

ORDINANCE NO. 309

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
MODIFYING OUTDOOR LIGHTING STANDARDS AND
AMENDING TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE ROLLING HILLS
MUNICIPAL CODE.

The City Council of the City of Rolling Hills does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Findings.

The residents of the City of Rolling Hills treasure its pastoral environment. As is set forth in the City's General Plan, the Council finds that the rural environment is characterized by natural light, and is degraded by artificial illumination at night. Nighttime darkness throughout the City contributes significantly to the uniquely tranquil rural environment, creates a more natural setting for wildlife that inhabit the area, enhances the quality of life and adds to property values.

For the foregoing reasons, the City provides no roadway illumination and encourages residents to minimize the illumination of their properties to avoid light spillage onto neighboring properties, easements and roadways.

The outdoor lighting standards adopted herein serve to advance the foregoing goals, advance the goal of conserving energy and further public health, safety and welfare.

Section 2. Pursuant to authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*) ("CEQA") and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 *et seq.*), planning staff has determined that this Ordinance is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. The City Council has reviewed the proposed exemption and finds that it represents the independent judgment of the City and complies with the requirements of CEQA.

Section 3. Section 17.16.190 E of Chapter 17.16 of Title 17 of the Rolling Hills Municipal Code is amended in its entirety to read as follows:

17.16.190 E. Outdoor Lighting.

1. Except as provided in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 below, outdoor lighting is prohibited. The outdoor lighting described in paragraph 2 shall be the exclusive types of artificial illumination permitted outdoors on residentially zoned properties, and shall illuminate strictly within the prescribed limitations so as to avoid light spillage and respect and advance the community goal of preserving natural darkness.

2. Allowable outdoor lighting is limited to the following:

a. Lighting along pedestrian and vehicular pathways for the purpose of providing safe passage. Bulbs used in such lighting shall be nonreflective and shall not exceed a total wattage in each light fixture of 25-watt incandescent light bulb or technological equivalent. Bulbs shall be shielded and obscured by the lighting fixtures to cast light downward. Lighting fixtures shall be spaced no closer than twenty feet apart and shall be no higher than eighteen inches from grade to the top of the fixture.

b. Security lighting at entryways to structures, provided that in no event shall a security light be set to shine for longer than five minutes following activation. Security lighting shall be nonreflective and shall not exceed a total wattage in each light fixture of 150-watt incandescent light bulb or technological equivalent.

c. One ground mounted address sign light or one downward casting address sign mounted light, provided that the bulb used in such light shall not exceed 15 watt incandescent or technological equivalent. The light fixture, if ground mounted, shall be no higher than eighteen inches from grade to the top of the fixture.

d. Entry post or pilaster lighting only at the foot of a driveway and at a courtyard entrance to the residence, provided that the bulbs are shielded and obscured by the lighting fixtures to cast light downward and the light does not spill onto the roadway or adjacent properties. Bulbs used in such lighting fixtures shall be nonreflective and shall not exceed a total wattage in each light fixture of 40-watt incandescent light bulb or technological equivalent.

e. Lighting on porches and exterior walls of structures on the property, provided that the bulbs are shielded and obscured by the lighting fixtures to cast light downward and the light does not spill onto the roadway or adjacent properties. However, lighting fixtures at the primary entrance to a residence need not cast light downward and may be controlled by a timer. Further, lighting fixtures on the exterior wall of a structure immediately adjacent to a patio or terrace used as ambient light for cooking, dining or entertaining need not cast light downward, so long as they are operated manually (not controlled by a timer) and illuminated only when needed. Bulbs used in lighting allowed by this subparagraph, except for lighting fixtures at the primary entrance to a residence, shall be nonreflective and shall not exceed a total wattage in each light fixture of 40-watt incandescent light bulb or technological equivalent.

f. Temporary lighting for holidays and for special events.

3. Modification from lighting regulations.

Property owners may apply for modifications to the lighting regulations set forth in paragraph 2 of this section by submittal of an application on a form provided by the City and upon payment of the application fee prescribed by the City's master fee resolution. Applications for modification shall be considered by the Planning Commission at a public hearing. Written notice of the hearing shall be provided to the owners of property immediately surrounding the property for which a modification is sought. The Commission may approve or conditionally approve a minor modification application only if it affirmatively finds that (a) special circumstances exist that make compliance with the outdoor lighting standards impractical or unsafe, or (b) the requested modification is warranted by exceptional architectural design. In either case, the proposed lighting plan may deviate from the standards in this section only to the extent reasonably necessary to accommodate the special circumstances.

4. Nonconforming light fixtures and light bulbs.

a. Light fixtures existing on May 28, 2008 that direct light upwards to illuminate an architectural or landscape feature or any other structure (except as provided in paragraph 2(c) of this section) shall be deactivated, removed or otherwise brought into compliance with this section by January 1, 2009. All other light fixtures that were installed in compliance with the requirements of this Code prior to May 28, 2008, and not in compliance with the requirements of this section, may remain indefinitely in their existing location, but shall not be replaced unless in compliance with this section.

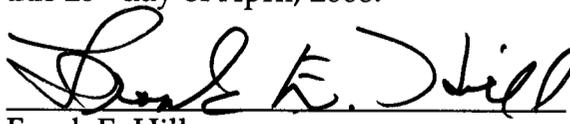
b. Light bulbs used in lighting fixtures permitted to remain indefinitely as provided in paragraph (a) above shall be nonreflective and shall not exceed a total wattage in each light fixture as set forth in paragraphs 2 (a) – (e) of this section, or if a lighting fixture of a type not described in paragraphs 2 (a) – (e), shall be nonreflective and shall not exceed a total of 25 watts in each fixture. All light bulbs in outdoor fixtures shall be brought into compliance with the requirements of this section by January 1, 2009.

5. Outdoor lighting audits.

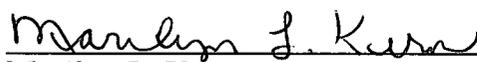
Residents may request a compliance audit by the City of the outdoor lighting on their property. The City will conduct such an audit upon payment of a fee as prescribed in the City's master fee resolution.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to insert the effective date of this Ordinance into the blanks in paragraph 4 of Section 3 hereinabove.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2008.


Frank E. Hill
Mayor

Attest:


Marilyn L. Kern
Deputy City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) §§
CITY OF ROLLING HILLS)

I certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 309 entitled:

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was approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on April 28, 2008 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Black and Pernell, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Heinsheimer and Mayor Hill.

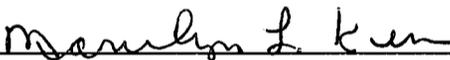
NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Lay.

ABSTAIN: None.

and in compliance with the laws of California was posted at the following:

Administrative Offices



Marilyn L. Kern, Deputy City Clerk