



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 70637, **Version:** 2

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### **Fiscal Note**

The proposed resolution commits the City of Madison to principles of responsible outdoor lighting and to apply for designation as an International Dark Sky Community through the International Dark-Sky Association. The resolution does not change any enforcement actions related to outdoor lighting. The application cost for the designation is \$250 and the annual membership is \$35. These costs will be absorbed within the Common Council's 2022 operating budget. No appropriation is required.

### **Title**

City of Madison Commits to the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting

### **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.

Sources:

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