

Ordinance Regarding Exterior Lighting

Purpose and Intent

- A. The purpose of the exterior lighting regulations is to:
 - a. Maximize energy conservation;
 - b. Minimize glare and obtrusive lighting;
 - c. Maximize effectiveness of exterior lighting;
 - d. Limit light trespass to protect privacy;
 - e. Permit reasonable uses of outdoor lighting for nighttime safety, utility, security and enjoyment while preserving the ambiance of the night; and
 - f. Provide guidelines for exterior lighting that will contribute to the safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Stamford.
- B. The intent of the exterior lighting regulations is to:
 - a. Reduce the problems by poorly designed and/or installed outdoor lighting;
 - b. Impose “dark-sky” initiatives to help control light pollution;
 - c. Reduce energy use;
 - d. Enhance the character of Stamford by prohibiting the use of internally lighted signs; and
 - e. Reduce excessive glare that may cause safety [problems or have adverse effects upon the use, enjoyment and value of resident properties.

General Provisions

- A. All exterior illuminating devices shall be installed in accordance with these regulations, the Building and Electrical Codes of the State of Connecticut and the City of Stamford and shall comply with all permit and inspection requirements.
- B. Exterior lighting shall be permitted for private streets, parking areas, and pedestrian walkways intended to serve public facilities, commercial uses, industrial uses, mixed use buildings, or multiple-family residential communities.

- C. Exterior lighting shall be of such character as to enhance the application for which it is intended. Details of exterior lighting shall be in conformity with the site layout and landscaping plan as approved by the city Planning and Zoning Boards.
- D. Any use subject to filing an application for a site development plan or a special exception shall provide a photometric design for the exterior lighting plan. Exterior light is required for parking areas and pedestrian walkways where nighttime lighting is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of those people utilizing such facilities.
- E. Uses within farming and residential zones are subject to these regulations.

Standards in All Zones

- A. Exterior lighting shall be positioned so that no direct rays from any such lighting shall fall off the lot; except in instances where driveways, pedestrian walkways or parking areas are utilized in common by more than one lot. Lighting may spill over shared lot lines to reduce energy use and to maintain illuminations as needed for security and safety with the written consent of the adjacent lot owners.
- B. All exterior lighting and sign illumination shall be designed, located, installed and directed in such a manner as to:
 - a. Prevent glare and light trespass;
 - b. Employ soft, transitional light levels which are consistent from area to area;
 - c. Minimize contrast between light sources, lit areas and dark surroundings;
 - d. Be consistent with “dark-sky” initiatives; and Be confined within target areas.
- C. No externally mounted direct light source utilized for sports uses, commercial uses; multi-family housing communities, institutional

uses or any nonresidential uses in a residential zone shall be visible at the property line at ground level or above.

- D. Lighting fixtures for all vehicular areas and pedestrian areas shall be full cut-off type fixtures or IESNA cut-off fixtures as approved by the city Planning and Zoning Boards, or shall be shielded/recessed fixtures where the lens is recessed or flush with the bottom surface.
- E. Lighting fixtures for building security or aesthetics and any display purpose shall be:
 - a. Top downward (not upright or sideways); and full cut-off, or IESNA cut-off fixtures or fully shielded/recessed.
- F. Lighting designed to highlight flags shall be targeted directly at the flag.
- G. Outdoor lighting for outdoor playing fields and/or other sports activity areas shall be specified, mounted and aimed so that:
 - a. The beams fall exclusively within the primary playing area and immediate surroundings; and
 - b. No light trespass is directed off the site; and
 - c. The maximum height is as specifically authorized by the city Planning and Zoning Boards.
- H. All nonessential lighting shall be turned off after business hours, leaving only the necessary lighting for site security. Nonessential lighting shall apply to display, aesthetic, and parking areas.
- I. The height of luminaries shall be at the minimum height to provide adequate illumination but shall not exceed a height of 18 feet from the ground to the highest point of the fixture or pole unless specifically authorized by the city Planning and Zoning Boards in granting a site development plan or special exception approval. However, in no instance shall any pole exceed 24 feet

from the ground to the highest point of the fixture or pole, unless authorized under Subsection G above.

Exemptions and Modifications

The following luminaries are exempt from this Ordinance:

- A. All hazard warning luminaires required by federal regulatory agencies.
- B. Traditional seasonal lighting.
- C. Temporary lighting associated with fair, carnival, or similar function authorized by these regulations.
- D. Temporary light used by the Police department, Fire Department or emergency services.