

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Metropolitan Code of Laws be updated pertaining to LED message boards and digital displays to reflect the technological advancements in the sign industry that mitigate light spill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That Section 17.32.050(G)(2) of the Metropolitan Code of Laws is hereby amended by adding a new subsection c as follows:

- c. The distance requirements in subsections a and b above shall not apply to LED message boards and digital display signs designed with louvers and ambient light sensors that together reduce light spill. LED message boards and digital display signs equipped with this technology shall not have an illumination output that exceeds one-half foot-candle across the boundary of the nearest agricultural-zoned or residential-zoned property.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, that this ordinance take effect immediately after its passage and such change be published in a newspaper of general circulation, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Analysis

Under the Metro Code, signs with any copy, graphics, or changing digital displays are not permitted in CA, CA-NA, CS, CS-NS, CF, CF-NS, SCR, SCR-NS, IWD, IR and IG districts unless they adhere to certain distance requirements. Signs four feet or less in height cannot be less than 100 feet from any agriculturally or residentially zoned property. For each additional foot in height above four feet, the sign must be an additional 25 feet from any agriculturally or residentially zoned property.

This ordinance would exempt LED message boards and digital display signs designed with louvers and ambient light sensors to reduce light spill from these distance requirements. In addition, the LED message boards and digital display boards equipped with this technology could not have an illumination output that exceeds one-half foot-candle across the boundary of the nearest agriculturally-zoned or residentially-zoned property.

This was recommended for an indefinite deferral at the Planning Commission.