

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS CODE BULLETIN OF INFORMATION A -1601	CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA TITLE 4 — BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND OCCUPANCY CODE TITLE 14 – ZONING CODE
SUBJECT OF BULLETIN: INSPECTION REPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR DIGITAL DISPLAY SIGNAGE	REFERENCE CODE SECTION(S): 14-904, 14-905, 14-906, 14-517; A-202.4
ISSUED BY	ISSUE DATE
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TITLE: Building Code Official	PAGE 1 OF 3

BACKGROUND

The Philadelphia Zoning Code establishes the allowable luminance of digital displays in accessory and non-accessory (billboard) signs.

Section 14-904(1)(b) (.2) establishes the following illumination standards for digital display in accessory signs.

(.a) The duration of each digital display shall be no less than eight seconds. The change time between messages shall be no more than 0.25 seconds.

(.b) During daylight hours, luminance shall be no greater than 1500 nits. At all other times, luminance shall be no greater than 150 nits. Automatic dimming is required to maintain the appropriate illumination levels at all times.

Section 14-905(8) establishes the following illumination standards for digital billboards:

(b) Automatic Dimming

During daylight hours, luminance of a digital billboard shall be no greater than 6,500 nits. At all other times, luminance of a digital billboard shall be no greater than 450 nits. In addition, digital billboards shall not operate at brightness levels of more than 0.3 foot candles above ambient light, as measured using a foot candle meter at the following preset distances:

<i>Nominal Face Size</i>	<i>Distance to be Measured From</i>
<i>12' x 25'</i>	<i>150'</i>
<i>10'6" x 36'</i>	<i>200'</i>
<i>14' x 48'</i>	<i>250'</i>
<i>20' x 60'</i>	<i>350'</i>

Automatic dimming is required to keep luminance within permitted levels at all times.

Section 14-906(3)(a) (.7) (. b) (ii) establishes the following illumination standards for accessory and non-accessory signs in the Market Street East area [see attached Sign District area map**] as follows:

For digital displays, during daylight hours luminance shall be no greater than 2,500 nits. At all other times, luminance shall be no greater than 250 nits. Automatic dimming is required to maintain the appropriate illumination levels at all times.

“Urban Experiential Displays”, where approved to be installed, also have extensive illumination standards in Section 14-517.

BACKGROUND

The inspections of work authorized by building permits not only confirm compliance with the Building Code, but also confirm compliance with Zoning Code provisions. However, in the case of digital signage illumination, the Department does not have the equipment or expertise to confirm compliance with the illumination standards of the Zoning Code upon installation of the permitted sign.

Section A-202.4 of the Administrative Code gives the Department the authority to accept reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. All reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such approved agency or by the responsible individual.

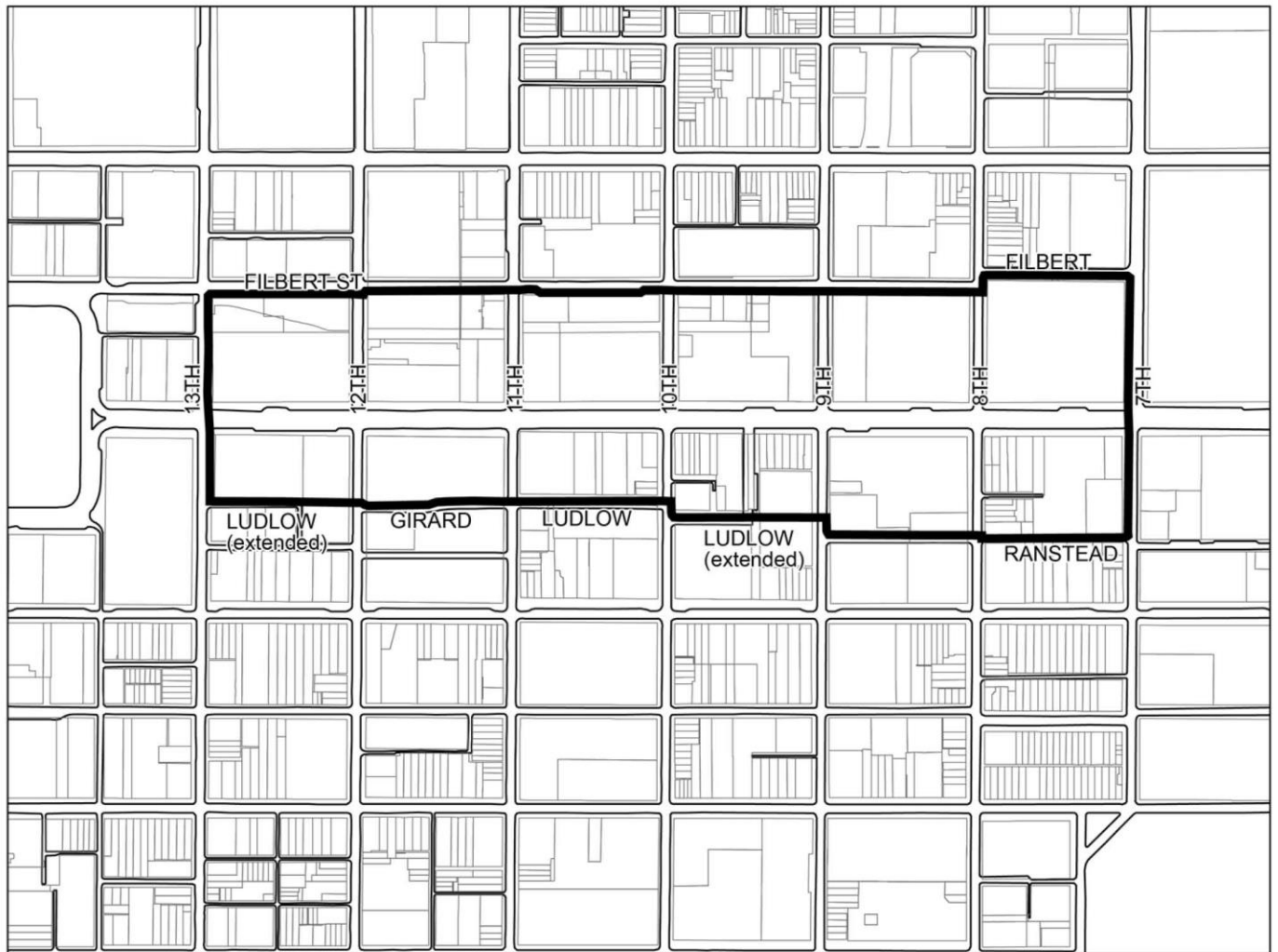
POLICY

Pursuant to Section A-202.4 of the Administrative Code, upon completion of the installation of any digital display signage, the Department shall require that an inspection report be submitted to the inspector by the permit holder for all digital display signage attesting to compliance with the appropriate section(s) of the Code. Such report shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or other approved third-party agency.

All measurements of lumens shall be conducted using properly calibrated equipment, such as luminance meters, by professionals familiar with lighting intensity measurement, following the instrument manufacturer's instructions.

Final permit inspections shall not be approved nor will Certificates of Approval be issued until required luminance inspection reports are submitted. Failure to submit reports within 30 days of completion of the installation will result in the issuance of violation notices and additional enforcement actions.

**please note that map boundaries are subject to change.



Market East Sign Regulation Area (See §14-906(2) for applicability)