

# The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

## By-Law 25-26

A by-law to amend By-law 52-09, being the City of Richmond Hill Sign By-law

Whereas on November 9, 2009, Council of the Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill (the "Corporation") enacted by-law 52-09, the City of Richmond Hill Sign By-law to regulate advertising devices within the City of Richmond Hill;

And Whereas on April 8, 2026, Council of the City of Richmond Hill adopted the recommendations of Staff Report SRCS.26.01 to amend the Sign By-law 52-09, Municipal Code Chapter 740;

**Now Therefore The Council Of The Corporation Of The City Of Richmond Hill Enacts As Follows:.**

1. That the City's Sign By-law 52-09, being Chapter 740 of the Municipal Code, be amended as follows:

(a) By replacing Section 2.1 with the following:

**21.** This By-law applies to all *Signs* that are or are to be located, erected, or displayed within the boundaries of the *City*, save and except for *Signs*:

- a) prescribed by provincial or federal legislation; or
- b) located, erected, or displayed within a *Street* under the jurisdiction of the Regional Municipality of York.

(b) By replacing the definition of "**Charity Sign**" with the following:

**"Charity Sign"** means a *Sign* located, erected, or displayed to advertise an event or activity hosted by:

- a) a *Community Organization*;
- b) a place of worship;
- c) a school board; or
- d) any level of the government or an agency or board thereof.

(c) By replacing the definition of "**Commissioner**" with the following:

**"Commissioner"** means the Commissioner of Community Services of the *Corporation*, or designate.

(d) By replacing the definition of "**Mural Sign**" with the following:

**"Mural Sign"** means any type of display or artistic endeavour that is applied as paint or film, or a sculpture to any external wall or other part of a *Premises* or permanent structure, but shall not include any stained glass window of a *Premises*.

(e) By adding the following definitions in alphabetical sequence:

**"Community Organization"** means a Not-for-profit group organized for the advancement of a civic, environmental, cultural, social, health, philanthropic or recreational purpose within the *City*.

**“Electric Vehicle Charging Station Sign”** means a *Ground Sign* installed in association with a device that transfers electricity to an electric vehicle battery.

**“Not-for-profit”** means an organization created to benefit the community and whose activities may be for the purposes of social welfare, civic improvement, recreation or any other purpose not involving monetary gain, and whose directors, officers and members have no ownership of the organization or its assets.

**“Off-Premises Advertising”** means use of any *Sign* related to a business, enterprise or other activity to advertise or promote goods or services that are not available on the *Premises* on which the *Sign* is located and shall not include use of an *Off-Site Directional Sign*, a *Real Estate Open-House Sign* or a *Development Sign*.

- (f) By replacing the definition of "Sign" with the following:

**“Sign”** means any instrument, object, surface, structure and other component parts, which are used or capable of being used as a visual medium or display to attract attention to a specific subject matter for identification, information or advertising purposes and includes an *Abandoned Sign*, an *Address Sign*, an *Animated Sign*, an *Awning Sign*, a *Banner Sign*, a *Canopy Sign*, a *Charity Sign*, a *Construction Sign*, a *Development Sign*, a *Directional Sign*, a *Directory Sign*, an *Election Sign*, an *Electric Vehicle Charging Station Sign*, an *Entrance Feature Sign*, a *Flag Sign*, a *Flashing Sign*, a *Ground Sign*, an *Inflatable Sign*, a *Menu Board Sign*, a *Mobile Sign*, a *Mural Sign*, a *Off-Site Directional Sign*, a *Pennant Sign*, a *Portable Sign*, a *Poster Sign*, a *Projecting Sign*, a *Public Information Sign*, a *Digital Display*, a *Real Estate Open House Sign*, a *Real Estate Sign*, a *Roof Sign*, a *Wall Sign*, and a *Window Sign*.

- (g) By deleting the definition of “Community Special Event Sign”.

- (h) By replacing Section 5.1, paragraph (e) with the following:

(e) is on *Public Property*, unless installed by or on behalf of the Corporation or expressly permitted in this By-law and in accordance with the conditions of such permission as set out in this by-law;

- (i) By replacing Section 5.1, paragraph (h) with the following:

(h) does not relate to any use or uses of the *Premises* located on the same *Property* unless expressly permitted by this By-law;

- (j) By replacing the row of **Table A — Signs Not Requiring a Permit** related to Community Special Event Signs with the following:

<i>Charity Signs</i>	All Zones	In the form of Banner Signs and in accordance with Section 6.4.
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- (k) By replacing the row of **Table A — Signs Not Requiring a Permit** related to Real Estate Open House Signs with the following:

<i>Real Estate Open House Sign</i>	All Zones	A maximum of one (1) <i>Real Estate Open House Sign</i> may be displayed per road frontage in connection with any one (1) <i>Open House</i> and shall be located on the <i>Property</i> or on the boulevard adjoining the <i>Property</i> where the <i>Open House</i> is taking place.
		An additional four (4) <i>Real Estate Open House Signs</i> may be displayed in connection with any one (1) <i>Open House</i> provided such <i>Signs</i> are located within the Boulevard portion of a Street owned by or under the jurisdiction of the <i>Corporation</i> .
		Shall not be displayed on any sidewalk, center median, traffic island or center boulevard within a Street.
		Shall be displayed only on the day of an Open House.
		Shall have a maximum height of 1.0 metres
		Shall have a maximum <i>Sign Area</i> of 0.36 square metres
		Shall be setback a minimum of 1.0 metre from the edge of the pavement and any sidewalk or driveway
		Shall indicate the address, date and time of the <i>Open House</i> .
		Shall clearly display the words "Open House"

(l) By replacing Section 6.4. with the following:

**6.4. Charity Signs**

**6.4.1.** A maximum of two (2) *Charity Signs* per event or activity, in the form of *Banner Signs*, may be placed so as to hang over *Public Property* provided that:

- (a) if the *Banner Sign(s)* is to be fastened to structures that are located on (1) *Private Property* or (2) *Public Property*:
  - (i) the *Sign Owner* provides the *Corporation* with evidence of written permission from the *Property Owner(s)* to fasten the *Banner Sign* to those structures prior to locating, erecting or displaying the *Charity Sign(s)*;
  - (ii) the *Sign Owner* abides by any specific fastening conditions stipulated by the *Property Owner* of the structures; and
- (b) the lowest extremity of the *Charity Sign* shall be a minimum 6 metres above average grade if it hangs over a *Street*.

**6.4.2.** A *Charity Sign* in the form of a *Banner Sign* shall not be located, erected, or displayed for more than fourteen (14) days.

(m) By replacing Section 7.4. with the following:

**7.4. Charity Signs**

**7.4.1.** A *Charity Sign* in the form of a *Mobile Sign* may be installed on Public or Private Property in accordance with a *Permit* provided that it:

- (a) has a maximum of two (2) faces;

- (b) does not in any way interfere with any other Signs;
- (c) has a maximum *Sign Area* of 4.46 square metres;
- (d) has a maximum *Height* of 2.40 metres; and
- (e) shall not be located, erected or displayed within:
  - (i) 15.00 metres of an intersection or traffic signalization;
  - (ii) 1.50 metres of a private driveway;
  - (iii) 3.00 metres of any other *Lot Line*; and
  - (iv) 15.00 metres of a *Property* used solely for residential purposes.

**7.4.2.** A *Permit* for a *Charity Sign* in the form of a *Mobile Sign* shall be issued and valid for a maximum period of fourteen (14) consecutive days from the date the *Permit* is issued.

**7.4.3.** No *Person* shall submit an application for, or be issued, a *Permit* for a *Charity Sign* in the form of a *Mobile Sign* more than thirty (30) days in advance of the intended start date of the *Permit*.

**7.4.4.** There shall be a minimum of twenty-one (21) days between the expiry of one *Permit* for a *Charity Sign* in the form of a *Mobile Sign* and the issuance of another at the same location.

**7.4.5.** A maximum of four (4) *Permits* for *Charity Signs* in the form of a *Mobile Sign* may be issued per event or activity.

**7.4.6.** A maximum of two (2) *Charity Signs* per event or activity, in the form of *Portable Signs*, may be located, erected, or displayed on the inner or outer boulevard of a *Street* provided that they:

- a) have a maximum *Sign Area* of 0.60 square metres; and
- b) are a minimum of 0.5 metres from any curb or sidewalk, or where there is no curb or sidewalk, a minimum of 2.0 metres from the *Street* or a minimum of 0.5 metres from the edge of a shoulder of a *Street* where such exists.

**7.4.7.** A *Charity Sign* in the form of a *Portable Sign* shall not be located, erected, or displayed for more than fourteen (14) days.

(h) By deleting subsection 7.6.4. and replacing subsection 7.6.5. with the following:

**7.6.4.** A *Digital Display* located, erected, or displayed on a *Ground Sign* shall not have a message displayed for less than three (3) seconds, during which there shall be no movement or change in colour or intensity of *Illumination*, and the message shall not scroll horizontally or vertically.

(j) By replacing subsection 7.6.6., paragraph a) with the following:

- a) 15.00 metres of a traffic-control device unless it is an *Electric Vehicle Charging Station Sign*;

(k) By adding the following subsection 7.6.7. to Section 7.6. as follows and reorganizing the remainder of the section in numeric sequence:

**7.6.7.** A *Ground Sign* may be used for *Off-Premises Advertising*, provided such

*Sign:*

- a) is only erected on lands *Zoned* for Commercial or Industrial use;
- b) is not located within:
  - i. 100 metres of any lands *Zoned* for Residential use unless functioning as an *Electric Vehicle Charging Station Sign*;
  - ii. 300 metres of another *Sign* containing *Off-Premises Advertising* unless functioning as an *Electric Vehicle Charging Station Sign*; and
  - iii. 400 metres of any *Provincial Highway*.

(l) By replacing subsection 7.7.4. with the following:

**7.7.4.** A *Highway Sign* may take the form of a *Digital Display* and shall also conform with Sections 7.6.4 where the sign is a *Ground Sign*, and Section 7.12.6 where the sign is a *Wall Sign*.

(m) By repealing subsection 7.8.2 and reorganizing the remainder of the Section in numeric sequence.

(n) By adding the following subsection to the end of Section 7.8 as follows:

**7.8.8.** No *Person* shall submit an application for, or be issued, a *Permit* for a *Mobile Sign* more than thirty (30) days in advance of the intended start date of the *Permit*.

(o) By adding the following subsection 7.12.9. to Section 7.12:

**7.12.9** A *Wall Sign* may be used for *Off-Premises Advertising*, provided such *Sign*:

- 1. is only erected on lands *Zoned* for Commercial or Industrial use;
- 2. is not located within:
  - i) 100 metres of any lands *Zoned* for Residential use;
  - ii) 300 metres of another *Sign* containing *Off-Premises Advertising*; and
  - i) 400 metres of any *Provincial Highway*.

(p) By replacing the row of **Table B – Provisions for Signs in a Residential Zone** related to Charity Signs with the following:

<i>Charity Sign</i> only associated with a place of worship or a public school	All	Pursuant to Section 7.4.	<i>Non-Illuminated</i> only
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(q) By replacing the rows of **Table C – Provisions for Signs in a Commercial Zone**, **Table D – Provisions for Signs in Industrial, Institutional or Agricultural Zone**, **Table E – Provisions for Signs on a Premises in the Village Core District**, **Table F – Provisions for Signs in Uptown District or Civic Centre District**, and **Table G – Provisions for Signs in Headford Special Signage Area** related to Charity Signs with the following:

<i>Charity Sign</i>		Pursuant to Section 7.4.	<i>Non-Illuminated</i> only
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- (r) By replacing the “Maximum Number” column of **Table C – Provisions for Signs in a Commercial Zone** and **Table D – Provisions for Signs in Industrial, Institutional or Agricultural Zone** related to Ground Signs with the following:

<b>Sign Type</b>	<b>Maximum Number</b>
<i>Sign</i>	One (1) per <i>Street Line</i> .
<i>Ground Sign</i>	One (1) additional Ground Sign shall be permitted where a minimum separation distance of 200.00 m is maintained between each permitted Ground Sign located along any one (1) Street Line.
	Notwithstanding the above, additional unlimited <i>Electric Vehicle Charging Station Signs</i> are permitted per Lot.

3. Except as herein provided and as required to give effect to the amendments in this By-law 25-26, the provisions of the Sign By-law 52-09, as amended, shall continue in full force and effect without amendment.

Passed this 8th day of April, 2026.

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David West  
Mayor

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Stephen M.A. Huycke  
City Clerk