

ORDINANCE NO. _____

THE OLYMPIA SIGN DISTRICT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1.	ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OLYMPIA SIGN DISTRICT	5
	A. Authority and Scope	5
Section 2.	PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES.	7
	A. Purposes and Objectives	7
Section 3.	APPLICATION OF SIGN DISTRICT REGULATIONS.	7
	A. Relationship to the Los Angeles Municipal Code	7
	B. On-Site and Off-Site Signs	7
Section 4.	DEFINITIONS.	7
Section 5.	PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.	8
	A. Building Permits	8
	B. Administrative Clearance.	8
	C. Visual Environment Improvement Program	9
Section 6.	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	10
	A. General Requirements of the LAMC	10
	B. Permitted and Prohibited Signs	10
	C. Sign Location Requirements	11
	D. Hazard Review	11
	E. Freeway Exposure.	11
	F. Illumination	11
	G. Visual Maintenance	13
Section 7.	STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF SIGNS	14
	A. Digital Displays	14
Section 8.	SEVERABILITY	14

MAPS

Map 1	Sign District Map
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APPENDICES

Appendix A	Approved Signs
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Appendix B	Conceptual Sign Locations
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Appendix C	Conceptual Sign Drawings
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An ordinance establishing The Olympia Sign District (District) pursuant to the provisions of Section 13.11 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC).

WHEREAS, the District will be located in the Downtown Center, where the General Plan Framework calls for the continuation and expansion of commercial, residential, transportation, entertainment, and visitor-serving functions that distinguish and uniquely identify the Downtown Center;

WHEREAS, the District is located directly across Olympic Boulevard from LA Live and the Staples Center, near the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) and rail transit, and in proximity to several hotels and entertainment venues where unique sign regulations are required to accommodate the convention, entertainment, community, and business character of the properties in and around the Sign District;

WHEREAS, the District is adjacent to the area subject to the existing Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District (LASED) Specific Plan, which includes creative, animated, and other extensive signage rights for properties within the LASED, and development within the LASED has served as a catalyst for investment in the Central City as a key destination for business, entertainment, and cultural activities;

WHEREAS, additional urban infill and redevelopment, including hotels, convention center, multi-family residential, commercial and retail uses, and infrastructure projects on and around LASED continues to transform the South Park neighborhood into a vibrant area comprised of world-class entertainment venues, creative signage, expanded convention facilities, regional attractions, and residential uses with a distinct demographic and aesthetic identity;

WHEREAS, the District will foster a vibrant urban environment with a unified aesthetic and sense of identity, by setting standards for uniform signage design, providing well-planned placement of signage with consideration for surrounding uses, while also providing functional way-finding and building identification along streets, thereby connecting regional transit, entertainment, and LACC areas;

WHEREAS, the District includes the Olympia mixed-use project, which is designed to serve the housing and the hotel needs of the City, and require unique digital displays to be consistent with the adjacent LASED and further evolve the physical and aesthetic identity of the area for residents, visitors, and businesses in the Central City area and further promote the entertainment character of the Sign District and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the permitting of off-site signs and digital displays at the site will directly advance the purposes of improving the aesthetics of the area by carefully regulating the placement and design of such signs.

NOW, THEREFORE,

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OLYMPIA SIGN DISTRICT.

A. Authority and Scope. As of the Effective Date of this Ordinance, the City Council hereby establishes The Olympia Sign District (District), which shall be applicable to that area of the City shown on Map 1 for the area bounded by James M. Wood Boulevard to the north, Olympic Boulevard to the south, the 110 Freeway and Bixel Street to the west, and Georgia Street to the east. Pursuant to LAMC Section 13.11 B, the District is hereby established in the C2 zone encompassing the project area.

Map 1

Sign District Map

Map 1 follows this page.

Section 2. PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES.

A. Purposes and Objectives. The Ordinance is intended to:

1. Support and enhance the land uses and urban design objectives in the Central City Community Plan;
2. Encourage vibrant, clear, attractive, well-designed signage that enhances the District while complementing and protecting the character of the surrounding areas by limiting visual clutter;
3. Ensure that the new off-site signs and digital display signs are responsive to and integrated with the aesthetic character of the structures on which they are located; and
4. Coordinate the location, size, illumination, and sign motion, sign animation and display so as to minimize potential traffic hazards and protect public safety.

Section 3. APPLICATION OF SIGN DISTRICT REGULATIONS.

A. Relationship to the Los Angeles Municipal Code. This Ordinance regulates Off-Site Digital Display Signs within the District. The regulations of this Ordinance are in addition to those set forth in the planning and zoning provisions of the LAMC. Wherever this Ordinance contains provisions that are different from, more restrictive than or more permissive than permitted by the LAMC, this Ordinance shall prevail and supersede the other applicable provisions, including, but not limited to the requirements of Sections 12.32, 13.11, et seq., and Section 14.4.1, et seq.

B. On-Site and Off-Site Signs. The three Digital Display Signs hereby approved in this Ordinance, and all Signs listed in Section 14.4.2 of the LAMC, which are not otherwise prohibited by this Ordinance, shall be allowed. Notwithstanding any other provision of the LAMC or this Ordinance, the three Digital Display Signs approved in this Ordinance may be either an On-Site Sign or Off-Site Sign as such terms are defined in this Ordinance. This Ordinance governs all aspects of Signs that are Off-Site Signs within the District. On-Site Signs located within this Sign District shall be permitted subject to compliance with Article 4.4 of Chapter 1 of the LAMC.

Section 4. DEFINITIONS.

Whenever the following terms are used in this Ordinance, they shall be construed as defined in this Section. Notwithstanding Section 13.11 of the LAMC, words and phrases not defined herein shall be construed as defined in Section 12.03 and Article 4.4 of the LAMC.

Administrative Clearance. A determination by the Director pursuant to Section 5.C of this Ordinance of a Sign's compliance with this Ordinance either as submitted or with conditions imposed to achieve compliance.

Conceptual Sign Drawings. The conceptual Sign locations, plans, elevations, and renderings depicting the approved locations and types of permanent primary Digital Display Signs within the District attached to this Ordinance as Appendices B and C, as the same may be modified or amended from time to time in accordance with Section 5.D of this Ordinance.

Controlled Refresh Rate. The refresh rate of a Sign, inclusive of any change in whole or in part of the Sign image, which shall be no more frequent than one refresh event every eight seconds, with an instant transition between images. The Sign image must remain static between refreshes.

Sign Support Structure. A structure of any kind or character, erected, used or maintained for a Sign upon which any poster, bill, printing, painting, projected image or other message may be placed.

Section 5. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.

A. Building Permits. The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) shall not issue a permit for a Sign within the District unless it is authorized by Section 5 of this Ordinance when the Sign complies with:

1. The requirements of this Ordinance as determined by the Director of the Department of City Planning (Director); and
2. Applicable requirements of the LAMC that are not otherwise superseded by this Ordinance.

Sign types other than Digital Displays and Off-Site Signage are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.

B. Administrative Clearance.

1. **Required.** LADBS shall not issue a permit for any Digital Display or Off-Site Signs, unless the Director has issued an Administrative Clearance pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 12.32 S.4 of the LAMC.

2. **No Further Approvals Needed.** No further Administrative Clearance or modification thereto, or any Project Permit Adjustment or any exception, amendment or interpretation of this Ordinance shall be required for:

a. The construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement or structural alteration of a Sign that was previously approved pursuant to this Ordinance;

b. A change in Sign advertising or Sign text, images or copy;

c. Any construction required in order to comply with an order issued by LADBS to repair or replace an unsafe or substandard condition;

d. A modification to any Sign, Approved Sign, any Sign Support Structure or to the Conceptual Sign Drawings that results in:

i. A change of a Sign from a Digital Display to a Non-Digital Display, or

ii. Relocation of any such Sign if it complies with the location requirements in Section 6.D.1 of this Ordinance and the Total Off-Site Sign Area limitations in Section 6.C of this Ordinance.

3. Definitions. For purposes of any review required by this Ordinance pursuant to Section 11.5.7 of the LAMC, the term "specific plan," wherever used in Section 11.5.7 of the LAMC, shall be deemed to refer to this Ordinance and the term "Project" shall be deemed to refer, as the case may be, to a "Sign" or to the "Conceptual Sign Plan."

4. Process; Decision-Making Authority. Requests for Project Permit Adjustment, Exception, Amendment or Interpretation from or of this Ordinance, or an Administrative Clearance, shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 11.5.7 and 12.32 S.4 of the LAMC, respectively.

C. Visual Environment Improvement Program.

Sign reduction is required for all Off-Site Signs in compliance with the regulations of this Section. An applicant shall seek sign reduction approval by filing an application with the Director pursuant to Section 12.32 S.4(a) of the LAMC:

1. Removal of Off-Site Signage. A maximum of three Digital Display Signs may be permitted to be Off-Site Signs, subject to the following sign reduction requirements, which shall be satisfied prior to the activation of any Off-Site Digital Display Sign.

a. Sign Credit. A minimum of one square foot of existing, legally permitted Off-Site Sign shall be removed for one square foot of sign area credit for an Off-Site Digital Display Sign within the Sign District.

b. Location. Each Off-Site Sign that is removed shall be located within the sign impact area (the Central City, Westlake, Southeast Los Angeles, South Los Angeles Community Plan areas, or within the boundary of Council District 14).

c. In Lieu Fee. This ordinance does not contain an in lieu fee that can be paid to the City in lieu of removing existing signage to qualify for sign credit to install a new Digital Display Sign. However, the City may in the future, through the Citywide Sign Ordinance or some other legislation, adopt an in lieu signage fee that expressly applies to signs within the boundaries of this Olympia Sign District.

2. Proof of Legal Status, Removal Rights and Indemnification. Sign reduction shall not be approved unless the applicant submits the following with the application form:

a. Valid Building Permit. A valid building permit demonstrating that the sign to be removed constitutes a legal use.

b. Property Owner's Statement. A written statement from the owner of the property from which the sign(s) will be removed attesting that the owner has the legal right to remove the sign at issue and agrees that once removed the sign(s) at issue may not be reinstalled. This written statement must be signed under penalty of perjury and notarized.

c. Indemnification. An executed agreement from the applicant promising to defend and indemnify the City against any and all legal challenges filed by a third party relating to the removal of the sign(s).

3. Proof of Sign Removal. With respect to each removed Off-Site Sign, the applicant shall submit a final demolition permit (if such permit is required for the sign removal) and photographic evidence that such sign has been removed prior to the issuance of any building permit for an Off-Site Sign.

4. Transfer of Rights. Signage rights awarded pursuant to this section shall not be used to install signs on any property outside of this District, or in violation of the requirements of this Ordinance. Nor shall the removal of a sign under this Section 5 to obtain sign rights in this sign district be used to also gain sign rights in any other Sign District.

Section 6. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

A. General Requirements of the LAMC. A building permit shall be obtained from LADBS in accordance with the applicable provisions of LAMC, for any signs, sign structures, and/or sign alterations, other than changes to or replacement of sign face copy.

B. Permitted and Prohibited Signs.

1. Permitted Signs. Unless specifically prohibited by this Ordinance, all signs permitted by the LAMC shall be permitted within the District.

2. **Prohibited Signs.** Supergraphic signs pursuant to LAMC Section 14.4.4.

C. Sign Location Requirements. The following provisions shall be in addition to the provisions set forth in Section 6 of this Ordinance.

1. **Location.** A Sign affixed to a structure shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance with respect to location if the Sign's location is as depicted on the Conceptual Sign Drawings in Appendices B and C, or within 10 percent of the height or width of the façade (in feet) of that location.

D. Hazard Review. Signs that adhere to the regulations outlined in this Ordinance shall be exempt from the Hazard Determination review procedures in the LAMC.

E. Freeway Exposure. Signs that adhere to the regulations outlined in this Ordinance shall be exempt from the Freeway Exposure regulations in the LAMC.

F. Illumination.

1. **General.** Signs within the District may be illuminated by either internal or external means. Methods of Sign illumination may include, but are not limited to, electric lamps, such as neon tubes; fiber optics; incandescent lamps; LED; LCD; cathode ray tubes exposed directly to view; shielded spot lights; and wall wash fixtures.

2. **Regulations.** Signs shall meet the following criteria with respect to illumination:

- a. The intensity of each digital display shall be controlled with a photocell with an adjustable set-point that measures available daylight. This set-point shall be used to control the intensity of the Sign output to either the daytime or nighttime brightness standards set forth below.

- b. The brightness of any digital display that includes neon, neon-like, or LED elements shall be fully dimmable and controlled by a timer, which shall be maintained in good working order.

- c. All illuminated Signs shall be designed, located, and/or screened so as to minimize light travel onto the exterior walls of residential units and the public right-of-way.

- d. All light emitting diodes used within any illuminated Sign shall have a maximum horizontal beam spread of 165 degrees with a maximum vertical beam spread of 65 degrees. The maximum or peak light output of any Sign shall be at or below horizontal.

e. Light emitting diodes on Signs shall be oriented down towards the street, rather than up towards the sky, or Signs should be provided with a method of shielding diodes so that lighting is not wasted shining into the night sky.

f. Illumination Testing Protocol for Digital Displays. Prior to the operation of the Digital Display, the applicant shall conduct testing to indicate compliance with the illumination regulations of this Ordinance, and provide a copy of the results along with a certification from an LADBS approved testing agency to the Director and to LADBS stating that the testing results demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. The testing shall be at the applicant's expense and shall be conducted as follows:

i. Testing. In order to determine whether the illumination complies with the Code and the requirements of this Ordinance, a representative testing site shall be established on or next to those light sensitive receptors, as defined by the City's CEQA Guidelines, which have the greatest exposure to signage lighting on each of the four facades of the Project. A light meter mounted to a tripod at eye level, facing the Project buildings, shall be calibrated and measurements taken to determine ambient light levels with the sign on. An opaque object shall be used to block out the view of the sign and the building from the light meter at a distance of at least 4 feet away from the tripod. A reading shall then be taken to determine the ambient light levels with the sign blocked from view of the light meter. The difference between the two measurements shall be the amount of light the sign casts onto the sensitive receptor. Alternatively, the applicant may measure light levels by using the same tripod and same light meter, but by turning the signage on and off.

ii. Metering. The illumination and intensity levels of all Digital Displays shall also be metered from a minimum of four perspectives (i.e., a perspective metering each facade) using the Candela as unit of measurement, and shall indicate conformance with the standards of this Ordinance.

iii. Re-testing. In addition, if, as a result of a complaint or otherwise, LADBS has cause to believe the Project's signage lighting is not in compliance with this Ordinance, LADBS may request, at the expense of the applicant or its successor, that the testing protocol outlined in this section be implemented to determine compliance. If the testing reveals that the signage is not in compliance with the Code, this Ordinance, or Mitigation Measures set forth in the Environmental Clearance that the City certified for this Ordinance, the applicant or its successor shall

adjust the signage illumination to bring it into compliance immediately.

iv. **Reporting Program.** The applicant shall, at their own expense, submit a report to LADBS and the Department of City Planning documenting compliance with the provisions of this section six months after obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy, and every 12 months after.

3. **Illuminance.** Illuminance from Signs A, B, and C shall not exceed 0.3 foot candles above ambient illuminance.

4. **Nighttime Brightness.** Signs at Location A, B, and C shall have a brightness after sunset and before sunrise of no greater than 300 candelas per square meter.

5. **Daytime Brightness.** All Signs shall transition smoothly at a consistent rate from the daytime illuminance to the permitted nighttime illuminance levels, beginning 45 minutes prior to sunset and concluding 45 minutes after sunset.

6. **Refresh Rate.**

a. Digital Display A, B, and C is subject to the Controlled Refresh Rate.

7. **Sign Hours of Operation.** Permitted hours of operation for Digital Displays shall be from 5 a.m. to midnight.

G. Visual Maintenance. All Signs shall be maintained to meet the following criteria at all times:

1. The building and ground area around all Signs shall be properly maintained. All unused mounting structures, hardware, and wall perforation from any abandoned Sign shall be removed and building surfaces shall be restored to their original condition.

2. All Sign copy shall be properly maintained and kept free from damage and other unsightly conditions, including graffiti.

3. All Sign Support Structures shall be kept in good repair and maintained in a safe and sound condition and in conformity with all applicable codes.

4. Razor wire, barbed wire, concertina wire, or other barriers preventing unauthorized access to any Sign, if any, shall be hidden from public view.

5. The Sign copy must be repaired or replaced immediately upon tearing, ripping, or peeling, or when marred or damaged by graffiti.

6. No access platform, ladder, or other service appurtenance, visible from the sidewalk, street, or public right-of-way, shall be installed or attached to any Sign Support Structure.

7. Signs that are no longer serving the current tenants, including Sign Support Structures, shall be removed and the building facades originally covered by the Signs shall be repaired and/or resurfaced with materials and colors that are compatible with the facades.

8. Any Sign that includes individual or corporate names as part of the building identification shall be designed so as to present internally consistent and internally proportionate Sign copy.

9. Signs that include individual or corporate names shall utilize lettering size and styles which are generally uniform, in order that all words or names within the Sign are not of a significantly different scale than the rest of the Sign copy.

Section 7. STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF SIGNS.

A. Digital Displays.

1. General. Digital Displays shall be subject to the refresh rate and illumination regulations set forth in Section 6 of this Ordinance.

2. Total Off-Site Digital Displays. A total of three (3) Off-Site Digital Displays shall be permitted within this Sign District.

3. Total Area. A single Off-Site Digital Display shall not exceed 1,200 square feet of area.

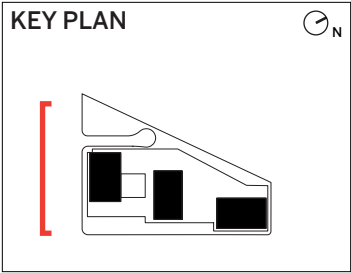
a. Signs Spanning Two Elevations. Signs which span two elevations, or wrap a corner, shall count as one total sign with each face shall contribute to the total area for that sign.

4. Illumination. Digital Displays shall comply with the illumination requirements in Section 6 of this Ordinance.

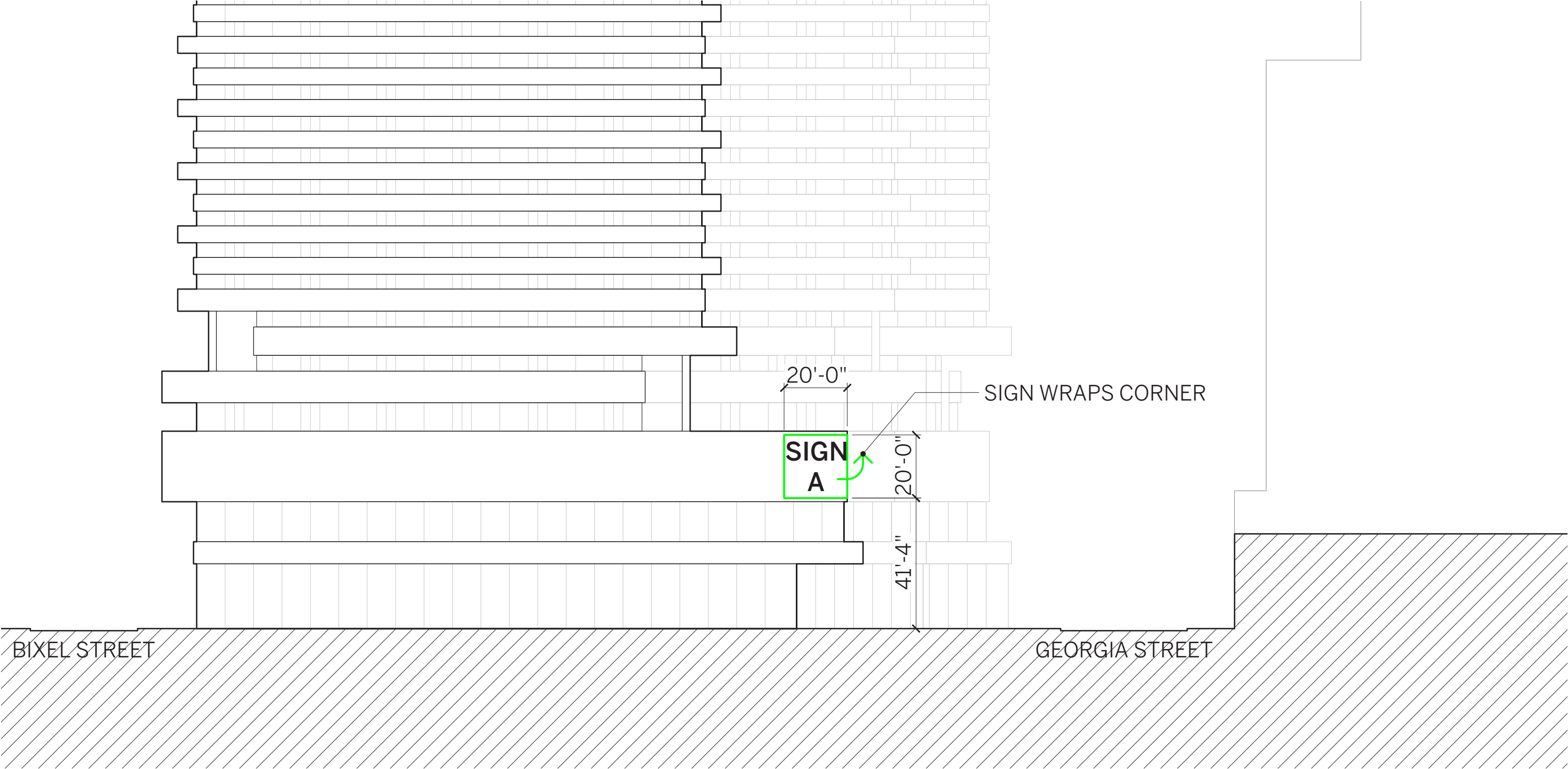
Section 8. SEVERABILITY.

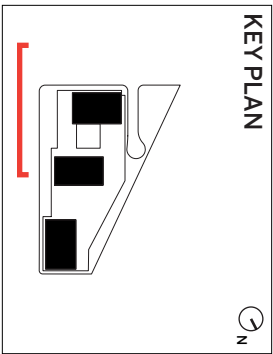
If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions, clauses or applications of said Ordinance, which can be implemented without the invalid provision, clause or application, and to this end, the provisions and clauses of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

Appendix A
Approved Signs

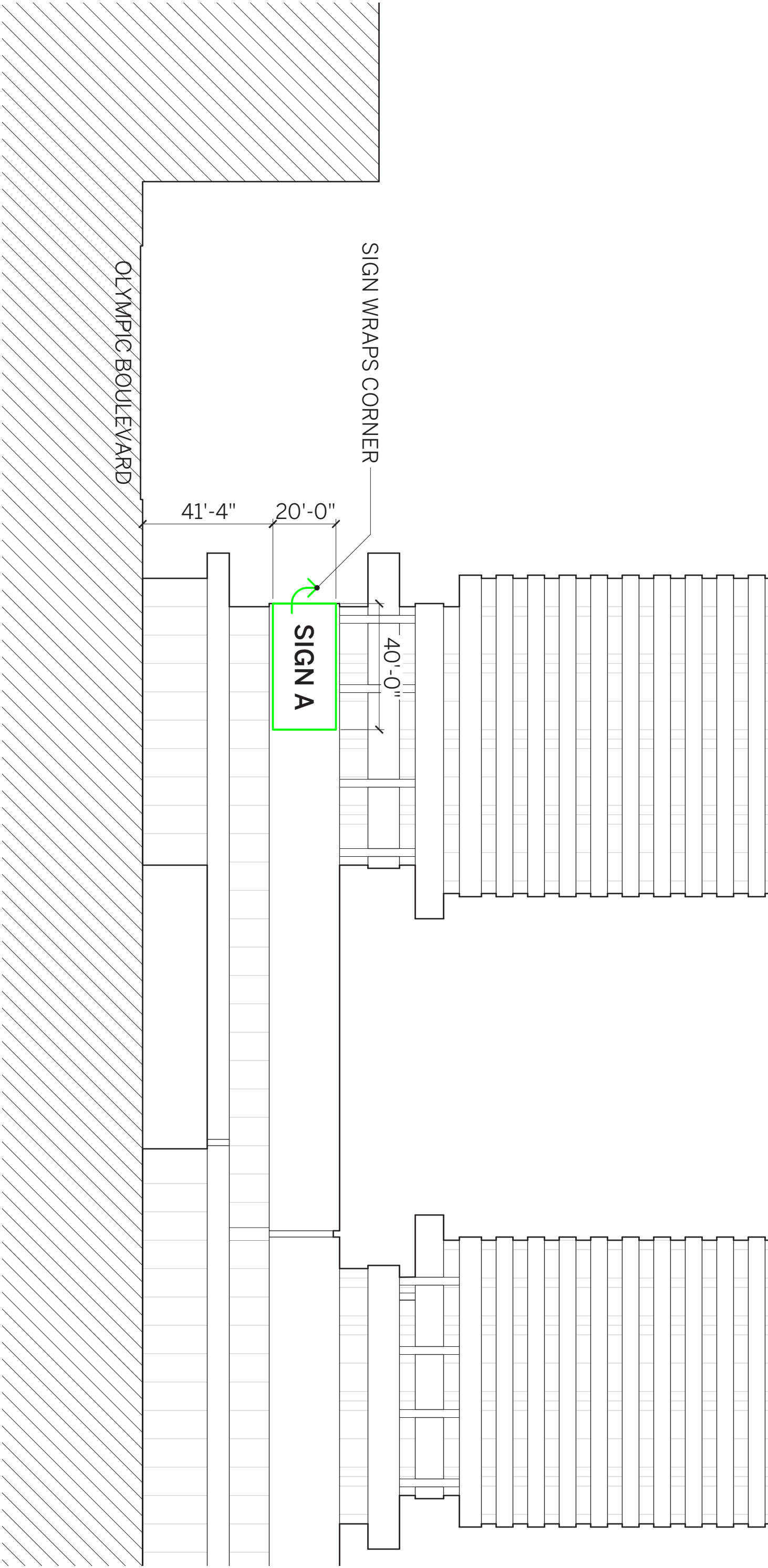


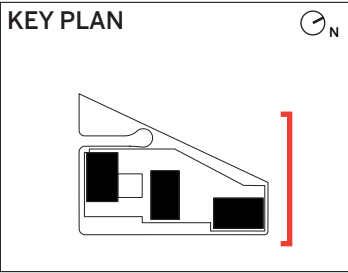
SIGN A
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN, WRAPS CORNER
20' H x 60' L = 1,200SF



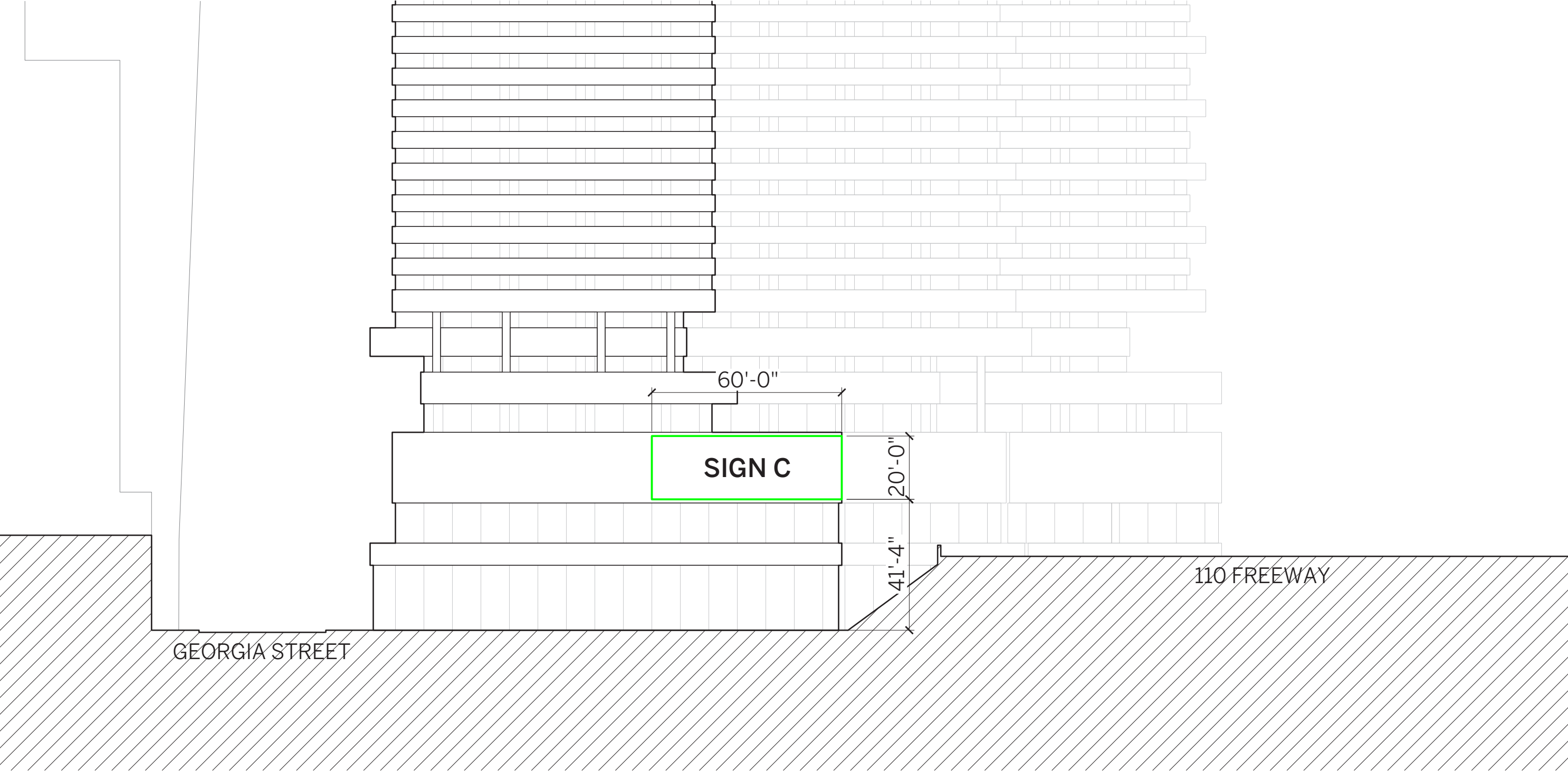


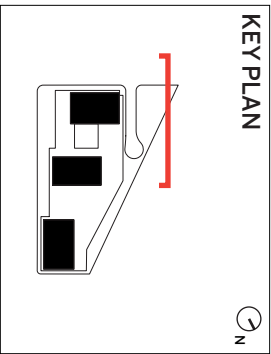
SIGN A
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN, WRAPS CORNER
20' H x 60' L = 1,200SF



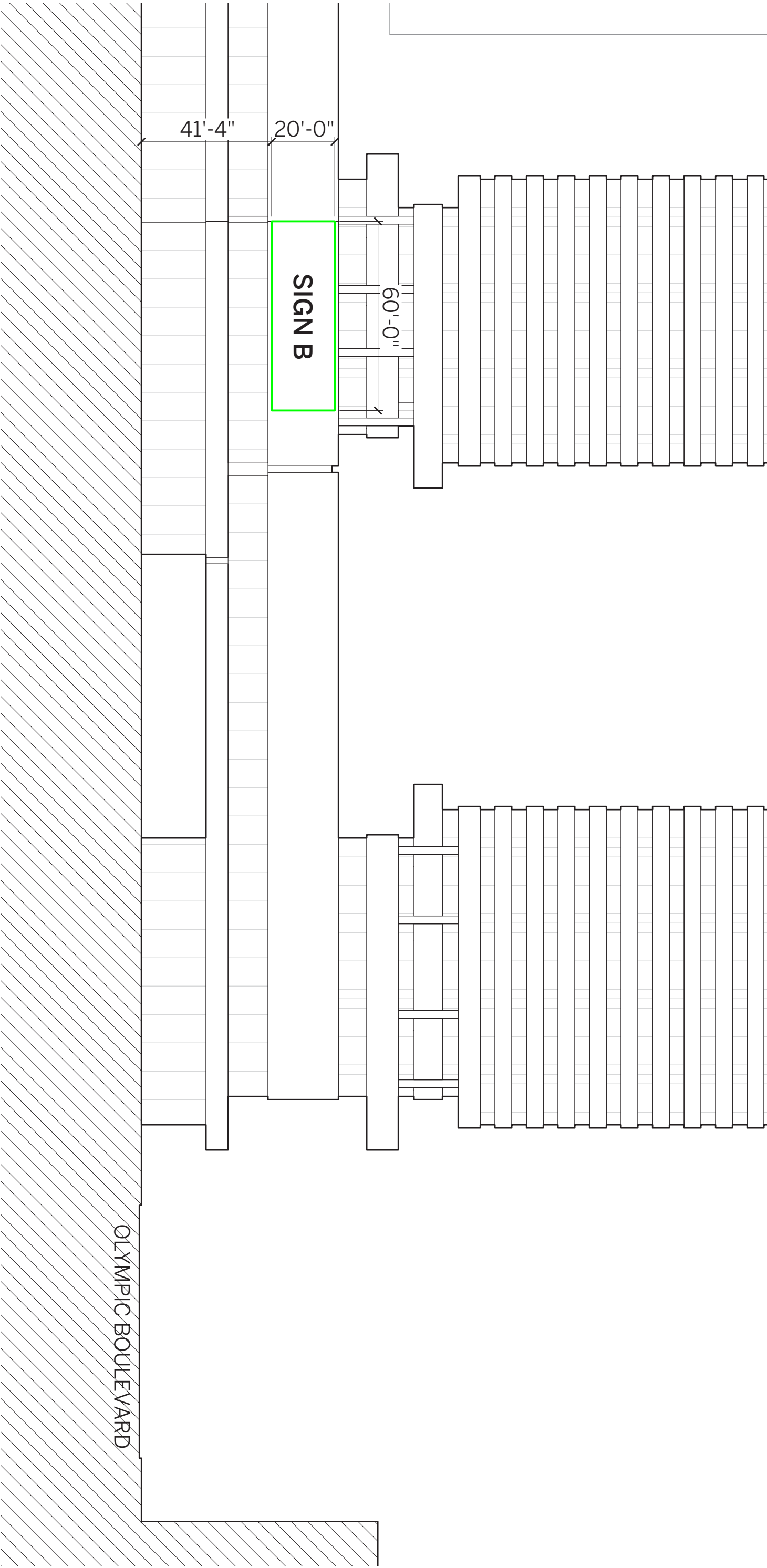


SIGN C
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN
20' H x 60' L = 1,200SF

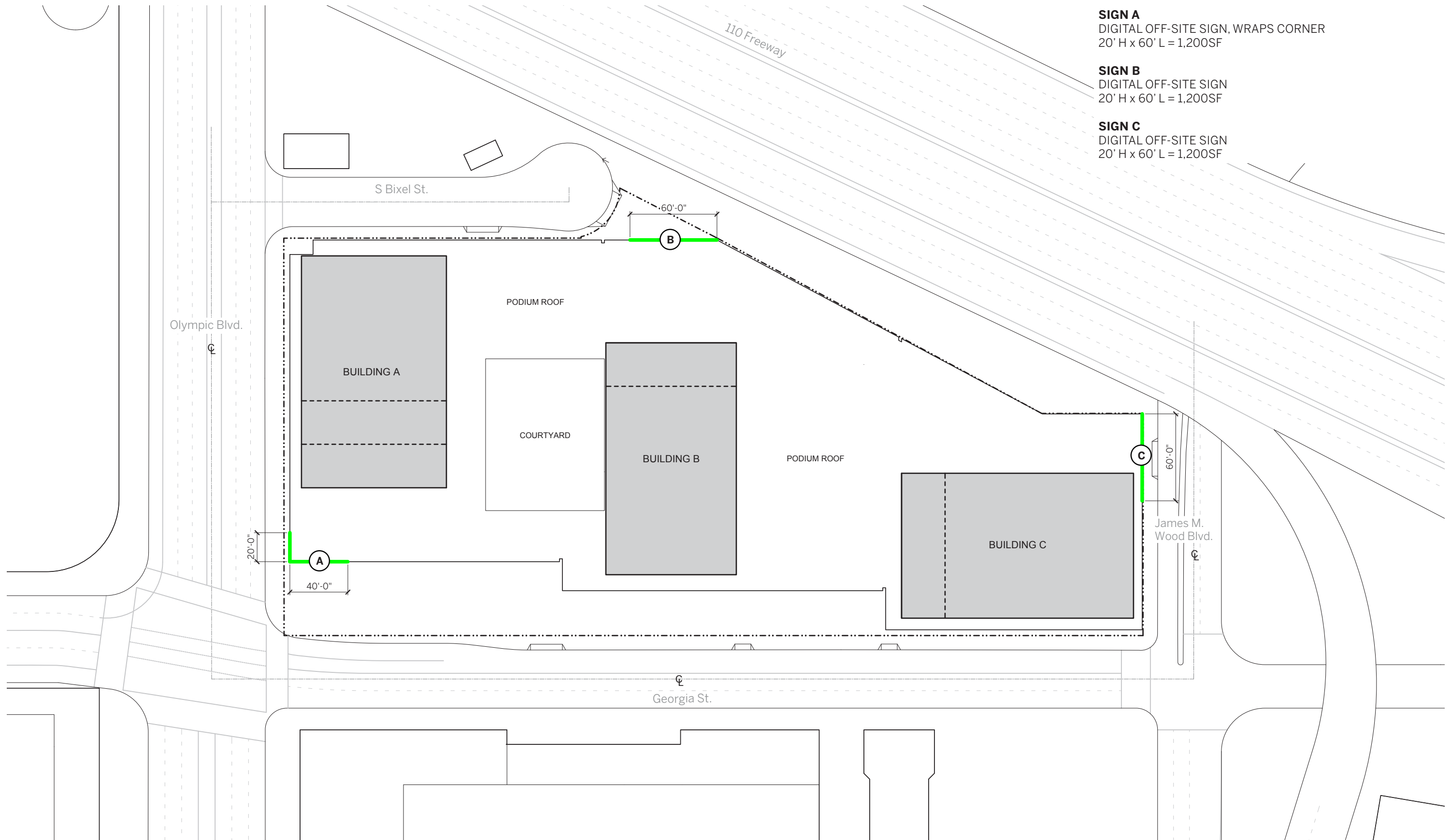




SIGN B
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN
20' H x 60' L = 1,200SF

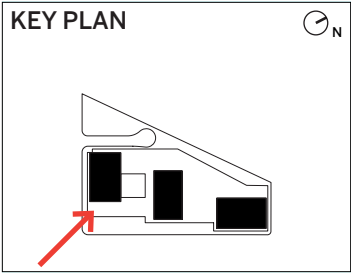


Appendix B
Conceptual Sign Locations

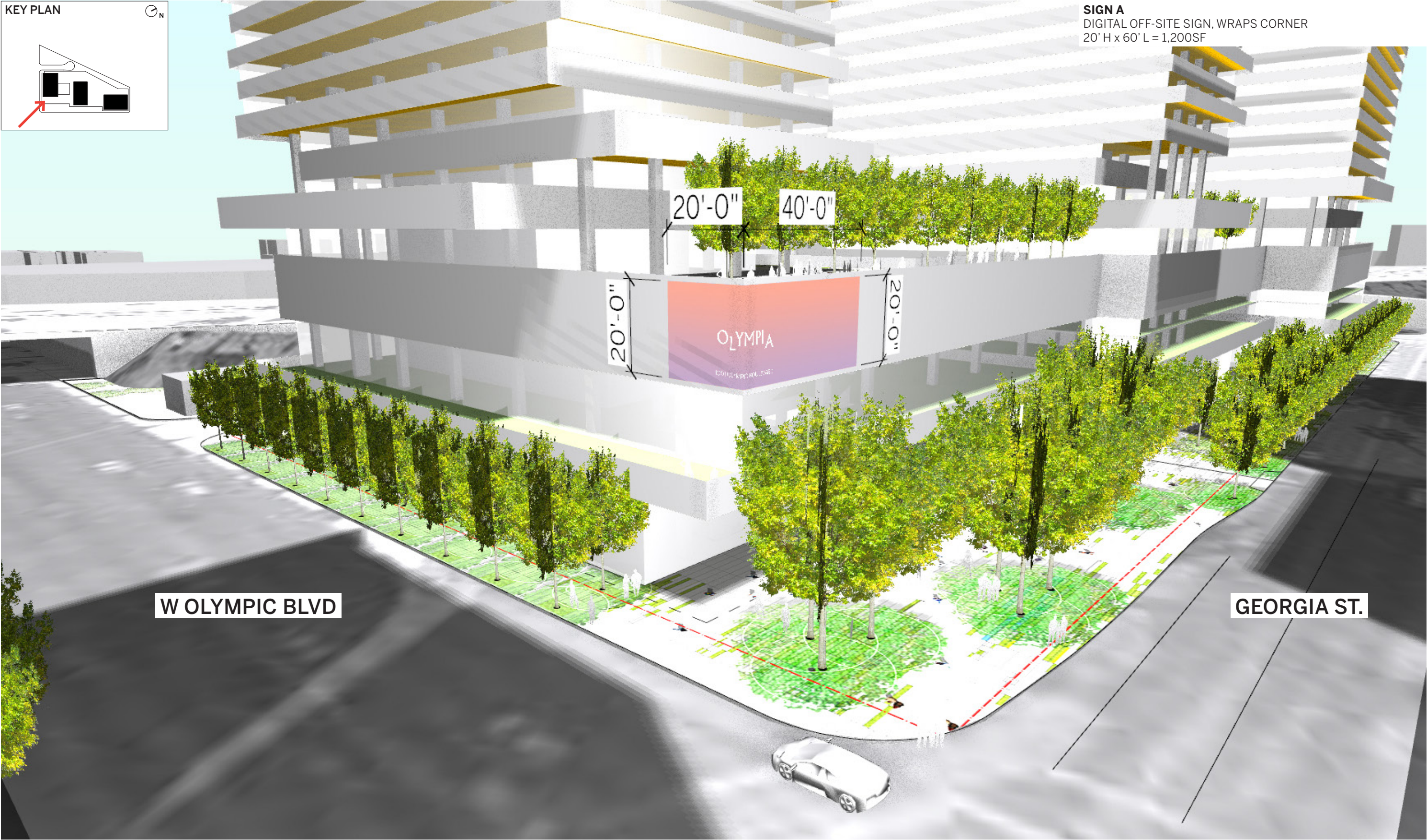


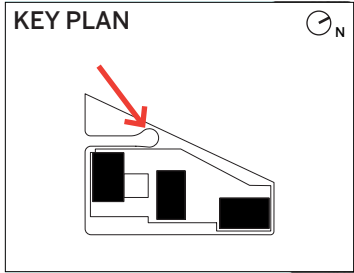
Appendix C

Conceptual Sign Drawings



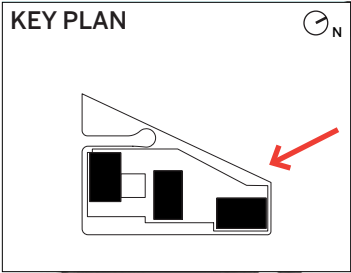
SIGN A
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN, WRAPS CORNER
20' H x 60' L = 1,200SF





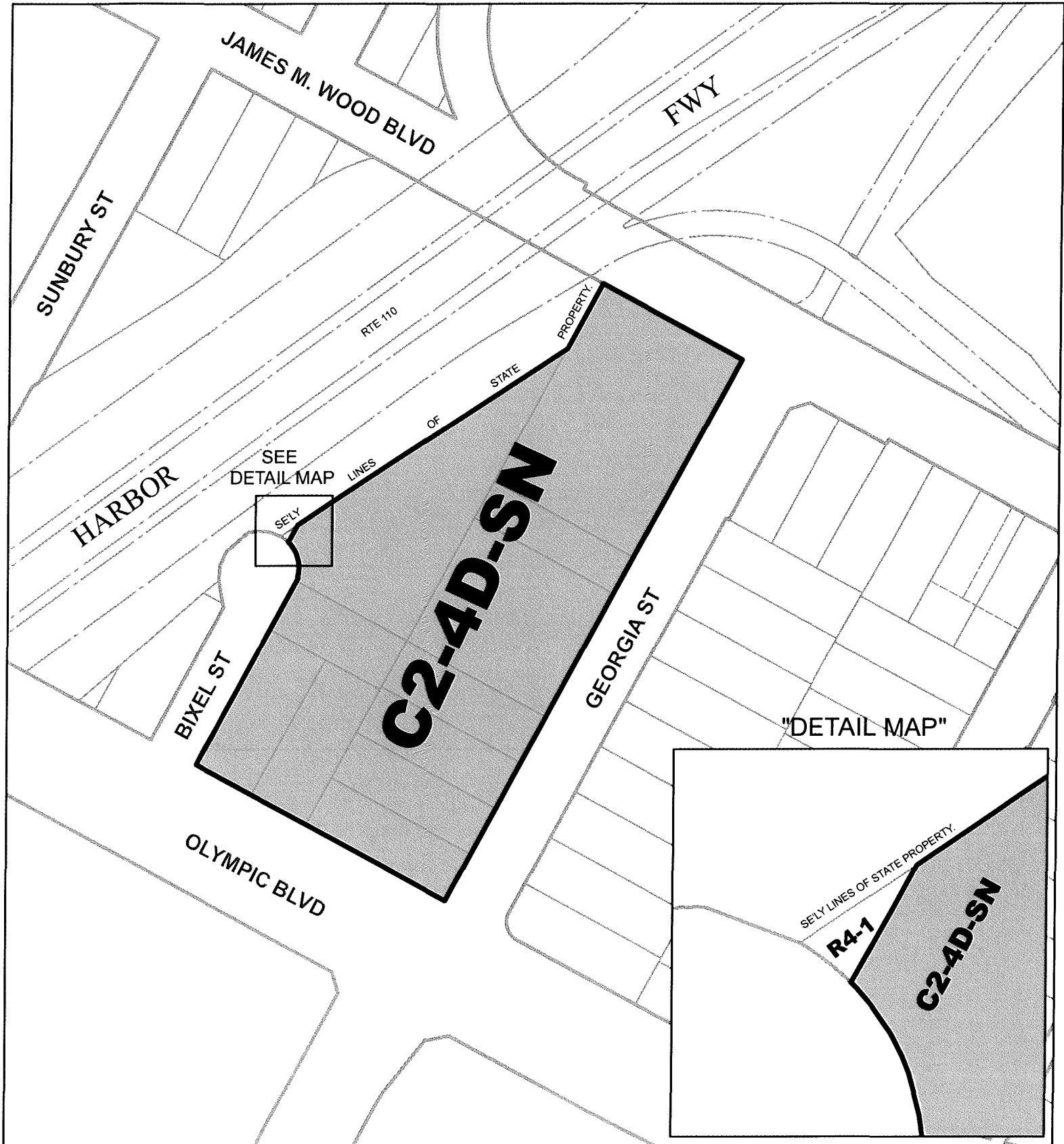
SIGN B
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN
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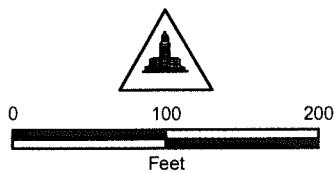
SIGN C
DIGITAL OFF-SITE SIGN
20' H x 60' L = 1,200SF





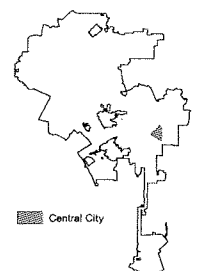
OLYMPIA SIGN DISTRICT

SUFFIX **SN** WAS ADDED
BECAUSE AREA IS NOW
INCLUDED IN A SIGN DISTRICT.



CPC-2016-4888-TDR-SN-MCUP-SPR

City of Los Angeles



Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting of _____.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, City Clerk

By _____ Deputy

Approved _____

Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

Pursuant to Charter Section 559, **I disapprove**
this ordinance on behalf of the City Planning
Commission and recommend that it be adopted.

_____, 2019

See attached report.

By _____
KENNETH T. FONG
Deputy City Attorney

Vincent P. Bertoni
Director of Planning

Date _____

File No(s). CF19-0825