



Memorandum

Date: July 14, 2021

To: Mark D. Israelson, City Manager
Shelli Siemer, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services

From: Rachel C. Patterson, Director of Environmental Health & Sustainability (EHS)

Subject: Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Update

Background

On May 19, 2021, council received a letter from a local law firm representing a resident in our community. The request was for us to review the city's outdoor lighting ordinance and consider changing the regulations to include complaints against residential properties. At that time, the city manager asked EHS for background on this issue.

The ordinance exempts single-family residential properties from regulation. What this means is that commercial and industrial properties are the only types of property that must comply with lighting standards. Unfortunately, this causes a potential issue within residential neighborhoods, as they are not required to abide by any lighting standards, and have no one to turn to when/if their neighbor acts discourteously.

Opportunity

Originally approved by city council in 1985, the existing ordinance was updated significantly in 2000 with minor updates in 2001 and 2008. It is at a point where it could use some language and terminology updates, consideration for LED lighting, clarification of authorities, general reorganization, and enforcement revisions.

As lighting can have a significant effect on the health of a community, it is our recommendation that the exemption for residential lighting be removed and other updates made.

At the meeting on July 26, 2021, I will give a brief background and review the recommended changes to the ordinance. EHS will be asking for direction from council as to whether it is their desire that this ordinance be updated.