



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM *Planning Department*

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**City Council Meeting Date: March 31, 2026**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Paula McMichael, AICP, Planning Director  
**Date:** March 24, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** Sanibel Fire Station 172 - 5171 Sanibel Captiva Road – After-the-Fact Approval of a Memorial Sign and Building Signage – both as Exempt Signs (not requiring a sign permit)

**BACKGROUND:**

Please see the documentation provided by Shenkel Shultz regarding Sanibel Fire Station & Rescue – Station 172 Building Signage. Two building signs have been installed at the newly completed fire station and the architect is requesting that they both be considered “exempt” signs (not requiring a sign permit) pursuant to [Sec. 106-3. Exempt Signs](#):

The following signs are exempt from the operation of the sign regulations in this chapter and from the requirement in this land development code that a permit be obtained for the erection or alteration of signs, ...

(4) Signs erected on public or private property under authority of or with permission from the city or signs required by federal or state law.

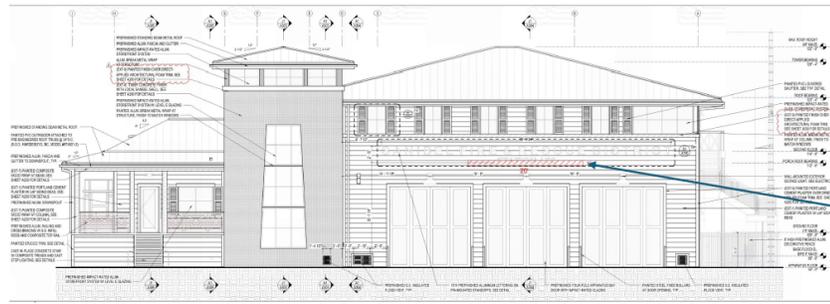
(7) Memorial signs, or plaques, tablets, or other remembrances of persons or events that are noncommercial in nature, subject to city council approval.

The architects request for an exemption for the “Main Building Signage” and the “Memorial Sign” are shown in the architects attached submission and the key images are inserted below.

Building Signage #1 – San-Cap Road



Building Signage #1 – San-Cap Road



Area hatched in red is the allowable 20 SF

**Exemption Request for Main Building Signage**

Sec. 106-201. - Institutional uses

- Code allows for 20 SF sign face.
- Sec 106-3. Exempt Signs

- (1) Signs that are not visible from a publicly owned area, public access area or from any adjacent property.
- (4) Signs erected on public or private property under authority of or with permission from the city or signs required by federal or state law.

1. Due to buffer and 75' set back monument signage was eliminated, and building sign was selected, raised for visibility above the required landscape buffer.
2. Due to the site location, this building sign is not facing any adjacent facility or resident. This sign if facing J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife preserve.
3. The districts name and station number is necessary for their identification to the public. Unique to most institutional buildings on Sanibel Island. The full name is long and important for the district. This is not just Fire department this also included Rescue making the District's full name long.
4. The additional need for the station number is important to the district for identification. Previously allowed 2 signs prior to reconstruction.
5. The code min allowable SF is not effective for visibility due to buffer. Raising the sign higher due to height of apparatus that sit on the apron. We believe the larger letters are important for the community to identify this essential facility for public safety.
6. In addition, the signage layout was designed to reduce large area of siding due to the proportion of the building levels. Ground level is 15' for the apparatus bays.
7. The signage construction is of individual letters attached directly to façade. This building has already been constructed.



Building Signage #2 – Bowman Beach Road

**Exemption Request for Memorial Sign**

Sec. 106-201. - Institutional uses

- Code allows for 20 SF sign face.
- Sec 106-3. Exempt Signs

(7) Memorial signs, plaques, or tablets, or other remembrances of persons or events that are noncommercial in nature, subject to city council approval.

1. Location is on the rear of building facility, not visible to the adjacent resident.
2. This "Bruised but not Broken" design was created after Hurricane Ian as an artistic expression to commemorate the significant impact the storm brought to the entire community and used as encouragement to the community to bounce back after the devastation. This also symbolizes the personal sacrifices of the first responders.
3. This art design inspired the new station design and is deeply meaningful to this reconstruction and history of the Fire District.



**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment has been received at this time.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of two building signs at Sanibel Fire Station 172 as "exempt" signs.

*Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary*