Via Panama City Beach, Florida Land Development Code

LED Sign — a Sign or portion thereof that uses light emitting diode technology or other similar semiconductor technology to produce an illuminated image, picture, or message of any kind, regardless of whether the image, picture, or message is moving or stationary; this type of Sign includes any Sign that uses LED technology of any kind whether conventional (using discrete LEDs), surface mounted (otherwise known as individually mounted LEDs), transmissive, organic light emitting diodes (OLED), light emitting polymer (LEP), organic electro luminescence (OEL), or any similar technology; *sometimes referred to as "digital Signs."*

A LED Sign shall:

- 1. Have an auto-sensor regulating its illumination to follow changes in ambient light.
- 2. Not exceed a maximum luminance intensity of seven thousand (7000) nits (candelas per square meter) during daylight hours and a maximum luminance of five hundred (500) nits between fifteen minutes after sunset and fifteen minutes before sunrise as measured from the Sign Face at maximum brightness. This standard shall not be interpreted or enforced to prevent persons of ordinary sensibilities viewing the Sign from perceiving its expression.
- 3. Not interfere with the effectiveness of, or obscure an official traffic Sign, device or signal.
- 4. Not be Externally Illuminated, including a Sign that is only partially LED.
- 5. Have a disconnecting switch located in accordance with the provisions of the National Electric Code.
- 6. Require both a Sign Permit and an electrical Permit prior to installation.

Notes:

- A prohibition on moving, flashing, and blinking signs exists elsewhere in the Panama City Beach code. Digital signs must also conform to other sign regulations in the code.
- A light meter can be purchased for about \$30.
- A nit (candela per square meter) essentially measures how bright something is when accounting for its surface area.
- Digital signs must be brighter during the day because they are basically competing with the sun. But they must be adjusted based on ambient light, or else they'll be far too bright at night. According to multiple studies, the luminance of the daytime sky on a sunny day is between 5,000 and 7,000 nits. Some groups suggest nighttime limits as low as 300 nits for digital signage, although most frequently these restrictions relate to digital billboards specifically.







B



