

## Ames, Iowa Ordinance No. 3529

### Outdoor Lighting Code

- Purpose
  - reduce problems created by improperly designed and installed outdoor lighting
  - intended to eliminate problems created of glare, minimize light trespass, help reduce the energy and financial cost of outdoor lighting by establishing regulations which limit the area that certain kinds of outdoor-lighting fixtures can illuminate and by limiting the total allowable illumination of lots located in Ames
- Definitions
  - direct light, fixture, fully-shielded lights, glare, grandfathered luminaries, lamp, light trespass, lumen, luminaire, outdoor lighting
  - good definition of glare: direct light emitted from a luminaire with an intensity great enough to cause visual discomfort, eye fatigue, a reduction in a viewer's ability to see, or in extreme cases momentary blindness
- Control of Glare
  - any luminaire with a lamp rated at more than 1800 lumens shall not emit, in its installed position, any direct light above a horizontal plane through the lowest direct light emitting part of the luminaire
  - any luminaire with a lamp rated at more than 1800 lumens, shall not emit in its installed position any more than 5% of its total light output in the zone from 15 degrees below the horizontal to the horizontal plane through the lowest direct light emitting part of the luminaire
- Exception to Control of Glare
  - any lighting source producing 1800 lumens or less shall be exempt from the Outdoor Lighting Code
    - Problem: still leaves room for possible light pollution
  - all temporary emergency lighting needed by the police or fire departments of other emergency services, as well as all vehicular luminaries, are exempt from the Code
  - all hazard warning luminaries required by Federal regulatory agencies are exempt
  - a building or structure that has been designated for historic preservation by the City of Ames, State of Iowa, or the National Park Service, shall be exempt from the "fully shielded" requirements, if a historic restoration cannot be achieved by other means
    - Problem: allows for light pollution to become an issue since the lighting could be done in extreme; should have more direction with how historical places should be lit
- Recreational Facilities
  - all fixtures used for such lighting shall be fully shielded or be designed or provided with sharp cut-off capability, so as to minimize up-light, spill-light, and glare
  - illumination of facilities after midnight is prohibited except to conclude a scheduled event that was scheduled to be completed before 11pm that circumstances prevented concluding before 11pm
- Development Permits
  - Submission Contents: need to provide evidence that the proposed work or activity will comply with the Code
    - plans indicating the location on the premises and the type of illuminating devices, fixtures, lamps, supports, reflectors, and other devices

- detailed description of the illuminating devices, fixtures, lamps, supports, reflectors, and other devices which should include manufacturer's catalog cuts and drawings
  - photometric data that is furnished by manufacturers, showing the angle of cut off or light emissions
- Lamp or Fixture Substitution: if any changes need to be made after the permit has been issued, a change request must be submitted to the building official for approval, together with adequate information to assure compliance with the Code, which must be received prior to substitution
- Penalties
  - Violation: municipal infraction for any person to violate any of the provisions of the Code
  - Violations and Legal Actions: City shall give written notice of such violation to the owner and/or to the occupant of the premises demanding that the violation be abated within 120 days of the date of the written notice; after 120 days and no changes, the city takes actions to collect on the penalties
  - Penalties: a civil penalty of \$500 for a person's first violation and a penalty of \$750 for each repeat violation, each day after the expiration of the 120 day period provided that a violation occurs or is permitted to exist constitute a separate violation for the purpose of the civil penalty
- Passed on July 14, 1999