

Lighting in the Community

In accordance with the spirit of Texas House of Representatives Bill 916, the City of Midland establishes the following policy consisting of guidelines and recommendations for outdoor lighting within the City.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- 1) to discourage excess lighting;
- 2) to provide safer, more efficient and attractive outdoor lighting;
- 3) to conserve energy;
- 4) to reduce glare and unwanted illumination of surrounding streets and properties;
- 5) to make our community a better place to live and work and a more inviting place to visit; and
- 6) to preserve the darkness and clarity of the night sky.

Specifications

Light Trespass Site lighting on residential properties should be aimed and shielded in a manner that should not direct illumination on adjacent residential properties. Fixtures should be of a type or adequately shielded so as to prevent glare from normal viewing angles.

Parking Lots In order to direct light downward and minimize the amount of light spilled into the dark night sky, all lighting fixtures serving open-air parking lots should be full cut-off fixtures as defined by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA).

Sporting Events Lighting at public and private outdoor sports facilities should be shielded as well as is practicable to reduce glare, safety hazards, light trespass, and operating costs. The main lighting should not remain on longer than necessary to facilitate the safe exit of patrons. Where feasible, a low level lighting system should be used to facilitate cleanup, nighttime maintenance and other closing activities.

Energy Conservation Where practical, exterior lighting installations should include timers, dimmers, sensors, or photocell controllers that turn the light off during daylight hours or hours when lighting is not needed, to reduce overall energy consumption and eliminate unneeded lighting. In the interest of conserving energy, the most appropriate fixture type and most efficient lamp type that provides an adequate amount and quality of light should be used for each application. The use of solar-powered lighting is encouraged where feasible.

Business Lighting Lighting shall not be used to attract attention to a business except as otherwise allowed by the sign code.

Exceptions

The guidelines in this policy are not applicable to the following:

- A) decorative holiday lighting from November 15 through the next January 15;
- B) lighting required by law to be installed on surface vehicles and aircraft;
- C) airport lighting required by law;
- D) temporary emergency lighting;
- E) temporary lighting other than security lighting at construction projects; and
- F) governmental facilities where compelling needs for safety and security are demonstrated.

