

Placard Installation Guidelines

Division of Planning and Permitting

Frederick County, MD

June 2020

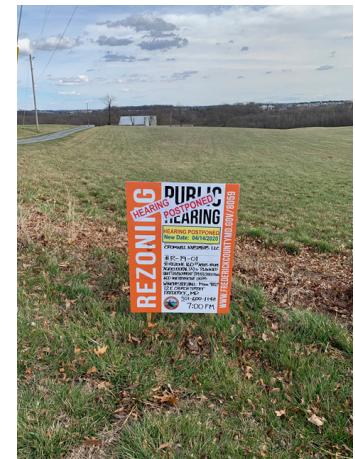
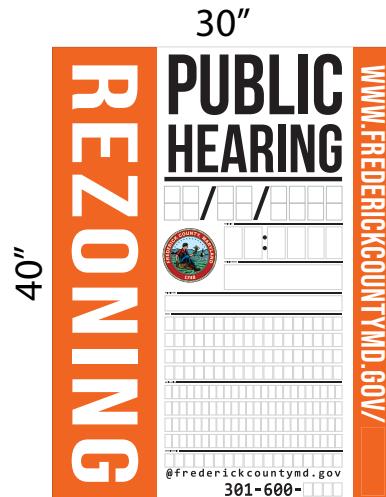
Sign installation (and maintenance) is the responsibility of the applicant. The following information provides description of ways in which placards may be installed based on the experience of staff thus far. Note #3 is likely the best approach (reusable panel system):

1) The smaller 'double-H' style metal wire supports typically used for supporting the previous smaller placard design do not provide sufficient support for the newer larger placards. County staff have tested three separate configurations using the double-H wire supports, including perpendicular and lateral support combinations, and have witnessed support failures even in mild wind conditions. The image to the right shows the tangled remains of a "double-H" configuration after a relatively tame spring storm.



2) An appropriately robust structure for these placards will provide support along the x, y, and z-axes, and thus prevent tipping, bending, twisting of the placard under gusty wind conditions. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide adequate structural support for the placards issued by Frederick County. But the precise solution is left up to each applicant.

County staff have utilized both wooden (2x2 treated pine boards) and metal (powder-coated steel garden fence U-posts) materials as support posts, using zip ties inserted through pre-drilled or pre-punched holes to secure the placard to the posts.



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3) For those applicants who are frequently required to post placards in Frederick County, a reusable system would be most cost effective. A plywood slab, with integral posts (wood or metal), and with pre-drilled holes for zip ties might provide an easy-to-deploy system that can be carried easily in a passenger vehicle. Keep in mind that a flat plywood panel will also perform well as a sail, and should be secured to the ground at a third location along an axis perpendicular to the plane of the placard/board. A triangular arrangement of three interconnected posts would greatly improve the chances of the placard surviving even the most violent of summer thunderstorms in Central Maryland.

4) The associated images demonstrate structural supports using 4 posts and two or three connecting boards that allow the components to work together as a structural system capable of outlasting the required posting time for these placards. Zip ties are visible as they penetrate the placards. We suggest securing the placards to the support structure in at least three locations, with as much separation between the ties as possible.

