OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE
City of Ann Arbor

WHY A LIGHTING ORDINANCE?
While outdoor lighting serves a purpose, it also has negative impacts: light trespass onto neighboring properties; health and safety problems due to glare and skyglow; serious environmental impacts; and wasted energy.

THESE REGULATIONS APPLY TO ALL PRIVATE PROPERTIES
See page two for exceptions and additional regulations for commercial properties.

LIGHT TRESPASS
Outdoor lighting can only spread minimally beyond the target sign or building, or onto a neighbor’s property.

FULLY/PARTIALLY SHIELDED
All new luminaires must be fully or partially shielded, per the new ordinance. Full shielding does not emit light above a horizontal plane drawn through their lowest light-emitting part. Partial shielding allows some light above the horizontal plane, in order to illuminate a specific upright target (like a statue or wall sign).

LIGHTS OFF FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6AM
Decorative lighting of building facades and landscape must be turned off between midnight and 6:00am (except during business hours in non-residential districts).
Temporary lighting, like holiday and special event lighting, is allowed for 90 consecutive days per year. It must be turned off between midnight and 6am.

Lighting for flags.

Light installations determined by the Historic District Commission to contribute to the historic character of a property.

Lighting on parking lots must be fully shielded.

Lighting on sites with no residential uses must be extinguished within a half hour of close of business. See the ordinance for maximum light levels.

Outdoor lighting must use colors no bluer than "warm white" (Correlated Color Temperature no greater than 3000 K); and must approximate a natural light source (Color Rendering Index of at least 70). This does not apply to single- and two-family properties or illuminated signs.

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