

**12-O-12
ORDINANCE**

Sponsored by

**THE HONORABLE JOHN P. DALEY, PETER N. SILVESTRI AND
AND JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Co-Sponsored by

**THE HONORABLE JERRY BUTLER, EARLEAN COLLINS, JOHN A. FRITCHEY,
BRIDGET GAINER, JESUS G. GARCIA, ELIZABETH “LIZ” DOODY GORMAN,
GREGG GOSLIN, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, EDWIN REYES, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER,
DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT B. STEELE AND JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

COOK COUNTY LIGHTING ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Chapter 2 Administration, Article V Departments and Similar Agencies, Division 1 Generally of the Cook County Code is hereby enacted as follows:

Sec. 2-341. – Purpose and Policy.

(a). *Title*. This division shall be known and may be cited as the “Cook County Lighting Ordinance” of Cook County, Illinois.

(b) *Purpose*. The purpose of the Cook County Lighting Ordinance is to achieve effective and efficient lighting, while:

- (1) preserving the safety, security and well-being of Cook County residents and visitors;
- (2) protecting natural flora and fauna;
- (3) conserving energy and other resources; and
- (4) allowing visual access to starry night skies.

Accordingly, it is the intent of this Ordinance to have Cook County Departments use lighting systems that minimize light pollution, light trespass and conserve energy while maintaining nighttime safety, utility, security and productivity.

(c) *Public and Private Partners*. Cook County Departments shall strive to plan, design, operate and maintain their lighting systems, with Public and Private partners, in a manner that meets the guidelines and objectives outlined in this ordinance.

(d) *Applicability*. The requirements of this Code shall apply to all new and replacement lighting on roadways, developments, properties, buildings or structures under the jurisdiction of Cook County Departments. Each Cook County Department will create, enact and implement policies and procedures to meet the purposes of this ordinance in accordance with the guidelines set forth herein.

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(e) *Severability*. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or clause of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction or administrative agency, the invalidity of that provision or application shall not affect, impair or invalidate any remaining section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or clause of this ordinance or its application.

(f) *Conformance with Applicable Codes*. All outdoor electric illuminating devices shall be installed in conformance with the provisions of the Cook County Code, the Cook County Zoning Regulations, the Illinois Compiled Statutes or any Federal Statute. Where any provision of any of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, or any Federal Statute, or any related County regulation conflicts with the requirements of this ordinance, the most restrictive shall govern.

Section 2-342. – Guidelines.

In furtherance of this ordinance, Cook County Departments will work to ensure that:

- (1) All lighting fixtures and lamps shall be located, installed, directed, shielded and maintained to avoid light trespass and to eliminate direct light and/or glare on neighboring properties. To the best extent practicable, light emitted from outdoor lighting on County property shall not cause the light level along any property line, as measured at a height of 60 inches above grade in a plane at any angle of inclination to exceed the maximum light level of 0.1 footcandles. For purposes of this section, “footcandle” is defined as “a unit of luminous flux.”
- (2) Lights that minimize the amount of electricity consumed (such as Low Pressure Sodium, High Pressure Sodium, Mercury Vapor or Light Emitting Diode) are to be installed, to the best extent practicable.
- (3) Lighting directed upwards is to be eliminated, to the best extent practicable. When lighting flags, Cook County Departments will strive to install lighting that is directed downwards, to the best extent practicable.
- (4) All non-essential lighting is to be turned off after business hours and/or when not in use.
- (5) Where practical, outdoor lighting installations are to include timers,

dimmers, sensors, or photocell controllers that turn the lights off during daylight hours to reduce overall energy consumption and eliminate unnecessary lighting. Sensor activated fixtures should not be triggered by activity off the subject property.

- (6) When selecting new outdoor lighting, the full cost of operation over the life of the fixture(s) should be considered. Substantial annual energy savings may be realized by using quality efficient fixtures. To the best extent practicable, all lamps installed must exceed 72 lumens per watt.
- (7) Indiscriminate and excessive lighting should be avoided. Light should be directed only to where it is needed with appropriate intensity.
- (8) On properties which are adjacent to or contain sensitive biological resources, any exterior lighting shall be limited to low-level lights and shields to minimize the amount of light entering any identified sensitive biological resource areas, to the best extent practicable.

Section 2-343. – Exceptions

This ordinance shall not apply if the County Department finds that one or more of the following conditions apply:

- (a) The lighting is required by State, County or Federal law.
- (b) The lighting is in use for a temporary purpose, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Special Events
- (2) Seasonal Decorations
- (3) Maintenance or repair operations
- (4) Other emergency lighting

(c) The lighting is in use for construction activities intended to keep a roadway in serviceable condition. Lighting used for construction must only be erected during the period of construction and must be removed upon completion of construction activities.

- (d) The lighting is in use for the control of aircraft.

(e) The lighting is located within a fountain, underwater or to illuminate the American Flag.

Approved and adopted this 15th day of February 2012.

TONI PRECKWINKLE, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Attest: DAVID ORR, County Clerk