



## Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

# **81-70 - SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THEATER SUBDISTRICT**

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## 81-70 - SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THEATER SUBDISTRICT

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LAST AMENDED  
5/13/1982

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### 81-71 - General Provisions

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LAST AMENDED  
9/13/2006

The regulations of Sections [81-72](#) to [81-75](#), inclusive, relating to Special Regulations for the Theater Subdistrict, are applicable only in the Theater Subdistrict, of which the Theater Subdistrict Core and the Eighth Avenue Corridor are parts, except that any listed theater designated in Section [81-742](#), or portion thereof, located outside of the Theater Subdistrict shall be deemed to be a “granting site” pursuant to Section [81-744](#) (Transfer of development rights from listed theaters).

The Theater Subdistrict is bounded by West 57th Street, Avenue of the Americas, West 40th Street, Eighth Avenue, West 42nd Street, a line 150 feet west of Eighth Avenue, West 45th Street and Eighth Avenue.

The Theater Subdistrict Core is bounded by West 50th Street, a line 200 feet west of Avenue of the Americas, West 43rd Street and a line 100 feet east of Eighth Avenue.

The Eighth Avenue Corridor is bounded by West 56th Street, a line 100 feet east of Eighth Avenue, West 43rd Street, Eighth Avenue, West 42nd Street, a line 150 feet west of Eighth Avenue, West 45th Street and Eighth Avenue.

The west side of Eighth Avenue between 42nd and 45th Streets is also subject to the provisions of the Special Clinton District to the extent set forth in Article IX, Chapter 6, subject to Section [81-023](#) (Applicability of Special Clinton District regulations).

These boundaries are shown on Map 1 (Special Midtown District and Subdistricts) in Appendix A of this Chapter. The regulations of Sections [81-72](#) to [81-75](#), inclusive, supplement or modify the regulations of this Chapter applying generally to the #Special Midtown District# of which the Subdistrict is a part.

In order to preserve and protect the character of the Theater Subdistrict as a cultural, theatrical and entertainment showcase as well as to help ensure a secure basis for the useful cluster of shops, restaurants and related amusement activities, special incentives and controls are provided for the preservation and rehabilitation of existing theaters and special restrictions are placed on ground floor #uses# within the Subdistrict. In order to preserve and protect the special scale and character of the Theater Subdistrict Core, which includes Times Square, special #building# #street wall# height and setback controls and requirements for the inclusion of #illuminated signs# and entertainment and entertainment-related #uses# apply within the Subdistrict Core. In order to ensure the orderly growth and development of the Eighth Avenue Corridor and its transition to the scale and character of adjoining midblocks, special #building# #street wall#, height and setback controls apply within the Corridor. In order to preserve and maintain the character of the western edge of the Theater Subdistrict as both an integral part of the Theater Subdistrict and as a transition to the Clinton neighborhood, the west side of Eighth Avenue between 42nd and 45th Streets is also subject to the provisions of the Special Clinton District.

A Theater Subdistrict Council shall be created comprised of the Mayor, three (3) representatives appointed by the Mayor from the performing arts, theatrical and related industries, the Director of the Department of City Planning, the Speaker of the City Council and his or her designee, and the Manhattan Borough President. The members shall choose a Chair from among themselves. The Theater Subdistrict Council shall be a not-for-profit corporation whose organizational purpose shall be limited solely to promoting theater and theater-related use and preservation within the Theater Subdistrict and promoting the welfare of the Theater Subdistrict generally. The goals of the Theater Subdistrict Council shall include enhancing the long-term viability of Broadway by facilitating the production of plays and small musicals within the Theater Subdistrict, developing new

audiences for all types of theatrical productions, and monitoring preservation and use covenants in Broadway's "listed theaters."

The Theater Subdistrict Council shall adopt a plan every three years for the sale, distribution and marketing of reduced price tickets to new and undeveloped audience groups. Such plan shall include locations outside of the Theater Subdistrict where such reduced price tickets will be available. The plan shall also include a way to evaluate yearly its effectiveness by:

- (a) the number of tickets sold; and
- (b) the penetration of the new identified markets which shall be reported to the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission and filed with the Council of the City of New York.

The Theater Subdistrict Council shall advise the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission concerning applications for any special permit, authorization or certification pursuant to the special regulations for the Theater Subdistrict and shall be the holder and administrator of the funds received in connection with transfers of development rights from "listed theaters" pursuant to Section [81-744](#) in accordance with the provisions for the Theater Subdistrict Fund set forth in paragraph (h) of Section [81-741](#) (General provisions).

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## **81-72 - Use Regulations Modified**

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

The #use# regulations of this Section, inclusive, shall apply within that portion of the Theater Subdistrict bounded by West 40th Street, a line 100 feet east of Eighth Avenue, West 51st Street and a line 200 feet west of Avenue of the Americas, to #buildings# #developed# after May 13, 1982, to portions of #buildings# #enlarged# on the ground floor level after May 13, 1982, and to #extensions#.

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### **81-721 - Required use allocations on street frontages**

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LAST AMENDED  
8/6/1998

#Uses# located on the ground floor or entered by stairs from a sidewalk entry, except for #uses# with no #street# frontage and accessible only through a lobby, shall be limited as follows:

- (a) On any #wide street#, at least 80 percent of any #wide street# #front lot line# ground level frontage shall be allocated to #uses# indicated in Section [81-722](#) (Use Group T).
- (b) On any #narrow street#, at least 50 percent of any #narrow street# #front lot line# ground level frontage shall be allocated to #uses# indicated in Section [81-722](#).
- (c) For #zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Broadway and/or Seventh Avenue, at least 50 percent of any length of #narrow street# #front lot line# ground level frontage within 100 feet of Broadway or Seventh Avenue shall be allocated to #uses# permitted only on #wide street# frontages in Section [81-722](#).

Where a stairway entrance into a subway is relocated onto a #zoning lot# pursuant to Section [81-46](#) (Off-street Relocation or Renovation of a Subway Stair), up to, but not more than, 40 feet of the #narrow street# #front lot line# ground level frontage occupied by that stairway may be excluded from the length of #narrow street# frontage to which the requirements of this Section apply.

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### **81-722 - Use Group T**

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The following #uses# are subject to the limitations on location and #floor area# of the underlying zoning district:

#Uses# marked with an asterisk (\*) are allowed only on #narrow street# frontages.

#Uses# marked with double asterisks (\*\*) are allowed only on floors other than the ground floor.

#Uses# marked thus (\*\*\*) qualify as #uses# satisfying the requirements of Section [81-724](#) (Requirements for entertainment-related uses).

#Use#

Ambulatory diagnostic or treatment health care facilities listed in Use Group 4

Antique stores

#Apartment hotels# - lobby space is limited to 20 percent of total #zoning lot# frontage on #wide streets#

Appliance, repair shops - not permitted in C5 Districts

Appliances, sales

Art galleries, commercial

\* Art galleries, non-commercial

Art metalcraft shops

Art needlework

Artists' supply stores

Athletic goods stores

\*\*\* Auditoriums

\* Automobile rental establishments - not permitted in C5 Districts

Bakeries

Banks - limited to 15 percent of total #zoning lot# frontage on #wide streets#

\* Banquet halls

\*\* Barber shops

\*\* Beauty parlors

Bicycle stores, rental or repair - not permitted in C5 Districts

Bicycle stores, sales

\* Blueprinting establishments

- \* Boarding houses

Book stores or card stores

- \* Bowling alleys - not permitted in C5 Districts

- \*\* Business machines, small shops, rental, repairs, sales

- \*\* Business schools or colleges

Candy stores

Carpet, rug, linoleum or other floor covering stores

- \* Catering establishments

Cigar stores

Clock or watch stores or repair shops

Clothing rental establishments

Clothing stores

- \* Clubs, non-commercial

Coin stores

- \* Colleges or universities

- \* Community centers

- \* Convents

- \*\*\* Costume rental establishment

- \*\* Dance halls, public - not permitted in C5 Districts

Delicatessen stores

Dressmaking shops, custom

Drug stores

- \* Dry cleaning establishments

Dry goods or fabric stores

Eating or drinking establishments with entertainment but not dancing, with a capacity of 200 persons or less in C5 Districts, without restrictions in C6 or M1 Districts

- \*\*\* Eating or drinking places - where there is entertainment or dancing in C6 Districts.

- \* Fire stations

Fishing tackle or equipment, stores or rental establishments

Florist shops

Food stores, including supermarkets, grocery stores, markets or delicatessen stores

Furniture stores

Furrier shops, custom

Gift shops

Hair products for headwear

Hardware stores

#Health and fitness establishments#

Historical exhibits - not permitted in C5 Districts

Hotels, where permitted pursuant to Section [32-02](#) (Special Provisions for Hotels) - lobby space limited to 20 percent of total #zoning lot# frontage on #wide streets#

- \* Household appliance repair shops - not permitted in C5 Districts

- \* Houses of worship

Ice cream stores

- \* Institutions, philanthropic or non-profit

Interior decorating establishments

Jewelry shops

Leather goods or luggage stores

- \* Libraries

Locksmith shops

Luggage stores

- \* Meeting halls

Millinery shops

- \*\*\* Motion picture production studios

- \* Museums

- \*\*\* Music stores

- \*\*\* Musical instruments, repair

Newsstands, enclosed

Office or business machine stores, sales or rental

Offices - only lobby space is permitted at grade on #wide street# frontages; lobby is limited to 20 percent of total #zoning lot# frontage on #wide streets#

Optician or optometrist establishments

Orthopedic stores

Paint stores

- \* Parish houses
- \* Parks, public or private

#Parking lots, public# and #parking garages, public#, subject to the provisions of Section [81-30](#) (OFF-STREET PARKING AND OFF-STREET LOADING REGULATIONS)

Pet shops

- \* Phonographic repair shops - not permitted in C5 Districts

Photographic developing or printing establishments

Photographic equipment stores

Photographic studios

Photographic supply stores

- \* Photostatting establishments

Picture framing stores

- \* Police stations
- \* Post offices
- \* Printing establishments
- \* Radio appliance repair - not permitted in C5 Districts
- \*\*\* Record stores
- \* Recreation centers, non-commercial
- \* Rectories

#Residences# - only lobby space is permitted at grade on #wide streets#; lobby space is limited to 20 percent of total #zoning lot# frontage on #wide streets#

- \* Rooming houses
- \* #Schools#
- \* Settlement houses

Sewing machine stores, selling household machines

- \* Shoe repair shops

Shoe stores

- \* Sign painting shops - not permitted in C5 Districts
- \* Skating rinks, indoor - not permitted in C5 Districts
- \* Skating rinks, outdoor ice

Sporting goods stores

Stamp stores

Stationery stores

- \* \*\*\*Studios, music, dancing or theatrical

- \* \*\*\*Studios, radio or television

- \* Table tennis halls - not permitted in C5 Districts

Tailor shops, custom

Telegraph offices

- \* Television repair shops - not permitted in C5 Districts

\*\*\* Theater - a new motion picture theater in a new or existing #building# shall provide a minimum of four square feet of waiting area within the #zoning lot# for each seat in such theater. The required waiting space shall be either in an enclosed lobby or open area that is covered or protected during inclement weather and shall not include space occupied by stairs or space within 10 feet of a refreshment stand or entrance to a public toilet - not permitted in C5 Districts

- \*\*\* Ticket sales

Tobacco stores

Tour operators

Toy stores

- \* Trade or other schools for adults

Travel expositions - not permitted in C5 Districts

Travel bureau - limited to 15 percent of total #zoning lot# frontage on #wide streets#

Typewriter stores

- \* Typewriter or other small business machine

repair stores

Variety stores

Wallpaper stores



- \* Wholesale establishments
- \* Wholesale offices or showrooms

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## 81-723 - Special ground floor street frontage restrictions

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LAST AMENDED  
8/6/1998

No single establishment shall have a #wide street# #front lot line# ground level frontage of less than 10 feet.

The following requirements apply to #wide street# #front lot line# ground level frontages and, for #zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Broadway and/or Seventh Avenue, #narrow street# #front lot line# ground level frontages within 100 feet of Broadway or Seventh Avenue:

- (a) Any length of #front lot line# ground level #street# frontage of a #zoning lot# devoted to banks and travel bureaus shall not constitute in total more than 15 percent of any such #front lot line# ground level #street# frontage.
- (b) Each establishment shall be located within 10 feet of the #lot line# on which it is required to front for the full length of the frontage of that establishment, except that, where a #street wall# recess at #curb level# permitted under Section [81-43](#) (Street Wall Continuity Along Designated Streets) extends a greater distance from the #lot line#, the length of frontage of any establishment adjoining that recess may be located at an equal, but not greater, distance from the #lot line#.
- (c) Lobby space shall not comprise more than 20 percent of any such #front lot line# ground level #street# frontage. In addition, a lobby frontage on any such #front lot line# ground level #street# frontage need not be less than 15 feet.
- (d) #Uses# with no #street# frontage and which are accessible only through a lobby shall not be restricted to Use Group T #uses#.

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## 81-724 - Requirements for entertainment-related uses

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

With the exception of a #development# or #enlargement# in which more than 50 percent of the new #floor area# is allocated to #transient hotel# #use#, or all of the #floor area# of the #development# or #enlargement# is allocated to #public parking garage# #use#, a #development# or #enlargement# on a #zoning lot# with more than 50 percent of its #zoning lot# area located within the Theater Subdistrict Core shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) If the new #floor area# of the #development# or #enlargement# generated by that portion of the #zoning lot# located within the Theater Subdistrict Core exceeds 60,000 square feet, then an amount of floor space on the #zoning lot# equal to five percent of the amount by which such new #floor area# exceeds 50,000 square feet shall be allocated to #uses# listed in Section [81-725](#) (Entertainment-related uses) or to #front lot line# ground level #uses# designated thus (\*\*\*) in Section [81-722](#) (Use Group T), as satisfying the requirements of this Section.

Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (f) and (g) of this Section, the amount of floor space specified shall be located on the same #zoning lot# as the #development# or #enlargement# for which that floor space is provided to meet the requirements of this Section.

- (b) A maximum of 75 percent of the amount of floor space specified in paragraph (a) of this Section may be located on a

separate #zoning lot#, with the remainder located on the same #zoning lot# as the #development# or #enlargement#, by authorization of the City Planning Commission provided, upon examination of proposed plans, the Commission finds that:

- (1) one of the following conditions exists:
  - (i) more than 50 percent of the area of the separate #zoning lot# is located within the Theater Subdistrict Core;
  - (ii) the separate #zoning lot# is located within the Theater Subdistrict and the floor space located on such separate #zoning lot# is allocated in its entirety to studios (music, dancing or theatrical), a theater designed and arranged for live performances of drama, music or dance, and #uses# accessory thereto, or a combination thereof, as listed in Section [81-725](#), and that the separate #zoning lot# is located within the Theater Subdistrict; or
  - (iii) the separate #zoning lot# is located within an area bounded by West 42nd Street, Sixth Avenue, West 57th Street, a line 175 feet west of Ninth Avenue, West 52nd Street and a line 150 feet west of Eighth Avenue, and the floor space located on such separate #zoning lot# is allocated in its entirety to studios (music, dancing or theatrical), a theater designed and arranged for live performances of drama, music or dance, or a combination thereof, and any support spaces related thereto, not including administrative office space, where such floor space occupies no less than 25,000 square feet;
- (2) the floor space located on the separate #zoning lot# is in addition to any floor space provided to meet the requirements of this Section for any other #development# or #enlargement#;
- (3) the floor space located on the separate #zoning lot# is constructed or renovated specifically for the purpose of meeting the requirements of this Section and has not been utilized for any of the #uses# listed in Section [81-725](#) at any time during the two-year period immediately prior to the date on which this authorization, as described in paragraph (b) of this Section, is granted; and
- (4) the #use# located on the separate #zoning lot# achieves a reasonable distribution of entertainment-related #uses# and locations of such #uses#.

- (c) Except as provided in this paragraph (c), floor space allocated to entertainment-related #uses# listed in Section [81-725](#), accommodating any number of occupants, shall be classified under Sections [27-254](#) to [27-258](#) (Title 27, Chapter 1, Subchapter 3, Article 8 - Occupancy Group F-Assembly) of the 1968 Building Code or Section BC 303 of the 2008 Building Code, as applicable, and shall meet all relevant requirements of Sections [27-522](#) to [27-549](#) (Title 27, Chapter 1, Subchapter 8-Places of Assembly) of the 1968 Building Code or Section BC 1024 of the 2008 Building Code, as applicable.

Alternatively, where floor space in an existing #building# is allocated to #uses# listed in Section [81-725](#) in order to meet the requirements of this Section, the Commission may, by authorization, modify or waive the Code requirements of this paragraph (c) if, upon examination of proposed plans, it finds that:

- (1) the existing #building# does not otherwise require structural alteration to accommodate the entertainment-related #uses#; and
- (2) two plaques will be provided prior to the issuance of any certificate of occupancy for the floor space so allocated to be affixed, as follows:
  - (i) the first in a prominently visible location either to the exterior wall of the #building# at ground level adjacent to the main entry or in the main lobby stating that floor space in the #building# is provided to

meet the requirements of this Section; and

- (ii) the second either on or immediately adjacent to the corridor or lobby side of the main door to the space itself stating that such floor space is located within that part of the #building#.

Each plaque shall indicate in letters, not less than one inch high, the amount of entertainment-related floor space in square feet, the floor or floors on which it is located, the category of #use# under Section [81-725](#) to which it is dedicated, and the name and street address of the #development# or #enlargement# for which it partially fulfills the requirements of this Section.

- (d) The certificate of occupancy for the #development# or #enlargement# shall record and specifically describe all floor space allocated to meet the requirements of this Section and shall require the permanent reservation of this space for such purposes as a condition of the certificate of occupancy.

If a portion of the amount of the specified floor space is located on a separate #zoning lot#, no certificate of occupancy for the #development# or #enlargement# shall be issued until a certificate of occupancy has been issued for that floor space provided on the separate #zoning lot# and all other floor space allocated to fulfill the requirements of this Section.

The certificate of occupancy for the #development# or #enlargement# shall identify the amount and location of such specified floor space provided on the separate #zoning lot#. The certificate of occupancy of the separate #zoning lot# shall identify the #development# or #enlargement# for which the specified floor space is provided and the amount and location of that floor space on the separate #zoning lot#. Both certificates of occupancy shall require the permanent reservation of the floor space provided on the separate #zoning lot# for #uses# which meet the requirements of this Section.

An amount of floor space allocated in an existing #building# to meet the requirements of this Section may be reallocated to another location, except that no floor space allocated in an existing #building# located within the Theater Subdistrict may be reallocated to another location outside the Theater Subdistrict. Such reallocation shall be made provided that the Commission finds, by authorization, that all of the requirements of this Section are still met and that the Commission has received sufficient assurances that the certificates of occupancy of the #development# or #enlargement# and the #building# to which the floor space has been reallocated, will be amended within a period of time after the date of such authorization specified therein to accord with the provisions of this Section.

- (e) A written declaration shall be recorded against the #zoning lot# of the #development# or #enlargement# and against the separate #zoning lot#, which contains an agreement that the floor space provided on the separate #zoning lot# shall be used solely for entertainment-related #uses# for the life of the #development# or #enlargement#.

If floor space allocated to entertainment-related #uses# on the separate #zoning lot# is reallocated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (d) of this Section, the agreement contained in the written declaration shall be amended so that the #zoning lot# on which the newly allocated floor space is located complies with paragraph (d).

- (f) If a certificate of occupancy for floor space to be located on a separate #zoning lot#, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Section, is not reasonably anticipated to be issued prior to the date upon which the #development# or #enlargement# would otherwise be eligible for issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the Commission may also authorize the waiver of any or all of the provisions of paragraphs (b)(3), (d) and (e) of this Section, provided that:

- (1) the owner or lessee of the #development# or #enlargement#, or an affiliate thereof, will make or cause to be made a financial contribution, through payment or repayment of the costs thereof, which will facilitate on such separate #zoning lot#, the #development# of a #building# that will consist predominantly of either entertainment-related #uses# and #uses# accessory thereto or #community facility# #uses# where at least 25,000

square feet of such floor space allocated to meet the requirements of this Section shall be allocated in its entirety to studios (music, dancing or theatrical), a theater designed and arranged for live performances of drama, music or dance, or a combination thereof, and any support spaces related thereto not including administrative office space;

- (2) the Department of City Planning has received a fully executed copy of a written declaration against such separate #zoning lot#, requiring that the floor space allocated to meet the requirements of this Section and located on the separate #zoning lot# shall be used solely for entertainmentrelated #uses# and #uses# #accessory# thereto for the life of the #development# or #enlargement#. Prior to the release of the financial contribution, pursuant to paragraph (f)(3) of this Section, such declaration shall be filed and duly recorded in the borough office of the City Register of the City of New York, indexed against the property in the form of a legal instrument providing notice of the authorization pursuant to this Section;
- (3) such financial contribution will be deposited in a trust and agency account, to be released upon a determination made in writing by the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission, made in consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings, that all work on foundations has been completed for such #building#; and
- (4) the prospective operator of the entertainmentrelated #uses# in the #building# on such separate #zoning lot#:
  - (i) has made substantial financial and constructionrelated commitments towards the development of the #building#, including, at a minimum, commitments for site acquisition, such as a purchase agreement, deed or ground lease, and architectural agreements for the design of the floor space; and
  - (ii) has secured, or has implemented a fundraising plan to secure, the funding necessary for the development of the #building#, other than the financial contribution by the owner or lessee of the #development# or #enlargement#.

Where the Commission makes the findings set forth in paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(4) of this Section, inclusive, a certificate of occupancy may be issued for the #development# or #enlargement# requiring the provision of such floor space, notwithstanding that no certificate of occupancy has been issued with respect to the floor space located on the separate #zoning lot#.

- (g) In the event that all work on foundations of the #building# on the separate #zoning lot# has not been completed within three years of the grant of an authorization provided under the provisions of paragraph (f) of this Section, the owner or lessee of the #development# or #enlargement# shall, in accordance with the terms of the written declaration recorded against the #development# or #enlargement# at the time of the grant of such authorization, apply to the Commission for:
  - (1) an extension of the authorization for up to one additional year for good cause shown; or
  - (2) a new authorization, under paragraph (b) of this Section, for alternative floor space consisting of entertainment-related #uses# to be located on a separate #zoning lot# as necessary to meet the requirements of this Section.

In granting such authorization for alternative floor space, the Commission may waive the provisions of paragraph (b)(3) of this Section, provided the floor space was not utilized for any of the #uses# listed in Section [81-725](#) at any time during the two-year period immediately prior to the date on which the authorization was originally granted under paragraph (b) of this Section.

- (h) Floor space allocated in an existing #building# on a separate #zoning lot#, pursuant to an authorization granted under paragraph (f) of this Section, may be reallocated to another location, provided that the Commission finds, by authorization, that all applicable requirements of this Section are met, except that no floor space allocated in an existing #building# located within the Theater Subdistrict may be reallocated to another location outside the Theater

Subdistrict.

- (i) All #uses# satisfying the requirements of this Section shall be subject to the locational requirements of Section [81-72](#) (Use Regulations Modified).

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## **81-725 - Entertainment-related uses**

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LAST AMENDED

4/28/1988

Auditoriums, with capacity limited to 2,500 seats

Dance halls, public

Eating or drinking places, where there is entertainment or dancing

Museums, upon authorization by the City Planning Commission that the contents are predominantly theater and/or entertainment-related and are publicly exhibited on a continuing basis

Studios, motion picture production

Studios, music, dancing or theatrical

Studios, radio or television

Theaters

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## **81-73 - Special Sign and Frontage Regulations**

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LAST AMENDED

5/13/1982

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### **81-731 - Special regulations for signs, transparency, banners and canopies**

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LAST AMENDED

5/8/2013

Within that area of the Theater Subdistrict whose boundaries are described in Section [81-72](#) (Use Regulations Modified), the following provisions apply along #wide street# frontages. Within the Theater Subdistrict Core, the following provisions also apply along #narrow street# frontages.

- (a) At least 50 percent of the #street wall# of a #development# or ground floor #enlargement# shall be glazed at the ground floor level with clear, untinted, transparent material and not more than 50 percent of such transparent surface shall be painted or obstructed with #signs#.

For the purpose of the glazing requirements, the #street wall# surface at the ground floor level shall be measured from the floor to the height of the ceiling or 14 feet above grade, whichever is less, and shall exclude any area of #street wall# occupied by #accessory# off-street loading berths or entrances and exits to #accessory# off-street parking provided pursuant to the provisions of Section [81-30](#) (OFF-STREET PARKING AND OFF-STREET LOADING REGULATIONS). For the purposes of this Section, clear, unobstructed openings in the surface of a #street wall# provided for a stairway entrance into a subway relocated onto a #zoning lot# in accordance with the requirements of

Section [81-46](#) (Off-street Relocation or Renovation of a Subway Stair) or a through [block](#) connection provided in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (h) of Section [37-53](#) (Design Standards for Pedestrian Circulation Spaces) shall be treated as transparent glazed surfaces.

(b) Canopies (as defined in the Building Code) and awnings shall not be permitted on the exterior of any [building](#).

For the purposes of this Section, any [signs](#) which do not comply with the regulations of this Section may be continued for one year after May 13, 1982, provided that after the expiration of that period such [non-conforming](#) [sign](#) shall terminate; a [sign](#) which the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission certifies as an integral part of the [building](#) shall not be required to terminate.

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## **81-732 - Special Times Square signage requirements**

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

The provisions of this Section shall apply to all [developments](#) and [enlargements](#) on [zoning lots](#) between 43rd and 50th Streets with [street](#) frontage on Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway in the Theater Subdistrict.

No building permit shall be issued by the Department of Buildings for any portion or all of a [development](#) or [enlargement](#) on a [zoning lot](#) between 43rd and 50th Streets with [street](#) frontage on Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway without prior submission of drawings showing that the [sign](#) requirements related to [surface area](#), location and number of [signs](#) set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this Section have been met and that electrical power is provided in amounts and locations sufficient to illuminate all such required [signs](#) to the illumination levels specified herein. Such drawings shall include, at a scale of 1/16 inch equals one foot, a plan, elevations of [narrow streets](#) and Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway and cross-sections showing setbacks on Seventh Avenue, Broadway and [narrow streets](#). These drawings shall show, for all the [signs](#) required under this Section, their number and for each, its [surface area](#) and location and shall list each requirement and the actual dimensions or areas achieved in the design.

Temporary certificates of occupancy for [floor area](#) of the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) comprising in aggregate more than 50 percent of the total [floor area](#) of the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) shall not be issued by the Department of Buildings until 50 percent of the aggregate [surface area](#) of [signs](#) required under paragraph (a)(3) of this Section has been installed and put in operation in accordance with all of the requirements and standards as set forth in paragraphs (a)(3) and (a)(7) of this Section.

Temporary certificates of occupancy for [floor area](#) of the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) comprising in aggregate more than 90 percent of the total [floor area](#) of the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) shall not be issued by the Department of Buildings until 90 percent of the aggregate [surface area](#) of [signs](#) required under paragraphs (a)(3) of this Section has been installed and put in operation in accordance with all of the requirements and standards as set forth in paragraphs (a)(3) and (a)(7) of this Section.

Neither temporary certificates of occupancy for [floor area](#) of the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) comprising in aggregate 100 percent of the total [floor area](#) of the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) nor a first permanent certificate of occupancy for the [development](#) or [enlargement](#) shall be issued by the Department of Buildings until all of the [signs](#) required under this Section have been installed and put in operation in accordance with all of the requirements and standards as set forth in paragraphs (a)(3) and (a)(7) of this Section.

Notwithstanding the foregoing requirements relating to the granting of certificates of occupancy, the City Planning Commission may, prior to January 1, 2003, certify to the Commissioner of Buildings that compelling circumstances warrant the waiver of any or all such provisions. In granting any such waiver, the Commission shall establish a completion schedule, not to exceed one year from the date of such certification, for the installation and operation of all requisite [signs](#) in accordance with



all of the requirements and standards as set forth in paragraphs (a)(3) and (a)(7) of this Section. The Commission, as it deems appropriate, shall also require security for performance under the schedule and may prescribe other conditions to address the delay in installation and operation of requisite #signs#.

- (a) All #developments# located on #zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway shall provide #signs# meeting all of the following requirements:
- (1) At least one #illuminated sign# shall be provided for each ground floor establishment with a #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue, Broadway or a #narrow street# for the full length of the #zoning lot# frontage or the first 100 feet from Seventh Avenue or Broadway, whichever is less. With the exception of theater #signs#, each required #illuminated sign# shall be located directly behind the clear, untinted, transparent material with which the #street wall# is required to be glazed under Section [81-731](#) (Special regulations for signs, transparency, banners and canopies). There shall be no obstructions between the #sign# and the glazing material.
  - (2) In addition, #illuminated signs# shall be provided with a minimum aggregate #surface area# of 12 square feet for each linear foot of #street# frontage of the #zoning lot# on Seventh Avenue, Broadway and intersecting #narrow streets# up to the first 40 linear feet of #street# frontage from either Seventh Avenue or Broadway.

No portion of any #illuminated sign# required under this paragraph, (a)(2), shall be located:

- (i) further than 40 feet from the Broadway or Seventh Avenue #street line#;
- (ii) below a height of 10 feet above #curb level# or above the top of the #street wall# of the #building# before setback as defined in Section [81-75](#) (Special Street Wall and Setback Requirements).

There shall be a minimum of one #sign# with a #surface area# of not less than 100 square feet for each 25 linear feet, or part thereof, of #zoning lot# #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue or Broadway.

- (3) In addition, #illuminated signs# shall be provided with a minimum aggregate #surface area# of 50 square feet for each linear foot of #street# frontage of the #zoning lot# on Seventh Avenue, Broadway and intersecting #narrow streets# up to the first 40 linear feet of #street# frontage from either Broadway or Seventh Avenue, except that for any one #zoning lot#, the required minimum aggregate #surface area# shall not exceed 12,000 square feet.

No portion of any #illuminated sign# required under this paragraph (a)(3) shall be located:

- (i) further than 40 feet from the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line# except that, for a #zoning lot# with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue, Broadway and at least one #narrow street#, the areas of required #signs# specified in paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this Section may be located without distance limit from the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line#;
- (ii) below a height of 10 feet or above a height of 120 feet above #curb level#, except that for a #zoning lot# with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue, Broadway and 47th Street, a minimum of 25 percent of the minimum aggregate #surface area# required under this Section or 7,500 square feet, whichever is greater, shall comprise #signs# no portion of which shall exceed 250 feet in height above #curb level#, and each of which shall face the intersection of the center lines of 45th Street and Broadway and shall have its #surface area# measured by projecting its edges onto a plane perpendicular to a line drawn between the center of the #sign# and the above intersection at ground level and measuring the resultant #surface area# on that plane; and, for other #zoning lots# with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue, Broadway and a #narrow street# a maximum of 25 percent of the minimum aggregate #surface area# required under this Section may comprise #signs# located without height limit provided that each such #sign# faces the intersection of the center lines of 45th Street and Broadway and its #surface area# is measured

by projecting its edges onto a plane perpendicular to a line drawn between the center of the #sign# and the above intersection at ground level and measuring the resultant #surface area# on that plane.

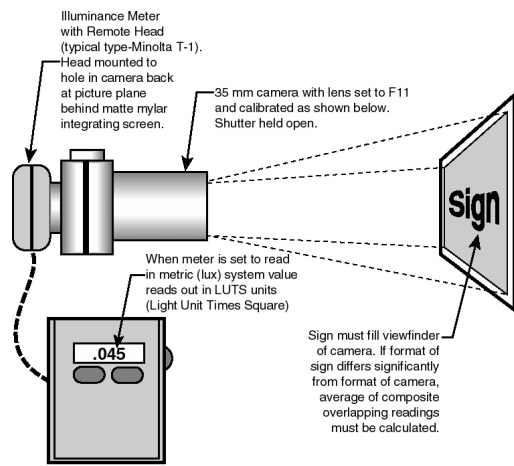
Where a #zoning lot# is located at the intersection of Seventh Avenue or Broadway and one or more #narrow streets#, at least 60 percent of the minimum aggregate #surface area# of signage required under this paragraph, (a)(3), shall be located within 50 feet of the #narrow streets#. Where a #zoning lot# is located at two such intersections, at least 15 percent of the minimum aggregate #surface area# required under this subsection shall be within 50 feet of each #narrow street#. Where a #zoning lot# is located at three or more such intersections, at least seven percent of the minimum aggregate #surface area# required under this Section shall be within 50 feet of a #narrow street# at each intersection of that #narrow street# and Seventh Avenue or Broadway.

There shall be a minimum of one #illuminated sign# with a #surface area# of not less than 1,000 square feet for each 50 linear feet, or part thereof, of #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue or Broadway, except that for any one #zoning lot# no more than five #signs# shall be required.

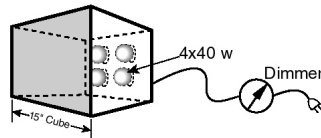
With the exception of #signs# defined in paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this Section as facing the intersection of the centerlines of 45th Street and Broadway, at least 75 percent of the #surface area# of #signs# required under this paragraph, (a)(3), shall be placed at an angle in plan view of not more than 45 degrees to the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line#.

#Signs# required under this paragraph, (a)(3), shall, when installed on the #building# and set in operation, meet at a minimum the requirements set out in paragraphs (a)(3)(iii), (iv) and (v) of this Section. The illumination standards contained therein for each #sign# shall be measured with an apparatus (to be known as a Light Unit Times Square or "LUTS" meter) comprising an illuminance meter attached to a 35 millimeter single lens reflex camera body and fitted with a lens of appropriate focal length in accordance with the diagrams herein (see Illustrations of Sign Brightness Measurement System - LUTS Meter). The lens shall be set at F-stop 11.





The LUTS meter must be calibrated prior to use. Although the lens is nominally set to F11, the actual light transmission value may differ especially with long focal length zoom lenses



To calibrate, build a lightbox as shown above. The front of the box shall be 1/4" #2447 opal plexiglass; the other five interior sides shall be painted matte white.

Four standard 40 watt 120 volt incandescent lamps shall be mounted on the back of the box and wired through a dimmer.

In a dark room adjust the dimmer so that the plexiglass is illuminated to a brightness (exitance) of 125 Footlamberts as measured with an accurate luminance meter (e.g. Minolta LS100, Photo Research 1500).

Using the measuring lens of the LUTS meter set to the appropriate focal length, fill the viewfinder with the lightbox, and adjust the aperture until the meter reads 1.5 LUTS. If different lenses or degrees of zoom are to be used, calibrate the meter for each condition and record the appropriate aperture settings.

## SIGN BRIGHTNESS MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

(LUTS Meter)

(81-732a3ii)

The LUTS Meter shall be calibrated against a reference standard (See illustrations of Sign Brightness Measurement System - LUTS Meter). Alternative measuring equipment may be employed provided such equipment provides identical measurement against the reference standard described herein.

In measuring the brightness of the whole of a #sign# under the provisions of paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv) of this Section, the illumination level of the #sign# shall be determined by pointing the LUTS Meter at the #sign# so that the entire #sign# completely fills the viewing frame of the meter. If, because of the shape of the #sign#, the entire #sign# cannot be viewed within the viewing frame, readings may be taken of discrete portions of the #sign# separately, provided, however, that no more of the #sign# than is absolutely necessary to measure the entire #sign#, may be included in more than one such reading. Readings of portions of a #sign# shall be averaged to obtain the average illumination level of the entire #sign#.

In measuring the brightness of a portion of a #sign# required to meet the incident illumination standards specified in paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv) of this Section, the illumination level of that portion of the #sign# shall be determined by pointing the LUTS Meter at that portion so that the entire portion completely fills the viewing frame of the meter. If, because of the shape or configuration of that portion of the #sign#, the entire portion cannot be viewed within the viewing frame, readings may be taken of

discrete sections of that portion separately, provided, however, that no more of the portion than is absolutely necessary to measure the entire portion, may be included in more than one such reading. Readings of sections of that portion of the #sign# shall be averaged to obtain the average illumination level of the entire portion.

If the illumination of a required #sign# or portion thereof is measured prior to its installation on the #building#, all measurements shall be taken in an interior environment with an ambient air temperature of between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit and no ambient light. For all readings, the LUTS meter shall be located so that its relationship to the #sign# or portion thereof is identical to that described below for taking measurements when the same #sign# or portion thereof is installed on the #building#.

If the illumination of a required #sign# or portion thereof is measured after its installation on the #building#, all measurements shall be taken at night when the ambient air temperature, at a height above #street# level equal to that of the center of the #sign#, is between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit. To measure the illumination level of a #sign# or portion thereof, an imaginary line shall be established which is perpendicular in plan view to the surface of the #sign# or portion thereof and connects its center to a point from which the #sign# or portion thereof is actually visible and which is five feet above #street# level and 60 or more feet away from the #sign#. The LUTS meter shall be located along this line at the furthest distance from the #sign# or portion thereof at which a reading may be obtained by the method specified above.

The duration of one complete operating cycle of any #sign# required under this paragraph (a)(3) which is animated, in whole or in part, shall not exceed five minutes.

During any one complete operating cycle of any such #sign#, the aggregate time for which such #sign# is unlit shall not exceed 10 percent of the operating cycle and in no case shall exceed 15 seconds. In addition, no single continuous time period during which such a #sign# is unlit shall exceed three seconds. During any one complete operating cycle of any such #sign#, the brightness levels specified below in paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv) shall be attained for an aggregate time of not less than 20 percent of the operating cycle and in no case shall be less than 10 seconds. In addition, the #surface area# of any #sign# required to be continuously animated, either in whole or in part and either electrically or mechanically, shall exhibit visual changes clearly discernable by an observer at #street# level at intervals not exceeding 30 seconds.

- (iii) A minimum of 25 percent of the required minimum aggregate #surface area# of #signs# required under this paragraph, (a)(3), shall comprise #signs# each of which shall attain for a minimum of 25 percent of its #surface area# at least 1.5 LUTS incident illumination measured as specified in this paragraph, (a)(c), by means of electric lamps, such as neon tubes, incandescent lamps or cathode ray tubes, which are exposed directly to view. All of the remainder of each such #sign# shall attain at least 0.2 LUTS incident illumination measured as specified by means of electric lamps exposed directly to view and/or luminous surfaces comprising translucent material lit from behind by electric lamps.

In addition, each of the #signs# required to meet the standards of this paragraph (a)(3)(iii) shall have either: a minimum of 20 percent of its #surface area# continuously electrically animated either by means of flashing borders, writing, pictorial representations, emblems or other figures of similar character or by means of #flashing sign# #surface area# serving as a field or background thereto; or, a minimum of 50 percent of its #surface area# continuously mechanically animated.

- (iv) In addition, a minimum of 25 percent of the required minimum aggregate #surface area# of #signs#

required under this paragraph (a)(3) shall comprise #signs# each of which shall attain for all of its #surface area# at least 0.4 LUTS incident illumination measured as specified by means of luminous surfaces comprising translucent material lit from behind by electric lamps. Alternatively, but also in addition to paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this Section, a minimum of 25 percent of the required minimum aggregate #surface area# of #signs# required under this paragraph (a)(3) shall achieve the same incident illumination levels for the same amounts of #surface area# as specified in paragraph (a)(3)(iii).

In addition, each of the #signs# required to meet the standards of this paragraph (a)(3)(iv) shall have either: a minimum of 20 percent of its #surface area# continuously electrically animated either by means of flashing borders, writing, pictorial representations, emblems or other figures of similar character or by means of #flashing sign# #surface area# serving as a field or background thereto; or, a minimum of 50 percent of its #surface area# continuously mechanically animated.

- (v) The provisions of paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv) of this Section may be modified or waived upon certification by the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission that the dynamic character and attractiveness of the #sign# or #signs# for which the modification or waiver is granted are assured by the proposed design and operation and that the signage on the #zoning lot# will produce an effect at least equal to that achieved through the application of paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv).

Except for an individual #sign# meeting the illumination requirements of paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv) for at least 50 percent of its #surface area#, for all of the #signs# required under this paragraph (a)(3), all #surface area# not complying with paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (iv) shall be lighted with an average level of illuminance across the entirety of that #surface area# of 75 foot candles and with an average to minimum illuminance ratio of not greater than 3.0 to 1.0.

- (vi) For #zoning lots# that contain 15,000 square feet or more of #lot area#, the provisions of paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3)(ii) of this Section may be modified or waived, upon certification by the Chairperson that:
  - (a) the #sign# or #signs# for which the modification or waiver is granted are affixed to a #building# that contains a “listed theater” as designated in Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters), and a portion of such theater is located within 100 feet of the #street line# of Seventh Avenue or Broadway; and
  - (b) such #sign# or #signs# provide visual interest that furthers the purposes of the #illuminated sign# requirements set forth in Section [81-73](#) (Special Sign and Frontage Regulations), inclusive, in a manner that is at least equal to that achieved through the application of paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3)(ii).

- (4) One marquee #illuminated sign# and one additional projecting identification #illuminated sign# are required for each theater on a #zoning lot#. A group of motion picture theaters under single ownership and operation shall be treated as one theater for the purposes of this requirement.

Each required marquee shall have a minimum area in plan of 500 square feet and each projecting identification #sign# shall have a minimum #surface area# of 200 square feet. Marquees and identification #signs# may count towards meeting the minimum aggregate #surface area# requirements of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this Section, provided that they comply with the locational requirements therein.

- (5) #Signs# which do not meet the locational requirements of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) are permitted, but shall not count towards meeting minimum aggregate #surface area# requirements.
- (6) Required minimum aggregate #surface areas# of #signs# for #zoning lots# with #street# frontage on both

Seventh Avenue and Broadway shall be calculated by including both those #street# frontages and any #narrow street# frontages up to the first 40 linear feet of #street# frontage from either Seventh Avenue or Broadway.

- (7) All required #illuminated signs# shall at a minimum remain lit from dusk until 1:00 a.m. daily.

All of the #surface area# of #signs# required under paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) shall be visible from a height of five feet above #street# level at any point 60 feet from the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line# of the #zoning lot# on which they are required to be provided.

At least 50 percent of the minimum aggregate #surface area# of #signs# required under paragraph (a)(3) shall comprise #signs# each of which shall be legible during daylight hours from a minimum distance of 60 feet when viewed from ground level at a point perpendicular in plan to the center of the #sign#.

- (b) For #enlargements# which add #floor area# amounting to a #floor area ratio# of at least 1.0, the #sign# requirements of this Section shall apply as follows:

- (1) If the #enlargement# involves an increase in #floor area#, minimum aggregate #surface areas# of required #signs# shall be determined in the same manner as for #developments# on the basis of the length of the #zoning lot's# frontage as set forth in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3) and (a)(6) of this Section.
- (2) All other requirements for #signs# required for #enlargements# shall be as provided for #developments# in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5) and (a)(7) of this Section.
- (3) The provisions of paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) may be modified or waived upon certification by the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission that such modification or waiver results from compelling necessity.

- (c) #Zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway comprising #developments# or #enlargements# and existing #buildings# to remain shall meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Section for #developments# or paragraph (b) for #enlargements# on the basis of the configuration and #street# frontages of the entire #zoning lot#.

There shall be no reduction in the aggregate #surface area# of #signs# on any existing #buildings# to remain. A #non-conforming# #sign# may be structurally altered, reconstructed or replaced in the same location and position, provided that such structural alteration, reconstruction or replacement does not result in the creation of a new #non-conformity# or an increase in the degree of #non-conformity# of such #sign#.

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## 81-733 - Special provisions for central refuse storage area

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

For all #buildings# or portions of #buildings# #developed# or #enlarged# after May 13, 1982, located within the Theater Subdistrict, facilities shall be provided for central refuse storage within the #building#, and no refuse shall be stored outside the #building#.

In all cases there shall be an area for central refuse storage provided at the rate of 75 square feet for non-compressed refuse or 50 square feet for compressed refuse for each 10,000 square feet of #lot area#. Such area shall be ventilated.

For carting purposes, such central storage area shall be directly accessible on a 24-hour basis to loading berths, where provided, or to the exterior of the #building#. Furthermore, the central storage area shall be accessible at all times to all #uses# occupying space within the #building#.

Such area shall be exempt from calculations for #floor area# as defined in Section [12-10](#) (DEFINITIONS).

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## **81-734 - Special signage regulations for portions of the west side of Eighth Avenue**

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LAST AMENDED

10/31/2017

For a #corner lot#, or portions thereof, bounded by two #wide streets# on the west side of Eighth Avenue within the Eighth Avenue Corridor of the Theater Subdistrict, the #sign# provisions for C6-7 Districts pursuant to Section [32-60](#) (SIGN REGULATIONS) shall apply only to such #corner lot# portion, with the following modifications:

- (a) no #sign# shall function with sound; and
- (b) #illuminated signs# may face both #wide streets#, or be parallel to the #street line# of one #wide street#.

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## **81-74 - Special Incentives and Controls in the Theater Subdistrict**

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LAST AMENDED

5/13/1982

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### **81-741 - General provisions**

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

- (a) Certifications
  - (1) The transfer of development rights from any “granting site” in accordance with the provisions of Section [81-744](#) (Transfer of development rights from listed theaters) shall be permitted upon certification by the City Planning Commission.
  - (2) In the Theater Subdistrict, modifications of the provisions of Article VII, Chapter 7 (Special Provisions for Zoning Lots Divided by District Boundaries), in accordance with the provisions of Section [81-746](#) (Additional provisions for zoning lots divided by district or subdistrict core boundaries), shall be permitted upon certification of the Chairperson of the Commission.

- (b) Authorizations by the City Planning Commission

The transfer of development rights from any “granting site” in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of Section [81-744](#) shall be permitted by authorization by the Commission.

- (c) Special permit by the City Planning Commission

In the Theater Subdistrict, the Commission may allow, by special permit:

- (1) demolition of a theater where permissible under the provisions of Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters);
- (2) a #floor area# bonus for rehabilitation of an existing theater in accordance with the provisions of Section [81-745](#) (Floor area bonus for rehabilitation of existing listed theaters); and
- (3) transfer of development rights from a #zoning lot# occupied by a theater that is a designated landmark in

accordance with the provisions of Section [81-747](#) (Transfer of development rights from landmark theaters).

(d) Additional #floor area# bonuses

All #developments# or #enlargements# located on the west side of Eighth Avenue between 42nd and 45th Streets within the Theater Subdistrict may receive an increase in #floor area# pursuant to Section [96-22](#) (Special Regulations for Eighth Avenue Perimeter Area) for those #developments# or #enlargements# complying with the provisions of Section [23-90](#) (INCLUSIONARY HOUSING).

(e) Required assurances

All special permits, authorizations or certifications involving preservation of existing theaters shall be subject to the provisions of Section [81-743](#) (Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use).

(f) Limits on total additional #floor area#

Except as otherwise provided in Section [81-212](#) (Special provisions for transfer of development rights from landmark sites), the total additional #floor area# permitted on the #zoning lot# by such special permit, authorization or certification, together with all bonus #floor area# or #floor area# derived from transferred development rights under other provisions of this Chapter, shall in no event exceed the maximum amount permitted by certification, authorization or special permit as set forth in Section [81-211](#) (Maximum floor area ratio for non-residential or mixed buildings).

(g) Limitations on non-theater-related bonuses in C6-4, C6-5 or M1-6 Districts

For #zoning lots# or portions thereof in C6-4, C6-5 or M1-6 Districts, the total amount of #floor area# derived from non-theater-related bonuses or other special #floor area# allowances, pursuant to provisions of this Chapter other than those in Sections [81-744](#), [81-745](#), [81-746](#) or [81-747](#), shall not exceed a #floor area ratio# of 2.0.

(h) Theater-related bonus #floor area# for #residences# in C6-4 and C6-5 Districts

For #zoning lots# or portions thereof in C6-4 or C6-5 Districts, some or all of the bonus #floor area# or other special #floor area# allowances permitted pursuant to the provisions of Sections [81-744](#), [81-745](#), [81-746](#) or [81-747](#), relating to the preservation or rehabilitation of existing theaters, may be allocated to a #residential building# or the #residential# portion of a #mixed building#, provided that the total #residential# #floor area ratio# with such #floor area# allowances shall not exceed 12.0.

(i) Theater Subdistrict Fund

In furtherance of the purposes of this Section, the Theater Subdistrict Council shall establish a separate interest-bearing account (the "Theater Subdistrict Fund" or "Fund") for the deposit and administration of the revenues received by the Theater Subdistrict Council generated by the transfer of development rights pursuant to Section [81-744](#). Upon receipt of any revenue generated pursuant to such Section, the Theater Subdistrict Council shall notify the Comptroller, the Speaker and the Department of City Planning, and promptly deposit such revenues into the Theater Subdistrict Fund and shall expend such revenues and any interest accumulated thereon in the following manner:

- (1) a portion of any such revenues shall be reserved, sufficient in the judgment of the Theater Subdistrict Council but in no event less than 20 percent of such revenues, to undertake the ongoing periodic inspection and maintenance report requirements pursuant to paragraph (c) of Section [81-743](#). The Theater Subdistrict Council may petition the City Planning Commission for a reduction in the percentage of such reserve and the

Commission may grant such reduction if, in its judgement, a lesser percentage will be sufficient to carry out the purposes of this paragraph; and

- (2) the remainder of such revenue shall be used for activities chosen by the Theater Subdistrict Council furthering the objectives and purposes of this Section, which activities may include judicial or administrative proceedings instituted by the Theater Subdistrict Council against any property owner or lessee to enforce the obligations of such owner or lessee pursuant to any restrictive declaration entered into in connection with a transfer of development rights pursuant to Section [81-744](#). Notwithstanding the foregoing, funds shall not be used for the physical repair and preservation of theaters.

The Theater Subdistrict Council shall provide an annual report to the Department of City Planning, the Comptroller, the Speaker and the City Planning Commission indicating the amounts and dates of any deposits to the Theater Subdistrict Fund in the immediately preceding calendar year, the balance of the Theater Subdistrict Fund at the close of the calendar year, the amounts expended on activities within the Theater Subdistrict and the nature of those activities. The Theater Subdistrict Council shall maintain complete, accurate and detailed records, with supporting documentation, in respect to all deposits to and withdrawals from the Theater Subdistrict Fund, and shall make such records available to the City of New York, the Department of City Planning, the Comptroller, the Speaker and the City Planning Commission upon reasonable notice and during business hours for inspection and copying.

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## 81-742 - Listed theaters

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

- (a) Designation of listed theaters

“Listed theaters” are theaters to which special provisions of this and other Sections as set forth in [81-741](#) (General provisions) apply, and are predominantly free-standing theaters with full stage and wings. The theaters as identified on August 6, 1998, in the table in this Section, are designated as “listed theaters.”

### LISTED THEATERS

Theater Name	Address	Block Number	Lot Number
Ambassador	215 West 49th St.	1021	15
Barrymore	243 West 47th St.	1019	12
Belasco	111 West 44th St.	997	23
Biltmore	261 West 47th St.	1019	5
Booth	222 West 45th St.	1016	15

Broadhurst	235 West 44th St.	1016	11
Broadway	1681 Broadway	1024	46
Brooks Atkinson	256 West 47th St.	1018	57
City Center	131 West 55th St.	1008	15
Cort	138 West 48th St.	1000	49
Ed Sullivan	1697 Broadway	1025	43
*Empire	236 West 42nd St.	1013	50
Eugene O'Neill	230 West 49th St.	1020	53
Forty-Sixth St.	226 West 46th St.	1017	48
Golden	252 West 45th St.	1016	58
*Harris	226 West 42nd St.	1013	45
Helen Hayes	240 West 44th St.	1015	51
Henry W. Miller	124 West 43rd St.	995	45
Hudson	139 West 44th St.	997	15
Imperial	249 West 45th St.	1017	10
*Liberty	234 West 42nd St.	1013	49
Longacre	220 West 48th St.	1019	50
Lunt-Fontanne	205 West 46th St.	1018	20
Lyceum	149 West 45th St.	998	8



*Lyric	213 West 42nd St.	1014	39
Majestic	245 West 44th St.	1016	5
Mark Hellinger	237 West 51st St.	1023	11
Martin Beck	302 West 45 <sup>th</sup> St.	1035	37
Music Box	239 West 45th St.	1017	11
Nederlander	208 West 41st St.	1012	30
Neil Simon	250 West 52nd St.	1023	54
*New Amsterdam	214 West 42nd St.	1013	39
*New Amsterdam-Roof Garden	214 West 42nd St.	1013	39
*New Apollo	234 West 43rd St.	1014	20
Palace	1564 Broadway	999	63
Plymouth	236 West 45th St.	1016	51
Ritz	225 West 48th St.	1020	14
Royale	242 West 45th St.	1016	55
St. James	246 West 44th St.	1015	54
*Selwyn	229 West 42nd St.	1014	17
Shubert	225 West 44th St.	1016	15
Studio 54	254 West 54th St.	1025	58
*Times Square	219 West 42nd St.	1014	20

*Victory	209 West 42nd St.	1014	25
Virginia	245 West 52nd St.	1024	7
Winter Garden	1634 Broadway	1022	2

\* Indicates theaters which do not qualify as a “granting site” pursuant to Section [81-744](#)

In the case of an existing legitimate theater that received a #floor area# bonus pursuant to regulations in effect prior to May 13, 1982, no provisions of this amendment shall be construed as changing any previously existing responsibility of the owner or lessee of such theater for continuance of its #use# as a legitimate theater.

(b) Restrictions on demolition of listed theaters

No demolition permit shall be issued by the Department of Buildings for any theater listed in this Section as a “listed theater,” unless:

- (1) it is an unsafe #building# and demolition is required pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, Article 216 of the New York City Administrative Code;
- (2) it has been designated a landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and a notice to proceed has been issued to the owner pursuant to Section [25-309](#) of Title 25, Chapter 3, of the New York City Administrative Code permitting demolition that contemplates removal of the theater from theater #use#; or
- (3) the City Planning Commission, by special permit, allows its demolition in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (c) of this Section.

(c) Special permit for demolition of listed theaters

The City Planning Commission may allow, by special permit, the demolition of a theater designated as a “listed theater” pursuant to this Section, provided the Commission finds that the demolition of the theater structure will not unduly diminish the character of the Theater Subdistrict as a cultural, entertainment and theatrical showcase. In making this determination, the Commission may consider any or all of the following:

- (1) the current physical characteristics of the theater that affect its suitability as a legitimate theater, including but not limited to seating capacity, configuration and location;
- (2) the history of the theater’s #use# as a legitimate theater, presenting legitimate attractions to the general public;
- (3) the likelihood of its future #use# for legitimate theater production under reasonable terms and conditions prevailing in the theater industry; and/or
- (4) that the applicant’s plans, if any, for replacement of the theater structure with a #development# or #enlargement# contain replacement #uses# supportive of the character of the Theater Subdistrict.

As a condition of the special permit, there shall exist a legal commitment binding upon all parties in interest of the #zoning lot# containing the theater that any #development# or #enlargement# on a #zoning lot# containing a portion or all of the former site of the “listed theater”, that floor space at least equivalent in amount to the total #floor area# of the theater shall be reserved or devoted exclusively to #uses# described in Section [81-725](#) (Entertainment-related uses) and

meeting the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of Section [81-724](#) (Requirements for entertainment-related uses) for the life of such #development# or #enlargement#. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the area of the #zoning lot# containing the theater is less than 20,000 square feet and the Commission finds that the allocation of floor space at least equivalent in amount to the total #floor area# of the theater to #uses# described in Section [81-725](#) is impractical or unreasonable, the Commission may permit a reduction in the amount of area allocated to such #uses#.

Any #development# or #enlargement# on a #zoning lot# containing a portion or all of the former site of a “listed theater” must, however, meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of Section [81-724](#) whether or not the #zoning lot# is located within the area described in that Section.

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## **81-743 - Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use**

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LAST AMENDED

10/7/2021

Prior to the issuance of any special permit under the provisions of Sections [81-745](#) (Floor area bonus for rehabilitation of existing listed theaters) or [81-747](#) (Transfer of development rights from landmark theaters), or the issuance of a certification, authorization or special permit under the provisions of Sections [66-51](#) (Additional Floor Area for Mass Transit Station Improvements), [81-744](#) (Transfer of development rights from listed theaters), or [81-746](#) (Additional provisions for zoning lots divided by district or subdistrict core boundaries) the following conditions shall exist:

- (a) a signed lease from a prospective theater operator, or a written commitment from the owner of the theater if such owner is also the operator, for occupancy of the theater and its operation as a legitimate theater for a period of not less than five years;
- (b) a licensed engineer’s and/or architect’s report certifying either that the theater is physically and operationally sound so as to permit its use as a legitimate theater or, if it is determined that the theater is not physically or operationally sound, a plan and program for the upgrade of the theater to put it in condition of physical and operational soundness. For the purposes of this Section, physical and operational soundness shall include the structural integrity of the exterior and interior elements of the #building# to the extent that they relate to the theater, compliance with applicable electrical and fire safety codes, and compliance with applicable building code standards.

In the event that the theater has been designated as a landmark or an interior landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, physical and operational soundness shall include preserving the integrity of existing significant architectural features identified in the Landmarks Preservation Commission designation report. In such case, a licensed engineer and/or architect with knowledge of historic preservation and credentials acceptable to the Landmarks Preservation Commission shall prepare a report documenting the condition of such significant architectural features and, if determined to be necessary, a plan and program to preserve such significant features in a state of good physical repair and sound proper condition. Any certification report regarding a landmark or interior landmark theater shall be submitted concurrently to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission;

- (c) A plan and program shall be accompanied by written commitment from such owner of the financial resources available to ensure timely completion of the identified scope of work;
- (d) a legal commitment providing for inspection and ongoing maintenance of the theater to ensure its continued availability for theater use. Such inspection shall be conducted every five years by a licensed engineer and/or architect or by the Theater Subdistrict Council, and a report issued to the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission and notice of such report shall be published in the City Record. Such report shall also be issued to the Theater Subdistrict Council unless the Theater Subdistrict Council has performed such inspection, and, in the event the theater has been designated

a landmark or an interior landmark, such report shall also be issued to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and notice of such report shall be published in the City Record. Such reports shall describe the condition of the theater and identify any maintenance or repair work necessary to ensure the physical and operational soundness of the theater and to maintain the condition of any landmark architectural features and establish a plan and program for such work, including providing that adequate resources be made available to ensure timely completion of such maintenance or repair work; and

- (e) a legal commitment for continuance of its #use# as a legitimate theater for the life of the related #development# or #enlargement#.

Such legal commitments shall be in the form of a declaration of restrictions, filed and duly recorded in the Borough Office of the Register of the City of New York, binding upon the owner, lessee of the theater and their successors and assigns, a certified copy of which shall be submitted to the City Planning Commission. The filing of such declaration and the posting of any bond or other security required by the declaration and receipt of such certified copy shall be preconditions to issuance of any building permit, including any foundation or alteration permit, for any #development# or #enlargement# on the receiving site.

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## **81-744 - Transfer of development rights from listed theaters**

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

For the purposes of the Theater Subdistrict:

A “listed theater” shall mean a theater designated as listed pursuant to Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters).

A “granting site” shall mean either a #zoning lot# or that portion of a #zoning lot# occupied by a “listed theater” and comprised of those block and lot numbers specified for such theater pursuant to the table in Section [81-742](#), as such block and lots existed on January 12, 1998. However, a “granting site” shall not include any #zoning lot# occupied by a “listed theater” located within the geographical area covered by the 42nd Street Development Land Use Improvement Project, adopted by the New York State Urban Development Project in 1984, as such Project has and may be subsequently amended.

A “receiving site” shall mean a #zoning lot# or the portion of a #zoning lot# located within the Theater Subdistrict to which development rights of the “granting site” are transferred. However, no portion of a “receiving site” shall be located within the 42nd Street Development Project Area. In addition, for #zoning lots# containing “listed theaters,” that portion of the #zoning lot# occupied by the “listed theater” and comprised of the block and lot numbers specified for such theater, pursuant to the table in Section [81-742](#), shall not be included in the “receiving site.”

Any “receiving site” divided by a district boundary or Theater Subdistrict Core boundary may locate #bulk# in accordance with the provisions of Section [81-746](#) (Additional provisions for zoning lots divided by district or subdistrict core boundaries).

- (a) Transfer of development rights by certification

The City Planning Commission shall allow, by certification, a transfer of development rights from a “granting site” to a “receiving site,” except that any “granting site,” or portion thereof, located outside the Theater Subdistrict, may not transfer development rights to any portion of a “receiving site” within the Special Clinton District, provided that:

- (1) the maximum amount of #floor area# transferred from a “granting site” is the basic maximum #floor area ratio# established pursuant to Sections [81-211](#) (Maximum floor area ratio for non-residential or mixed buildings) or [81-213](#) (Special provisions for transfer of development rights from listed theaters within the Special Clinton District), as applicable, for such “granting site” as if it were undeveloped, less the total #floor area# of all existing #buildings# or portions of #buildings# on the “granting site” and #floor area# attributed to the “granting site” that has been previously used or transferred;
- (2) each transfer, once completed, irrevocably reduces the amount of #floor area# that may be #developed# or #enlarged# on the #zoning lot# containing the “granting site” by the amount of #floor area# transferred;
- (3) the maximum amount of #floor area# transferred to a “receiving site” shall not exceed the basic maximum #floor area ratio# established pursuant to Section [81-211](#) for such “receiving site” by more than 20 percent;
- (4) the provisions of Section [81-743](#) (Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use) are met; and
- (5) appropriate legal documents are executed ensuring that a contribution in an amount equal to 10 dollars\* per square foot of transferred #floor area# be deposited in the Theater Subdistrict Fund established pursuant to paragraph (i) of Section [81-741](#) (General provisions) at the earlier of either the time of closing on the transfer of development rights pursuant to this Section or the filing for any building permit for any #development# or #enlargement# that anticipates using such development rights.

The Commission shall review such amount no more than once every three years and no less than once every five years and shall adjust the amount to reflect any change in assessed value of all properties on #zoning lots# wholly within the Theater Subdistrict.

(b) Transfer of development rights by authorization

The City Planning Commission shall allow, by authorization, an additional transfer of development rights beyond the amount of #floor area# transfer permitted by certification in paragraph (a) of this Section from a “granting site” to any portion of a “receiving site” located within the Eighth Avenue Corridor, except that any “granting site,” or portion thereof, located outside the Theater Subdistrict may not transfer development rights to any portion of a “receiving site” within the Special Clinton District, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) the maximum amount of such additional #floor area# transfer to that portion of a “receiving site” located within such Corridor shall not exceed the maximum total #floor area ratio# with as-of-right #floor area# allowances in the Theater Subdistrict set forth in Section [81-211](#) by more than 20 percent; and
- (2) such transfer complies with the conditions and limitations set forth for the transfer of development rights in paragraph (a) of this Section.

In order to grant such authorization, the Commission shall find that such #development# or #enlargement#:

- (i) relates harmoniously to all structures and #open space# in its vicinity in terms of scale, location and access to light and air in the area; and
- (ii) serves to enhance or reinforce the general purposes of the Theater Subdistrict.

Any application pursuant to paragraphs (a) and/or (b) of this Section shall be referred to the affected Community

Board, the local Council Member and the Borough President of Manhattan. The Commission shall not grant any such certification or authorization prior to sixty days after such referral and sixty days after the date any reports required to be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission pursuant to Section [81-743](#), paragraph (b), or the Theater Subdistrict Council pursuant to Section [81-71](#) (General Provisions) have been so submitted.

(c) Requirements for Application

An application filed with the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission for the transfer of development rights by certification pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Section, or with the City Planning Commission for the transfer of development rights by authorization pursuant to paragraph (b) of this Section, shall be made jointly by the owners of the "granting site" and the "receiving site" and shall include:

- (1) a site plan and #floor area# zoning calculations for the "granting site" and the "receiving site" and, for authorizations and/or special permit applications, any such other information as may be required by the Commission;
- (2) a copy of the transfer instrument legally sufficient in both form and content to effect such a transfer, together with a notice of the restrictions limiting further #development# or #enlargement# of the "granting site" and the "receiving site." The notice of restrictions shall be filed by the owners of the respective lots in the Borough Office of the Register of the City of New York, indexed against the "granting site" and the "receiving site," a certified copy of which shall be submitted to the Chairperson. Receipt of the certified copy shall be a pre-condition to issuance of any building permit, including any foundation or alteration permit, for any #development# or #enlargement# on the "receiving site."

Both the instrument of transfer and the notice of restrictions shall specify the total amount of #floor area# transferred and shall specify, by lot and block numbers, the lots from which and the lots to which such transfer is made.

- (3) demonstrations of compliance with the requirements of Section [81-743](#) and paragraph (a)(5) of this Section, including all necessary legal documents. Issuance of any building permit, including any foundation or alteration permit, shall be conditioned upon the filing of such legal documents in the Borough Office of the Register of the City of New York and receipt by the Commission of certified copies of same as required pursuant to Section [81-743](#).

A separate application shall be filed for each transfer of development rights to an independent "receiving site."

\* The contribution of 10 dollars per square foot of transferred #floor area# was adjusted by rule on November 15, 2006, to \$14.91 per square foot; on December 10, 2011, to \$17.60 per square foot; and on July 15, 2022, to \$24.65 per square foot

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## **81-745 - Floor area bonus for rehabilitation of existing listed theaters**

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LAST AMENDED  
2/25/2021

The City Planning Commission by special permit may authorize bonus #floor area# for substantial rehabilitation or restoration of any theater listed as a "listed theater" in Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters), in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(a) Conditions for rehabilitation bonus

As a condition for the issuance of a special permit under the provisions of this Section, the following requirements shall

be satisfied:

(1) Location of #development#

The #development# or #enlargement# for which a theater rehabilitation bonus is granted is located on the same #zoning lot# as the “listed theater.”

(2) Qualification of substantial rehabilitation

Substantial rehabilitation work qualifying for a #floor area# bonus shall consist of major structural changes for the purpose of improving a theater’s design and its commercial viability for legitimate theater #use#, or historic restoration of the interior of a theater designated as an interior landmark.

Substantial rehabilitation may include, without limitations, such work as expanding stage wings, re-raking the orchestra, increasing rehearsal, dressing room or lobby and ancillary spaces, improving accessibility beyond applicable legal requirements, or historic restoration. It may also include reconversion to legitimate theater #use# of an original legitimate theater currently in other #use#. Substantial rehabilitation does not mean normal theater maintenance, painting or improvements to mechanical systems alone.

(3) Timing and commitment

- (i) there shall be a contractual commitment or commitments for the construction work involved in the substantial rehabilitation;
- (ii) the requirements of Section [81-743](#) (Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use) shall be satisfied; and
- (iii) a rehabilitation bonus shall not be granted for a substantial rehabilitation completed before May 13, 1982.

(b) Amount of rehabilitation bonus

The amount of bonus #floor area# granted for a qualifying theater rehabilitation shall be at the discretion of the Commission after consideration of the following findings:

- (1) how and to what extent the proposed rehabilitation will improve the theater's suitability for #use# as a legitimate theater;
- (2) how the proposed rehabilitation will contribute toward satisfying the needs of the Theater Subdistrict;
- (3) whether the bonus #floor area# will unduly increase the #bulk# of any #development# or #enlargement#, density of population or intensity of #use# on any #block# to the detriment of occupants of #buildings# on the #block# or the surrounding area; and
- (4) whether the distribution and location of such #floor area# bonus will adversely affect the surrounding area by restricting light and air or otherwise impair the essential character or future development of the surrounding area.

Such bonus #floor area# shall not exceed 20 percent of the basic maximum #floor area# permitted on the #zoning lot# containing the #development# or #enlargement# by the regulations of the underlying district, except that in the case of an underlying C6-4, C6-5 or M1-6 District, the bonus #floor area# shall not exceed 44 percent of the basic maximum #floor area# permitted in such underlying district, and except that in the case of a #zoning lot# located partially in a C6-

5.5 District and partially in a C6-7T District, the Commission may allow bonus #floor area# to be utilized anywhere on the #zoning lot#.

For purposes of applying the provisions of Section [11-42](#) (Lapse of Authorization or Special Permit by the City Planning Commission Pursuant to the 1961 Zoning Resolution) to a special permit granted pursuant to this Section, “substantial construction” shall mean substantial rehabilitation, as described in paragraph (b) of this Section, of the subject theater for which a #floor area# bonus has been granted to a related #development# or #enlargement#.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding areas.

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## **81-746 - Additional provisions for zoning lots divided by district or subdistrict core boundaries**

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

- (a) For any #zoning lot# which includes a “listed theater” as set forth in Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters) or is, or contains, a “receiving site” pursuant to Section [81-744](#) (Transfer of development rights from listed theaters), and which is divided by a boundary between districts with different basic maximum #floor area ratios# as set forth in Section [81-211](#) (Maximum floor area ratio for non-residential or mixed buildings), the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission, by certification, shall allow modifications of the provisions of Sections [77-02](#) (Zoning Lots Not Existing Prior to Effective Date or Amendment of Resolution), [77-21](#) (General Provisions), [77-22](#) (Floor Area Ratio) and [77-25](#) (Density Requirements), as follows.

For any #zoning lot#, #floor area#, #dwelling units# or #rooming units# permitted by the applicable district regulations on either side of the district boundary may be located on the other side of the district boundary, provided:

- (1) the amount of such #floor area# to be located on either side of the district boundary shall not exceed 20 percent of the basic maximum #floor area ratio# of the district in which it is to be located;
- (2) the number of such #dwelling units# or #rooming units#, if any, to be located on either side of the district boundary shall not exceed the number permitted by the applicable district regulations; and
- (3) the provisions of Section [81-743](#) (Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use) are met for any “listed theater” on such #zoning lot#.

The Chairperson's certification approving modification of the provisions for such #zoning lots# divided by district boundaries shall state the total amount of #floor area#, including #floor area# of any existing theater, to be provided on the #zoning lot# as a whole and the portion thereof to be located in each district, and the amount authorized herein to be located across the district boundary from the district in which the theater is located.

Notice of the restrictions upon further development of each portion of the #zoning lot# shall be recorded by the owner against the #zoning lot# in the Office of the Register of the City of New York (County of New York) and a certified copy shall be submitted to the Commission.

- (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Resolution, for any #zoning lot# which is divided by a boundary of the Theater Subdistrict Core as defined in Section [81-71](#) (General Provisions) and for which the basic maximum #floor area ratio# as set forth in Section [81-211](#) is the same for both the portion within and the portion outside of the Theater Subdistrict Core, the applicable underlying #bulk# regulations shall be modified, as follows:



- (1) #floor area#, including bonus #floor area#, or #dwelling units# permitted by the applicable district regulations on that portion of the #zoning lot# within the Theater Subdistrict Core may be located on the portion of the #zoning lot# outside the Core, provided that the number of such #rooms#, if any, to be located outside of the Core shall not exceed the number permitted by the applicable district regulations; and
  - (2) #floor area#, including bonus #floor area#, or #dwelling units# permitted by the applicable district regulations on that portion of the #zoning lot# outside of the Theater Subdistrict Core shall not be located on the portion of the #zoning lot# within the Core.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Resolution, for any #zoning lot# located wholly within the Theater Subdistrict and outside of the Theater Subdistrict Core that is divided by a boundary of the Eighth Avenue Corridor as defined in Section [81-71](#) and for which the basic maximum #floor area ratio# as set forth in Section [81-211](#) is the same for both the portion within and the portion outside of the Eighth Avenue Corridor, #floor area#, including bonus #floor area#, or #dwelling units# permitted by the applicable district regulations may be located on either side of the Eighth Avenue Corridor boundary.

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## **81-747 - Transfer of development rights from landmark theaters**

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

The City Planning Commission by special permit may authorize development rights to be transferred from #zoning lots# occupied by landmark #buildings# to other #zoning lots# proposed for #developments# or #enlargements# in accordance with the provisions of Section [74-79](#) (Transfer of Development Rights From Landmark Sites), as modified by this Section and by Section [81-212](#) (Special provisions for transfer of development rights from landmark sites).

The limitations on development rights transferred to #development# sites from landmark sites, including sites of landmark theaters, are set forth in Section [81-212](#).

In the case of landmarks which are theaters and which are located in the Theater Subdistrict, in addition to the modifications set forth in Section [81-212](#), the provisions of Section [74-79](#) are modified as follows:

- (a) “Landmark buildings” shall include #buildings# which contain interior landmarks as well as #buildings# which are themselves landmarks.
- (b) In all underlying districts throughout the Theater Subdistrict, “adjacent lots” to which landmark theaters’ development rights may be transferred shall be construed to include a contiguous lot or one which is across a #street# and opposite to another lot or lots which, except for the intervention of #streets# or #street# intersections, form a series extending to the lot occupied by the landmark #building#, all such lots being in the same ownership, fee ownership or ownership as defined under #zoning lot# in Section [12-10](#) (DEFINITIONS).
- (c) The provisions of paragraph (c) of Section [74-792](#) (Conditions and limitations) are further modified to provide that in any underlying district within the Theater Subdistrict, the “adjacent lot” may be #developed# or #enlarged# with either a #commercial building# or a #mixed building#.

Where development rights are proposed to be transferred and exercised in accordance with the provisions of Section [74-79](#), as modified by this Section, the Commission, in addition to the findings required in paragraph (e) of Section [74-792](#), shall find that:

- (1) the series of intervening lots in common ownership leading to the “adjacent lot” include lots, identified by the Commission, which are occupied by “listed theaters” or by #uses# which directly support neighborhood theater

business, such as, but not limited to, rehearsal space, recording facilities or theater costume rental facilities and that such #uses# will be continued or replaced by other legitimate theaters or theater supportive #uses# as evidenced by covenants binding the owners of such lots, their successors and assigns to provide for such continuation or replacement; or

- (2) useful circulation improvements or other public facilities will be provided and maintained on one or more of the lots comprising the series of intervening lots to accommodate pedestrian or vehicular traffic generated by legitimate theaters.

The Commission shall require the owner of any intervening lot on which special #use# restrictions are applicable or on which circulation improvements or other public facilities are to be provided and maintained to sign a written declaration of restrictions setting forth the obligations of the owner, his successors and assigns and providing a performance bond for the completion of any required improvements. The declaration of restrictions shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of the City of New York (County of New York) and the Commission shall be provided with a certified copy.

The provision of Section [74-79](#) empowering the Commission to grant variations in the front height and setback regulations is modified by the provisions of Sections [81-266](#) or [81-277](#) (Special permit for height and setback modifications).

Compliance with the provisions of Section [81-743](#) (Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use) shall be a condition for issuance of a special permit under the provisions of this Section.

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## **81-75 - Special Street Wall and Setback Requirements**

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LAST AMENDED

8/6/1998

#Buildings# located on #zoning lots#, or portions of #zoning lots# within the Theater Subdistrict Core or the Eighth Avenue Corridor, shall comply with the regulations of this Section. The height of all #buildings or other structures# shall be measured from #curb level#.

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## **81-751 - Special street wall and setback regulations within the Theater Subdistrict Core**

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

#Buildings# located on #zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway, or located partially within the Theater Subdistrict Core and partially within the Eighth Avenue Corridor shall comply with the requirements of this Section and, in all other respects related to height and setback, with the provisions of Sections [81-25](#) (General Provisions Relating to Height and Setback of Buildings), and either Section [81-26](#) (Height and Setback Regulations - Daylight Compensation) or [81-27](#) (Alternate Height and Setback Regulations - Daylight Evaluation). The #street wall# location rules of Section [81-43](#) shall also apply, except as modified in this Section.

With the exception of #signs# and parapets not exceeding four feet in height, no obstructions are permitted to penetrate the mandatory #street wall# height limits or setback requirements for #zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue and/or Broadway set forth in this Section.

For the purposes of this Section, #signs# are permitted as exceptions to the special #street wall# and setback requirements contained herein, except that above the top of a #street wall# before setback required under this Section, no #sign# may be located closer than six feet to the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street wall# before setback. #Signs# located below the top of a required #street wall# before setback, as defined in this Section, may project across a #street line# up to 10 feet. Marquees are not subject to the requirements of this Section.

- (a) With the exception of #buildings# located on #zoning lots# between Seventh Avenue and Broadway, #buildings# located

on #zoning lots# between 43rd and 50th Streets with #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue or Broadway shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) The #street walls# of any #building# shall have a minimum #street wall# height before setback of 50 feet above #curb level# and a maximum #street wall# height before setback of 60 feet above #curb level# on all #street# frontages, except that:
  - (i) if the #zoning lot# contains a complete #wide street# #block# frontage, #wide street# #street walls# within 25 feet of the #street line# of a #narrow street# and #narrow street# #street walls# shall have a minimum #street wall# height before setback of 30 feet above #curb level#; and/or
  - (ii) if the #zoning lot# contains a theater listed in the table in Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters) and the theater is retained as part of a #development# or #enlargement#, the maximum #street wall# height above #curb level# before setback of a #narrow street# #street wall# which is a reconstruction or replacement of an existing #narrow street# #street wall# of the theater shall be equal to the height above #curb level# of that existing theater #street wall# and the same maximum #street wall# height above #curb level# shall apply only for the width of that existing theater #street wall#.
- (2) Above the required #street wall# height before setback, the #street wall# of any #building# shall be set back at least 15 feet along all #narrow street# frontages of the #zoning lot#.
- (3) For #zoning lots# greater than 15,000 square feet in area:
  - (i) Above the required #street wall# height before setback, the #street wall# of any #building# shall be set back at least 50 feet along the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street# frontage of the #zoning lot#.
  - (ii) Alternatively, above the required #street wall# height before setback, the #street wall# shall be set back at least 60 feet along the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street# frontage of the #zoning lot#, except that a portion of the #building# at least 50 feet from the #street line# of any #narrow street# and with aggregate area per floor not exceeding 10 square feet for each linear foot of #zoning lot# #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue or Broadway may extend forward of the 60 foot #setback line#, provided that no portion is closer than 35 feet to the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line#.
  - (iii) Alternatively, if the #building# contains a “listed theater” designated pursuant to Section [81-742](#) and if any portion of the theater is within 100 feet of the #street line# of Seventh Avenue or Broadway, above the required #street wall# height before setback the #street wall# shall be set back at least 60 feet along the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street# frontage of the #zoning lot#, except that a portion of the #building# with aggregate area per floor not exceeding the lesser of 4,500 square feet or 30 square feet for each linear foot of #zoning lot# #street# frontage on Seventh Avenue or Broadway, may extend forward of the 60 foot #setback line#, provided that no portion is closer than 20 feet to the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line#, 15 feet to the #street line# of the #narrow street# on which the theater has frontage and 50 feet to any other #narrow street# #street line#.

In addition, one or more #signs# affixed to any such #building# may project up to 10 feet across the #street line# and rise to a height of 120 feet above #curb level#. Balconies and terraces, including railings or parapets, may be located within the required setback area behind such #signs#. For the purposes of applying the definition of #floor area# in Section [12-10](#), #signs# projecting across the #street line# shall not constitute an enclosure, and the requirements of Section [32-41](#) (Enclosure Within Buildings) shall not apply to such balconies or terraces, provided that a portion of any such balcony or terrace is used for an entertainment-related #use# listed in Section [81-725](#) (Entertainment-related uses) or an accessory #use#.

- (4) For #zoning lots# 15,000 square feet in area or less, above the required #street wall# height before setback, the #street wall# of any #building# shall be set back at least 35 feet along the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street# frontage of the #zoning lot#.
- (5) Above the required #street wall# height before setback, a portion of any such #building# up to a height of 120 feet above #curb level# may occupy area forward of the setbacks required in paragraphs (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this Section but not closer than 20 feet to the Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street line#, provided that:
  - (i) 90 percent of any #narrow street# #street wall#, higher than 60 feet above #curb level# and forward of the setbacks required in paragraphs (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this Section is covered with #illuminated signs#.
  - (ii) In addition, 90 percent or 6,000 square feet, whichever is less, of any Seventh Avenue or Broadway #street wall# higher than 60 feet above #curb level# and forward of the setbacks required in paragraphs (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this Section is covered with #illuminated signs#.

For the purposes of this Section, a portion of a #street wall# shall be deemed to be covered with an #illuminated sign# if such #sign# obscures that portion of the #street wall# from view at #street# level at a point perpendicular in plan to the #sign# and 60 feet from the #street line# of the #narrow street# for paragraph (a)(5)(i) of this Section, and of Seventh Avenue or Broadway for paragraph (a)(5)(ii)

Neither temporary certificates of occupancy for #floor area# of the #development# or #enlargement# comprising, in aggregate, more than 50 percent of the total #floor area# of the #development# or #enlargement#, nor a first permanent certificate of occupancy for the #development# or #enlargement#, shall be issued by the Department of Buildings until all of the requirements as set forth in this Section at the time of issuance of such certificates of occupancy have been met and all #illuminated signs# required under this Section have been installed and put in operation.

- (b) The #street wall# of any #building# on a #zoning lot# between 43rd and 50th Streets and between Seventh Avenue and Broadway shall have a minimum #street wall# height of 50 feet on all #street# frontages.
- (c) For #zoning lots# located partially within the Theater Subdistrict Core and partially within the Eighth Avenue Corridor, the #street wall# of any #building# or portion of a #building# within the Theater Subdistrict Core shall have a minimum #street wall# height of 50 feet or the height of the #building#, whichever is less, and a maximum #street wall# height of 60 feet within 15 feet of the #narrow street# #street line#.

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## **81-752 - Special street wall and setback regulations within the Eighth Avenue Corridor**

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LAST AMENDED  
2/2/2011

#Buildings# on #zoning lots# located in whole or in part within the Eighth Avenue Corridor, as defined in Section [81-71](#), and east of Eighth Avenue, shall comply with the requirements of this Section, and except as superseded by this Section, with the provisions of Section [81-25](#) (General Provisions Relating to Height and Setback of Buildings), and either Section [81-26](#) (Height and Setback Regulations - Daylight Compensation) or [81-27](#) (Alternate Height and Setback Regulations - Daylight Evaluation).

#Buildings# on #zoning lots# located in whole or in part within the Eighth Avenue Corridor, as defined in Section [81-71](#), and west of Eighth Avenue shall comply with the requirements of this Section. The provisions of Sections [81-25](#), [81-26](#) and [81-27](#) shall not apply.

The provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Section shall apply to #developments#, #enlargements# and alterations, where such alterations change the height, width or location of a #street wall#.

(a) #Street wall# location and minimum and maximum heights before setbacks

- (1) On Eighth Avenue and 42nd Street, #street walls# shall extend along the entire #street# frontage of the #zoning lot# not occupied by existing #buildings# to remain, and shall rise to a minimum height of 50 feet or the height of the #building#, whichever is less. At least 70 percent of the width of such #street walls# shall be located on the #street line#, and the remaining 30 percent may be located beyond the #street line# in compliance with #residential# #outer court# regulations for #residential# portions of #buildings# and #community facility# #outer court# regulations for all other portions of #buildings#. However, within 30 feet of the intersection of two #street lines#, #street walls# shall comply with the location requirements of paragraph (a)(3) of this Section. The maximum height of #street walls# within 10 feet of the #wide street# #street line# shall be 150 feet beyond 15 feet of a #narrow street# #street line# and 85 feet within 15 feet of a #narrow street# #street line#.
- (2) On a #narrow street# east of Eighth Avenue, and on a #narrow street# west of and within 100 feet of Eighth Avenue, #street walls# shall extend along the entire width of such #narrow street# frontage of the #zoning lot# not occupied by existing #buildings# to remain, and shall rise to a minimum height of 50 feet or the height of the #building#, whichever is less. At least 70 percent of the width of such #street walls# along such #narrow street# frontage shall be located on the #street line#, and the remaining 30 percent may be located beyond the #street line# in compliance with #residential# #outer court# regulations for #residential# portions of #buildings# and #community facility# #outer court# regulations for all other portions of #buildings#. However, within 30 feet of the intersection of two #street lines#, #street walls# shall comply with the location requirements of paragraph (a)(3) of this Section. The maximum height of #street walls# within 15 feet of the #narrow street# #street line# shall be 85 feet.

On a #narrow street# west of and beyond 100 feet of Eighth Avenue, the maximum height of #street walls# within 15 feet of the #narrow street# #street line# shall be 66 feet, except in accordance with paragraphs (b) or (c)(3) of this Section. However, no #street wall# need be provided where at least 70 percent of the entire frontage of the #zoning lot# along such #narrow street# is occupied by #street walls# located on the #street line#.

- (3) Within 30 feet of the intersection of two #street lines#, the #street wall# shall be located on the #street line# or anywhere within an area bounded by the two #street lines# and lines parallel to and 15 feet from such #street lines#.
- (4) Where a continuous sidewalk widening is provided along the entire #block# frontage of a #wide street#, the boundary of the sidewalk widening shall be considered to be the #street line# for the purposes of this Section.

(b) Special #street wall# regulations for #buildings# adjacent to listed theaters

For #buildings# that are adjacent to a theater listed pursuant to Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters), the maximum height of the #street wall# of the #building# facing the same #street# as the “listed theater” shall be 60 feet within 15 feet of the #street line#.

(c) Additional regulations applying west of Eighth Avenue

- (1) West of Eighth Avenue, at any level above a height of 85 feet, any #building# or #buildings# or portions thereof shall, in the aggregate, occupy not more than 40 percent of the #lot area# of the #zoning lot#, except that for #zoning lots# of less than 20,000 square feet of #lot area#, this percentage may be increased as set forth in Section [23-65](#) (Tower Regulations). At any level above a height of 85 feet, any #building# or #buildings# or portions thereof shall, in the aggregate, occupy not less than 33 percent of the #lot area# of the #zoning lot#, except that such minimum #lot coverage# requirement shall not apply to the highest four #stories# of the #building#.

- (2) Beyond 125 feet of the western #street line# of Eighth Avenue, and beyond 100 feet of the northern #street line# of 42nd Street, no #building or other structure# shall exceed a height of 66 feet, except in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this Section.
- (3) Where the new or #enlarged# #building# #abuts# an existing #building# located entirely beyond 125 feet of the western #street line# of Eighth Avenue and the northern #street line# of 42nd Street, and such existing #building# exceeds a height of 66 feet, the new or #enlarged# #building# may exceed any height limits specified in this Section up to the height of the existing #building#, provided that, within 15 feet of the #narrow street# #street line#, such portion of the new or #enlarged# #building# does not exceed either the height of the existing #building# or 85 feet, whichever is less. For the purposes of this paragraph, the height of the existing #building# shall be the height of its #street wall#, before setback, if applicable, of that portion of the existing #building# #abutting# the new or #enlarged# #building#, fronting on the same #street line#, and located on the same or adjoining #zoning lot#.