



## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**DATE:** September 12, 2016

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

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

After the introductory presentation at the July meeting, the ECDC seemed generally supportive of establishing some regulations or restrictions to such lighting. 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

Based upon the comments offered by the ECDC at the August meeting, there was a general sense that the regulation issue is much more complex and there were some reservations regarding code amendments. No official direction was provided to staff at the meeting. Rather the members were asked to review the matter further and offer any additional comments as desired or warranted.

After the August meeting, the LCCI considered the request at their August 9 Board meeting. With regards to Business Perimeter Window Lighting in the Village, the Lombard Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors have 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).

The lighting matter was also discussed at the LTC August 22 Board meeting as well. At that meeting, the LTC Board tabled consideration of the matter so that they could discuss the matter and solicit input from the downtown business community. As of September 2, the outreach had not occurred as they represented that they were focused upon their efforts pertaining to the American English Cruise Nights event, Spooktacular and strategic planning next steps. As such, LTC has not taken a position on the matter to date.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Staff is bringing this item back to the ECDC for review and direction. As noted in August, the ECDC should review the options and offer staff direction on which option(s) they prefer. Staff will then prepare draft legislation for future ECDC consideration at the October meeting and will invite the business community to the October meeting as well. If there is no desire by the ECDC to advance a code amendment, then staff will be seeking a vote accordingly.

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