensure that the display dynamically drops from high daytime brightness down to compliant nighttime levels as dusk falls.

[iv] Upon request by the Code Enforcement Office, the owner of an animated sign may be required to reduce the footcandles, nits and lux of an image, to decrease the image's brightness.

[v] Transitions between messages must be completed within .25 seconds (one-quarter second) twirl time and must be an instantaneous change with no fading or wiping during the twirl time. Transitions wherein one image gradually dims and disappears while the next image slowly brightens into view, often referred to as a "dissolve," "fade," or "crossfade," is prohibited.

Section 4.

This Local Law shall take effect upon its filing with the New York Secretary of State.