



# Lighting Ordinance Update

City Council

**April 7, 2025**

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## Purpose

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- Council Priority 2024: Climate Change & Natural Environment:  
*“Initiate an evaluation of strategies to protect natural habitats such as bird safe glass and wildlife protection from light pollution.”*
- *Dark Sky* principles: an effort to return the sky to its natural dark sky, to the extent feasible, by reducing light pollution.



## Draft Ordinance (includes PTC feedback)

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- Applies to new construction, major renovation, and new outdoor lighting.
- Lighting Standards:
  - Fully shielded lighting directed downwards.
  - Warmer lights at a maximum of 2700 Kelvins.
  - Lighting curfew at 10:00 p.m. or motion sensor to turn off within 5 minutes (reduced from 10 minutes per PTC).
- Low Density residential lighting measured in lumen.
- Includes exemptions and exceptions.
- Specific requirements for special purpose lighting.



## PTC Recommendation

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Elements of PTC recommendation that are partially included in Draft Ordinance:

- PTC recommended expanding applicability to new and replacement of existing lighting.
  - Apply only to new luminaires, to reduce impact on enforcement and cost burden on small projects.
- PTC recommended a hardship exception process for historic resources and financial burden.
  - Exception for historic resources included only, given difficulty in differentiating lighting cost to establish financial burden.





## PTC Recommendation

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Elements of PTC recommendation not included in the Draft Ordinance:

- Change light trespass allowance from 0.5 foot-candle to 0.1.
- Maintain previous staff recommendation at 0.5 due to difficulty of implementation.

Additional action PTC recommended for consideration:

- Further outreach at the time of implementation, and possible future efforts for interior commercial lighting.



## Public Feedback

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- Feedback received at Architectural Review Board and Planning & Transportation Commission hearings.
- Numerous comments from environmental advocates supported the effort and asking for more, including request that existing lighting comply with new regulations.
- Community member concerns that the new outdoor lighting regulations are too prescriptive and negatively impact safety.



# Staff Recommendation & Next Steps

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- Adopt the Draft Ordinance to implement new outdoor lighting regulations:
  - Updating PAMC Section 18.40.250 (Lighting), and
  - Amending PAMC Chapters 18.10, 18.12, 18.28, and Section 18.40.230.
- Next steps:
  - Second reading of the ordinance.
  - Additional outreach explaining new regulations.



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