



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Master

**File Number: 70637**

**File ID:** 70637

**File Type:** Resolution

**Status:** Withdrawn

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**Controlling Body:** BOARD OF REVIEW

**File Created Date :** 03/22/2022

**File Name:** City of Madison Commits to the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting and Strengthens Lighting Ordinance

**Final Action:** 05/10/2022

**Title:** City of Madison Commits to the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting and Strengthens Lighting Ordinance

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:** Grant Foster And Tag Evers

**Effective Date:**

**Attachments:**

**Enactment Number:**

**Author:** Ald. Tag Evers and Ald. Grant Foster

**Hearing Date:**

**Entered by:** kkapusta-pofahl@cityofmadison.com

**Published Date:**

**Related Files:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Council Office	03/22/2022	Referred for Introduction				
	<b>Action Text:</b>		This Resolution was Referred for Introduction				
	<b>Notes:</b>		Sustainable Madison Committee (4/27/22); Building Code, Fire Code, Conveyance Code and Licensing Appeals Board (5/17/22); Common Council (5/24/22)				
1	COMMON COUNCIL	05/10/2022	Withdrawn				Pass
	<b>Action Text:</b>		A motion was made by Furman, seconded by Currie, to Withdrawn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.				

### Text of Legislative File 70637

**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal note pending.

**Title**

City of Madison Commits to the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting and Strengthens Lighting Ordinance

**Body**

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WHEREAS, light pollution is defined by the International Dark-Sky Association as any adverse

impact or effect attributable to the use of artificial light at night, including but not limited to skyglow, spill light, and impaired nighttime visibility; and,

WHEREAS, light pollution can negatively influence natural ecosystems, human health, and energy sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, light pollution can disrupt migration patterns in birds and other animals; and,

WHEREAS, Madison lies along the Mississippi Flyway migratory bird path; and,

WHEREAS, light pollution can disrupt the circadian rhythm in humans and animals that regulates the wake-sleep cycle; and,

WHEREAS, light pollution obscures our ability to observe the night sky and its constellations; and,

WHEREAS, outdoor lighting should be designed to minimize its impact on the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Madison is committed to fostering environmental, economic, and social resilience and created the Madison Sustainability Plan in 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the Madison Sustainability Plan includes a focus on natural systems with a commitment that "Madison will create a state of balance between the natural and built environments wherein human, plant and animal communities live in harmony"; and,

WHEREAS, in 2004, the City's exterior lighting ordinance, which regulates residential and commercial lighting, was updated in 2004 to be dark sky compliant; and,

WHEREAS, in 2008, the City's sign control ordinance, which regulates illuminated signs, was updated to minimize spill, glare and excessive lighting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Madison commits to the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting, set forth by the International Dark-Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society. Lighting should be:

1. Useful: All light should have a clear purpose
2. Targeted: Light should be directed to only where needed
3. Low Light Levels: Light should be no brighter than necessary
4. Controlled: Light should be used only when useful
5. Color: Use warmer color lights where possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Madison will apply for designation as an International Dark Sky Community through the International Dark-Sky Association.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, in order to further reduce light pollution, the Madison Common Council adopts changes to MGO 10.085 (3)(a)2 of the outdoor lighting code so that "all fixtures greater than 500 initial lumens (equivalent to 40 watts incandescent or 10 watt LED) shall be full cutoff, or shall be shielded or installed so that there is not a direct line of sight between the light source or its reflection and a point five (5) feet or higher above the ground at the property boundary. The light source shall not be of such intensity so as to cause discomfort or annoyance."

Sources:

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<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-principles/>>

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