



# CITY OF KYLE

## Community Development Department

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: August 2, 2016  
To: City of Kyle Mayor & City Council  
From: Howard J. Koontz, Community Development Director  
Re: Revision of Kyle's Outdoor Lighting Standards

As Kyle continues to develop into a progressively more urbanized environment, one visible effect that presents itself more and more is that of exterior lighting. In the interest of responsible stewardship of Kyle's natural resources, and in seeking to reduce the deleterious effects of light trespass (light pollution), staff presents for your consideration a more specific, defined ordinance related to the establishment and continued maintenance of outdoor lighting for new, and in some case existing, development projects in our corporate limits.

This ordinance text in various iterations has been successfully implemented both locally (Austin, Boerne, Bulverde, Dripping Springs, and Webberville), as well as nationally. It is staff's hope and expectation that this language will foster a more sustainable development environment for the benefit of our residents, and catalyze additional local jurisdictions to follow suit.

The objectives of the ordinance are to prevent light trespass, reduce light pollution (also known as "sky glow"), reduce excessive glare, promote energy conservation, and improve safety and security. Staff proposes to accomplish these goals through regulations related to establishing maximum allowable lighting outputs which are based on zoning districts, requiring lighting styles to be reasonably uniform to minimize light/dark contrast, requiring all light trespass to end at property lines, and requiring the use of full cut-off light fixtures and shielding to otherwise reduce glare, light pollution and light trespass.

At their regular voting meeting on July 26, 2016, the Kyle Planning Commission heard and considered this item for recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. Following the Public Hearing, the commission recommended the text amendment favorably, with two preferred edits to the text: **1)** that "parks" be removed from the regulations found in the **LZ-0** 'No ambient lighting' lighting zone, and **2)** that the section related to Street Lighting should read 'Street lighting, other than at the intersection of roadways, shall utilize half-night photocells or timers to ~~turn-off lights~~ reduce light output by up to 70% half way between dusk and dawn.'