

**LEGISLATIVE**

**# 110901**

## INTER~OFFICE COMMUNICATION:

**TO:** Community Development Committee

**FROM:** Planning and Development Services Department **DATE:** October 1, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Modification to the Lighting Ordinance

As you review issues pertaining to general urban lighting and the Dark Night Sky, the following information is provided to update the committee on a current referral to update the city's lighting ordinance.

Staff received a request from an existing development to redesign the lighting at its site in order to improve security and to enhance the night time experience of patrons at its facility. Since the request could not be accommodated under the current ordinance, staff submitted a request to the City Commission on March 15, 2012, seeking authorization to address a modification to the lighting ordinance. The City Commission voted 7 to 0, authorizing initiation of a petition for its consideration through the City Plan Board.

In preparing the ordinance, staff considered variations in site characteristics, spatial and use variations associated with outdoor lighting, vertical variations in light intensities, lighting for parking structures and exceptions for open parking lots. The following areas are addressed in the petition:

1. The petition reorganizes current lighting standards found in different sections of the code into one area and provides clarifying definitions.
2. It provides an avenue to allow properties with more than 100,000 square feet of gross floor area to request an increase in pole heights from 30 feet to 50 feet.
3. It requires special lighting requirements for developments within 50 feet of single-family development and those within 100 feet of all residential development.
4. It establishes new standards for reviewing lighting of parking structures.
5. It provides new standards to address requests for waivers and extends the waiver provision to all aspects of outdoor lighting.
6. It establishes a "Technical Consultation Fee" to allow for professional review of request for waivers and unique lighting plans.

The City Plan Board reviewed the petition on April 26, 2012 and the City Commission granted approval on June 7, 2012. The ordinance will be presented to the City Commission for First Reading on November 15, 2012.