




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustee Bill Johnston, Chairman  
Economic and Community Development Commission

**FROM:** William J. Heniff, AICP, Director   
Department of Community Development

**DATE:** November 14, 2016

**SUBJECT:** **Business Lighting Review – Next Steps**

At the July, August, and September, 2016 Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) meetings, the issue of business perimeter lighting, particularly around business windows, was discussed. This matter was brought forward by staff based upon inquiries received by and through elected officials and citizen inquiries.

At the August meeting, members of the business community as well as the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and Lombard Town Centre (LTC) were on-hand to hear the testimony as well. At the August meeting, staff offered six approaches that could be explored if there was a desire to proceed with such additional regulations. These included:

|   | Description/Action  | Benefits   | Challenges   |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | Status Quo – no change to Village regulations   | Lights would remain as permitted; businesses can determine desired breadth and design of lighting                              | Concerns remain  |
| 2 | Prohibit the lighting by type, (i.e. prohibit LED rope lighting, or neon tubing lighting, etc.) | This would allow a business to use neon or other lights to highlight their windows   | Technology changes may require further review over time  |
| 3 | Prohibit the lighting based on the business' distance from the street                           | Would allow businesses in selected areas (i.e. Yorktown Mall, High Point and Eastgate Shopping Center) to have window lighting | Would still allow all types of lighting, if beyond a specified distance, such as 180 feet from right-of-way (i.e., not a direct prohibition) |
| 4 | Prohibit by zoning district   | Could eliminate the lights in specific areas, like downtown area or Roosevelt Road   | As a nuisance provision, may not adequately address concern  |
| 5 | Prohibit lighting around the entire perimeter of the window                                     | This would allow a business to use the lighting around three (or less) of the four sides of their windows                      | Would still allow the lights around a portion of the window and may not adequately address concern   |
| 6 | Prohibiting window lighting as a whole  | Lighting would be prohibited Village wide  | Could create issues with holiday lighting and may preclude other types of accent light that may otherwise be deemed appropriate              |

The Lombard Chamber considered the request at their August 9 Board meeting and has taken the position that they would like the Economic and Community Development Commission (ECDC) to take no action on regulating window lighting for Lombard businesses (i.e., status quo option 1).

Based upon the comments offered by the ECDC at the September meeting, there was a general sense that option 1, status quo was favored. However the ECDC tabled the discussion until the LTC Board had an opportunity to vote on the matter.

LTC considered the request at their September 26 Board meeting and has taken the position that they would like the Economic and Community Development Commission (ECDC) to take no action on regulating window lighting for Lombard businesses (i.e., status quo option 1). The LTC Board also discussed providing some guidelines for new businesses in a LTC “welcome packet” with the understanding that these guidelines are not enforceable by the Village.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Staff is bringing this item back to the ECDC for final direction. The ECDC should review the options and offer staff direction on which option(s) they prefer. Should a regulatory option be sought, staff will then prepare draft language for consideration at the December meeting and would invite the business community as well, if needed. If there is no desire by the ECDC to advance a code amendment, then staff will be seeking a vote to reflect their position accordingly.

If the ECDC would like copies of all past materials previously transmitted to them, please let staff know.