



AGENDA MEMO - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2024
DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ITEM DESCRIPTION: APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS

**** STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S) ****

CASE NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL
24-0516-TXT1	Staff recommends APPROVAL.	

**** NOTIFICATION ****

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED N/A

NOTICES MAILED (Newspaper Only)

PROTESTS

APPROVALS

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**** PROPOSED AMENDMENT ****

1. Title 19.10.020(E) shall be amended to add subparagraph 6, reading as follows:

6. Lighting Standards Applicable to Certain Areas of the City. These standards shall apply exclusively to the Lone Mountain and La Madre Foothills areas as set forth by the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan. These standards are applicable to all outdoor areas of non-residential developments zoned C-V (Civic), including, but not limited to: parking lots, walkways, buildings, and all architectural elements. All new construction, or any modification of over 50% of the area of the site with regard to landscaping, construction, or lighting shall require full compliance with LVMC 19.10.020(E)(4), in addition to all other applicable standards, unless deviation or relief from any such standard is granted by means of a Variance application under LVMC 19.16.140. In the event of an emergency proclamation by a federal, state, or local government or agency, these standards shall not apply for the duration of the emergency. FAA warning lights, beacons, and other warning lighting of any kind are exempt from these standards.
 - a. Lighting Colors. Light temperature shall not exceed 4000 Kelvin.
 - b. Height of lighting on buildings. Any light fixtures or light emitted on buildings extending above 35 feet shall be turned off between the hours of 11 P.M. and 5 A.M.
 - c. Light Shielding. Shielding of light fixtures (internal or externally shielded) shall meet the following minimum standards:
 - i. For light poles lower than or equal to 10 feet: Minimum shielding angle of 15 degrees.
 - ii. For light poles above 10 feet to 15 feet: Minimum shielding angle of 30 degrees.
 - iii. For light poles above 15 feet to 20 feet: Minimum shielding angle of 45 degrees.
 - iv. For light poles above 20 feet: Minimum additional shielding of one degree per 1 additional foot in pole height.
 - v. For all accent and architectural lighting: Minimum shielding angle of 45 degrees.

F. Applicability of Standards

1. The approval of a major review of the Site Development Plan Review pursuant to the provisions of LVMC 19.16.100 shall be required upon determination by the Director that the proposed development is not compatible with existing and planned development or uses in the adjacent surrounding area, or that the potential impact of the proposed project on existing and planned development or uses in the adjacent surrounding area is significant enough to require a public hearing.

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2. The standards set forth in Subsections Paragraphs (4), ~~and (5)~~, and (6) of Subsection (E) of this Section are minimum requirements. Any request to deviate from these standards shall require the approval of a major review of a Site Development Plan Review pursuant to the provisions of LVMC 19.16.100.
2. 19.18.020 Words and Terms Defined shall be amended to add the following definitions, in the appropriate location:

Light Fixture. Any electrical device that emits light, whether attached to a pole, building, roof, sign, or any other structure.

Shielding Angle. The angle formed by the horizontal plane of the lowest point of the light fixture and a straight line running from the lowest point of the edge of the interior of the light fixture to the lowest point of the light source.

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This amendment addresses the community's preferences for additional standards to prevent excessive light pollution. This is an amendment to the 19.10.020(E) C-V (Civic) zone Development Standards section and 19.18.020 Words and Terms Defined.

ANALYSIS

This amendment provides for standards exclusively within the Lone Mountain and La Madre Foothills areas of the City, as established by the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan. These two areas contain a larger share of traditional neighborhoods and rural placetypes where residents value darker skies, ranch-style development, reduced street lighting and where lower density neighborhoods transition to the mountains. The City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan, Ordinance 6788 adopted in July 2021, established 16 areas of the City. As mandated by the Master Plan, starting in June 2023, the City began undertaking local area plans in the northwest areas of the City. Feedback in the form of meetings and surveys via the public outreach process for these area plans have informed staff and the consultant team about the importance of reducing light pollution in land developments, particularly on taller and higher profile buildings within the area. The reasons for reducing light pollution include preserving a darker sky for night time viewing, reducing glare, improving nighttime aesthetics, and reducing spillover lighting. As a result, the 2050 Master Plan recommends the City to adopt appropriate development standards to maintain the rural character of these neighborhoods.

The proposed amendment provides for standards solely for parcels zoned C-V (Civic) within the Lone Mountain and La Madre Foothills areas of the City. Pursuant to LVMC Title 19, the C-V district is intended "to provide for the continuation of existing public and quasi-public uses and for the development of new schools, libraries, public parks, public flood control facilities, police and fire department facilities, electrical transmission facilities, facilities of the Las Vegas Valley Water District and other public utility facilities." The C-V district permits churches on sites of five acres or more. Other uses permitted by Special Use Permit include alcohol serving establishments, banquet facilities, convention facilities, and gaming establishments.

Within the Lone Mountain and La Madre Foothills areas, there are large parcels zoned C-V immediately surrounding and on Lone Mountain, west of the 215 Beltway at Ann Road, south of the 215 Beltway at North Hualapai Way, at the intersections West Cheyenne Avenue and North Rampart Boulevard, and the intersection of North Tenaya Way and West Gowan Road. These parcels currently zoned C-V consist of drainage retention areas, parks, a Clark County School District bus depot, a high school, a middle school, churches, and other institutional uses.

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The new standards include lighting temperature restrictions, limitations on the height of lighting during certain times of day, and require light fixture shielding. Light temperature, measured in Kelvin, appears to our vision as light color. The limit is set at a maximum of 4000 Kelvin, which prohibits extreme bright white and blue light and allows warmer or gentle white light. The height at which light is deployed, along with light color, is deemed to be a key factor in the degree of nuisance light might pose to neighbors. Therefore, any light emitted above 35 feet shall be turned off between the hours of 11 P.M. and 5 A.M. Light shielding directs light in its intended direction, preventing glare and light spillover.

FINDINGS (24-0516-TXT1)

1. This amendment will apply exclusively to C-V (Civic) zoned properties within the Lone Mountain and La Madre Foothills areas. All new development within these areas will be subjected to these requirements, as well as any modification of over 50% of the area of the site with regard to landscaping, construction, or lighting for existing developments. FAA warning lighting, and other official lighting, and lighting during declared emergencies, are exempt. A Variance will be required to obtain relief from these standards.