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"To provide quality service to the citizens of Alpine"

January 25, 2023

Dear Business Owners within the City of Alpine limits:

On July 6, 2021, Alpine City Council adopted an OUTSIDE LIGHTING ORDINANCE supporting the *Big Bend region's designation as the world's largest International Dark Sky Reserve*, covering approximately 15,000 square miles.

This Ordinance (Chapter 18, Article VII, Section 18-231 through 18-240) outlines and codifies how both commercial and residential outdoor lighting needs to be installed within the city limits.

After July 5, 2025, you could be ticketed and fined by City of Alpine Code Enforcement officers for non-compliance of this Ordinance.

This Letter is to make you aware of these changes and to encourage you to be mindful of them as your outdoor lighting fixtures, bulbs, and situations need to be addressed over the next three years.

As stated in the Ordinance, **the purpose of the Outdoor Lighting changes is:**

1. To reduce glare and improve nighttime visibility which contributes to safer, more secure, and attractive outdoor living spaces.
2. To encourage efficient, controlled lighting that conserves energy.
3. To make our community a better place to live and work and a more inviting place for tourist to visit.
4. To protect properties from light trespass.
5. To preserve our heritage of a clear, dark night sky.
6. To be mindful of the needs of McDonald Observatory for minimal artificial light at night to conduct ongoing astronomical research; and

7. To position the city to apply for a designation as an International Dark Sky Community.
8. To encourage and demonstrate the use of best outdoor lighting practices.

Exhibit 2 of Section 18-240 provides an illustration and explanation of best outdoor lighting practices.



1. Light fixtures/luminaires with no shielding waste light into the sky.
2. Use shielding to reclaim wasted light and direct it to the area to be lit.
3. Lower the correlated color temperature (CCT) from "cool" white light to "warm" white.
4. Lower the intensity to provide as much light as needed for the application, but no more.
5. Use adaptive controls, e.g. timers, half-night photocells, motion sensors, etc., to limit the hours the light is in use.

Examples of Acceptable/Unacceptable Lighting Fixtures can be found on the next page.

For the full Ordinance language, please visit the City's website at <https://www.cityofalpine.com/> and search Ordinances, Chapter 18, Article VII, Section 18-231 through 18-240.

For more information on the newly-established Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve as well as additional ideas and examples of allowed lighting, please visit <https://www.bigbenddarkskyreserve.org/>.

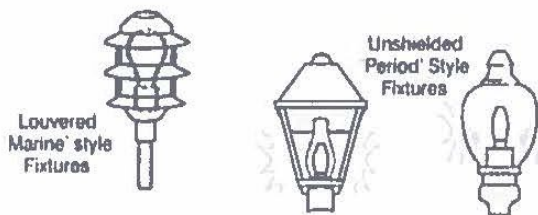
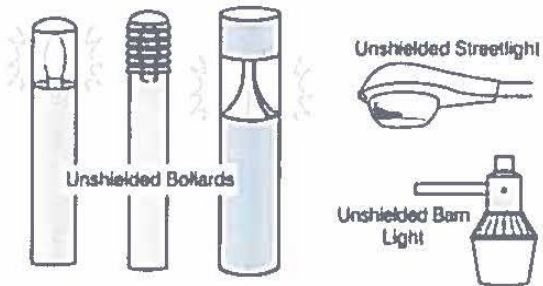
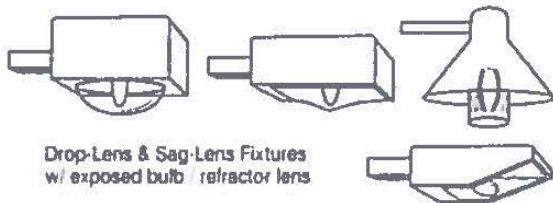
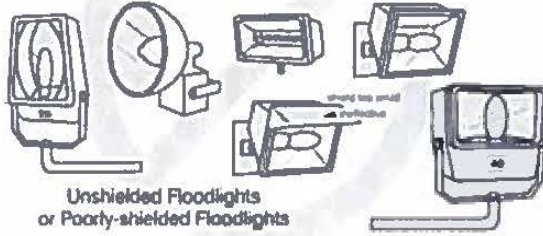
Very Respectfully,

Megan Antrim, CPFIM
City Manager, City of Alpine

Examples of Acceptable / Unacceptable Lighting Fixtures

Unacceptable / Discouraged

Fixtures that produce glare and light trespass



Acceptable

Fixtures that shield the light source to minimize glare and light trespass and to facilitate better vision at night

