

Chapter 19.70

LIGHTING STANDARDS

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19.70.010 Intent. The intent of this section is: to encourage effective, non-detrimental lighting; to maintain night-time safety, utility, security and productivity; and to encourage lighting practices and systems which will minimize light pollution, glare, and light trespass, conserve energy and resources and curtail the degradation of the night time visual environment of the areas outlined below.

19.70.020 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Chapter:

“Fully Shielded”: Outdoor lighting fixtures shielded or constructed so that light rays are only emitted by the installed fixtures in such a manner that does not direct light upward or onto an offsite structure.

“Night Sky”: A clear sky, between dusk and dawn, with visible stars, despite necessary or desired illumination of private and public property.

“Fixture”: The assembly that holds a lamp and may include an assembly housing, a mounting bracket or polo socket, lamp holder, ballast, reflector or mirror and a refractor or lens.

“Freestanding Lighting”: A light fixture which is not attached to a building.

“Pedestrian Lighting”: Freestanding lighting fixtures not exceeding a height of thirty-six (36) inches from surrounding ground grade level.

“Architectural Lighting”: Lighting which is either directed towards a residence with the

intent of highlighting an architectural feature or a light fixture which is architecturally ornamental in nature or purpose.

19.70.030 Standards.

A. Residential, Commercial, Public and Industrial Land Use Districts: The following standards are applicable to all structures located within residential, commercial, public and industrial land use districts as identified on the City’s General Plan Land Use Map.

1. All lighting, unless exempt, shall be fully shielded Outdoor lighting fixtures established prior to the adoption date of this Chapter, shall come into compliance within one year of the adoption date except as provided below:
 - a. In the event the property owner or occupant demonstrates that compliance will cause a financial or other hardship, the Code Enforcement Officer may approve time extensions for such lighting fixtures for periods of up to one (1) year. A maximum of three (3) one-year extensions may be granted by the Code Enforcement Officer.
 - b. If an extreme hardship exists, the Planning Commission may approve additional extensions of time if a finding can be made that the violation is not excessive and that such extension does not create a

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- public nuisance.
- c. All requests for extension shall be in writing and shall be signed by the owner or occupant of the property.
2. Residential Pole lighting shall not exceed 12 feet in height.
- B. Street and Parking Lot Lighting. Street and parking lot lighting shall be oriented downward with cut-off fixtures to protect the desert sky and fifty percent of all lighting fixtures within parking lots or within open lot sale areas shall be turned off within one hour after closing or between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise, whichever occurs first.
- C. Shielding Requirements. All outdoor lighting, except as specified in Section (D.) below shall be fully shielded.
- D. Exemptions. The following outdoor lighting fixtures are exempt from the requirements of this section.
1. Fixtures producing light directly by the combustion of fossil fuels, such as kerosene lanterns for gas lamps.
 2. All neon outdoor lighting fixtures.
 3. Emergency lighting operated by a public utility or agency during the course of repairing or replacing damaged facilities.
 4. Emergency lighting and fixtures necessary to conduct rescue operations, provide emergency medical treatment or address any other emergency situation.
 5. Provided there is no light trespass or the lighting fixtures are regulated by motion detector, lighting fixtures within five (5) feet of an entrance or exit door and/or alcove of a dwelling unit, not exceeding a height of eight (8) feet and a wattage not exceeding 200 watts.
6. Holiday lighting and fixtures, providing such lighting and fixtures do not remain for longer than 60 days in duration.
 7. Architectural lighting whether it is freestanding or attached to a building which does not exceed an intensity of 40 watts.
 8. Pedestrian lighting which does not have an intensity greater than 40 watts.
 9. Vertical lighting for a properly displayed U.S. flag.
 10. Street lighting existing prior to adoption of this Chapter.
- E. Recreational Facilities. There shall be no illumination of private or public recreational facilities unless the facilities are being utilized. The illumination must be turned off between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and sunrise or one hour after the termination of the event and/or use, whichever occurs last.
- F. Billboards and Externally Illuminated Signs. Lighting fixtures used to illuminate any new sign shall be mounted on the top of the sign structure and shall comply with the shielding requirements of this Chapter and the City's Sign Code.
- G. Searchlights. Searchlights for advertising purposes are prohibited.
- 19.70.040 Penalty.** Violation of this Ordinance shall constitute an infraction on the first and second offense and a misdemeanor on the third offense. Each day of violation may be cited as a separate offense.