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ZONING ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION
ZAI 22-03 Sign Lighting: Reverse Channel Illumination

<u>Reference:</u>	<i>Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance, Sec. 7.1.10, Sign Lighting (e) Reverse Channel Illumination (i.e. Backlit)</i>
<u>Date:</u>	December 6, 2021

Pursuant to the authority granted to the City's Zoning Administrative Officer under 24 V.S.A. Section 4448, and Article 3, Part 1 of the *Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance*, the following administrative interpretation is intended to ensure consistency and clarity in the interpretation and application of the *Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance*. Pursuant to Sec. 2.3.5 of the *Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance* any decision or act taken by the administrative officer may be appealed to the Development Review Board as specified under the requirements of Article 12.

The following interpretation is to be used regarding the applicability of the *Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance* sign standards relative to sign illumination.

This interpretation shall apply for zoning permitting and enforcement purposes only.

Reverse channel illumination (i.e. backlit) illuminates opaque sign lettering and logos from behind creating a silhouette effect. Generally, light reflects off of the wall behind the sign and provides a halo of illumination behind the opaque lettering and logos. The light source is hidden behind the opaque lettering and logos. Alternatively, backlit illumination may come from a light source within an opaque sign cabinet with opaque lettering and logos projecting from cutouts behind the lettering and logos in the sign cabinet. Light from within the sign cabinet emits laterally from the cutouts and provides a similar silhouette effect illuminating the projecting opaque lettering and logos. This form of backlit illumination is subject to the standards for reverse channel illumination.

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