



AGENDA ITEM #: 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Commission

FROM: Ken Pruitt, Assistant Development Services Manager

DATE: Wednesday, September 05, 2007

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Knoxville Zoning Ordinance, Article 4.26 D-1 Downtown Design Overlay District and 5.10 Signs, Billboard, and other Advertising Structures to allow consideration of chasing lights on a sign within the D-1 District subject to the Design Review Board's approval
9-A-07-OA

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE the Signage Zoning Amendments

BACKGROUND:

This amendment is requested to allow consideration for the continued use of the chasing lights on the new theater marquee sign downtown on Gay Street. While such lighting is not appropriate throughout the community because of traffic safety and nuisance considerations, it could be appropriate in some areas, such as the Gay Street within the D-1 Overlay District, where there is a Design Review Board in place to evaluate new construction and redevelopment requests and rule on each application in light of adopted development standards in place to ensure that the historic and built character of downtown are retained and enhanced.

PROPOSED SIGN ZONING AMENDMENTS TO ALLOW CHASING LIGHTS ON
GAY STREET

Amend Article 5 Section 10, Signs, Billboards and Other Advertising Structures,
Section A. 4. as follows:

4. No sign shall have flashing or blinking lights other than electronic message centers, (EMC), or a documented historic or reproduction sign located in an H-1 (Historic Overlay) District, which has received a certificate of approval from the Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission, **or a sign within the D-1 (Downtown Design Overlay) District which has received approval from the Downtown Design Review Board as being compatible, and in character, with the Downtown Design guidelines and surrounding established development.**

Amend Article 4 Section 26, D-1 Downtown Design Overlay District, Section F.
Private Development, 1. by adding:

Any requests for sign lighting or electronic message center exceptions within the D-1 (Downtown Design Overlay) shall be reviewed and approved by the Downtown Design Review Board and a certificate of appropriateness issued to the applicant.