

8. Outdoor lighting ordinance. What key components should it contain?

I think that any outdoor lighting ordinance needs to be enforceable. Not only should it be easy for someone to determine if a light fixture is in compliance with the ordinance, but there should be fines associated with failure to comply, in a reasonable time, to bringing a violating light polluting fixtures up to the correct fixture.

Second, even though it is not fair, there should be no grand-father clauses that keep someone from upgrading their older fixtures in a reasonable amount of time. These older fixtures could last for years, contributing to the problem for much longer than they need to.

As for the text of any ordinance, I think that it should include the following text:

- All lighting installations shall be designed and installed to be fully shielded (full cutoff) fixtures.
- Have a maximum lamp wattage for commercial and residential lighting
- In residential areas, light should be shielded such that the lamp itself or the lamp image is not directly visible outside the property perimeter.
- Include a hot line telephone number whereby someone can easily report a violation.

Have this ordinance in effect in the city building codes so that enforcement can occur.

One cannot be too restrictive or no one will follow it, nor will it be enforceable. I think the above guidelines would make a much better ordinance than the one my city currently has, which is not into city law yet, for it is still in discussion.