Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN

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CHAPTER 1470

Outdoor Lighting

1470.01 FINDINGS

Adequate outdoor lighting is necessary for safety and security. However, improper use of outdoor electric lighting can cause light pollution, disrupting people's enjoyment of their surroundings. Some types of lighting, such as lighting that creates glare, causes visual discomfort and may even reduce visibility. The goals of Chapter 1470 are to set forth regulations that permit essential outdoor lighting that promotes safety and security but discourage use of lighting that is detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare.

1470.02 PURPOSE

The purpose of Chapter 1470 is to provide regulations for outdoor lighting that will:

(a) Permit the use of outdoor lighting needed for nighttime safety, utility, security, productivity, enjoyment, and commerce.

(b) Minimize adverse off-site impacts of outdoor lighting, such as light trespass and glare.

1470.03 APPLICABILITY

All outdoor lighting installed after the effective date of this Ordinance shall comply with the requirements set forth herein, except as noted. This includes, but is not limited to, new lighting, replacement lighting (including changing from one type or intensity of bulb or lamp to another), or any other lighting whether attached to a building or structure, pole, the earth, or any other location, including lighting installed by any third party.

1470.04 DEFINITIONS

Words and phrases used in Chapter 1470 shall have the meanings set forth below.

Bulb (or Lamp): The source of electric light (to be distinguished from the whole assembly, which is called the luminaire). "Lamp" is often used to denote the bulb and its housing.

Canopy: A covered structure that is open on its sides for vehicular or pedestrian access (e.g., a gas station canopy).

Fixture: The assembly that holds the lamp in a lighting system. The fixture includes the elements designed to give light output control, such as a reflector (mirror), refractor (lens), ballast, housing, and the attachment parts.

Footcandle: A unit of measure expressing the quantity of light received on a surface. One footcandle is the illuminance produced by a candle on a surface one-foot square from a distance of one foot. A light meter provides the most reliable means of measuring footcandles.

Glare: Visual conditions in which there is excessive contrast or an inappropriate distribution of light sources, which ~~that disturbs the observer or~~ limits the ability to distinguish details and objects.

Laser Light Source: An intense beam of light, in which all photons share the same wavelength.

Light Pollution: Any adverse effect of artificial light including, but not limited to, glare, light trespass, sky glow, energy waste, compromised safety and security, and adverse impacts on the nocturnal environment.

Light Trespass: Light that falls beyond the boundary of the property it is intended to illuminate (also called spill light).

Lumen: A measure of the total quantity of visible light emitted by a source per unit of time.

Luminaire: The complete lighting unit (fixture), consisting of a lamp, or lamps and ballasts (when applicable), together with parts designed to distribute the light (reflector, lens, diffuser), position and protect the lamps, and connect the lamps to a power supply.

Mounting Height: The height of the photometric center of a luminaire above grade level.

Ornamental Lighting: A luminaire that is used to illuminate streets, driveways, sidewalks, patios, porches, or building entrances, that serves a decorative function as well.

Recessed Canopy Fixture: An outdoor lighting fixture recessed into a canopy ceiling so that the bottom of the fixture is flush with the ceiling.

1470.05 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements in this Section apply to all lighting throughout the Village, except for lighting that is identified as exempt in Section 1470.07.

(a) Light Trespass at the Property Line. The intensity of light on a site shall not exceed two-tenths (0.2) of a footcandle at any property line that abuts a residentially zoned property and one-half (0.5) of a footcandle at any property line that abuts any other zoned property.

(b) Mounting Height. Lighting fixture mounting height shall not exceed twenty-two (22) feet.

(c) Ornamental Lighting. The orientation, shielding, and mounting height requirements shall be waived for ornamental lighting.

1470.06 NONRESIDENTIAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

The requirements in this Section apply only to nonresidential lighting throughout the Village.

(a) Illumination Levels. Nonresidential lighting shall comply with the illumination levels specified in the following Table 1.

Table 1: Maximum Illumination Levels

Location	Average Maximum Maintained Footcandles
Infrequently Used Pedestrian Entrances	2.0
Active Pedestrian Entrances	5.0
Low Activity Parking Areas	3.0

High Activity Parking Areas	5.0
Loading Areas	5.0

(b) Uniformity Ratio. In order to attain lighting uniformity, the ratio between average lighting levels to the average maximum lighting levels shall not exceed 4:1.

(c) Canopy Lights. Light fixtures, excluding ornamental lighting, mounted on the underside of a canopy or similar structure shall be fully recessed into the canopy.

1470.07 EXEMPTIONS

The following outdoor lighting shall be exempt from the regulations in Chapter 1470:

(a) Governmental Lighting. Nothing in this Chapter shall apply to lighting owned, maintained, or is the responsibility of any governmental body.

(b) Fossil Fuel Light. Fossil fuel light produced directly or indirectly from the combustion of natural gas or other utility-type fossil fuels (e.g., gas lamps) is exempt from the regulations in this Chapter.

(c) Temporary Lighting for Carnivals, Fairs, or Civic Uses. Lighting for temporary carnivals, fairs, or civic uses permitted by the Village Council is exempt from the regulations in this Chapter.

(d) Construction and Emergency Lighting. Temporary lighting necessary for construction or emergency purposes is exempt from the regulations in this Chapter provided that it is discontinued immediately upon completion of the construction or abatement of the emergency.

(e) Temporary Low Illuminance Seasonal Lighting. Temporary low illuminance lights used for seasonal display (e.g., holiday lights) are exempt from the regulations regarding fixture orientation and shielding, mounting height, and color correction in this Chapter. High intensity lights are prohibited, as stated in Section 1470.08, with exception to seasonal laser lights projected exclusively within the boundaries of the site and does not commit light trespass.

1470.08 PROHIBITED LIGHTING

The following outdoor lighting shall be prohibited in the Village of Franklin:

(a) High Intensity Lights. Laser lights, strobe lights, searchlights, and any other similar lights shall be prohibited for lighting, advertising, or entertaining purposes.

(b) Flashing and Moving Lights. Flashing, moving, and intermittent lighting. Nothing in this subsection is intended to prohibit motion-activated lights, outdoor televisions, or lights otherwise exempted by Section 1470.07(e).

1470.09 SIGN LIGHTING

Illuminated signs shall comply with the regulations in Section 1474.14 (the Sign Code).

1470.10 APPROVAL PROCESS

Approval of proposed outdoor lighting shall be required as noted below.

(a) Nonresidential Lighting where Site Plan Review **Is** Required. Where site plan review is required (e.g., new development, redevelopment, substantial renovation), proposed outdoor lighting shall be subject to site plan review and approval, pursuant to Section 1268.30. The following information shall be included on or with the site plan:

(1) Locations of all outdoor lighting fixtures.
(2) Photometric grid overlaid on the site plan indicating the level of illumination throughout the site in footcandles.
(3) Manufacturer's specification sheet for each type of proposed fixture.

(b) Residential Lighting—New Home. Proposed outdoor lighting for a new home shall be subject to review by the Building Official or Electrical Inspector. The following information shall be included on or with the application for a building or electrical permit:

(1) Locations of all outdoor lighting fixtures.
(2) Manufacturer's specification sheet for each type of proposed fixture.

(c) Residential Lighting—Existing Home. Where the Building or Electrical Codes require a permit, proposed replacement lighting for an existing home shall be subject to review by the Building Official or Electrical Inspector. The following information shall be included on or with the application for a building or electrical permit:

(1) Locations of proposed replacement outdoor lighting fixtures.
(2) Manufacturer's specification sheet for each type of proposed fixture.

Where the Building or Electrical Codes do not require a permit, replacement lighting shall nevertheless comply with the regulations in this Chapter.