

April 23, 2024

**BY EMAIL**

Mayor, City Council, and Public Works  
Sammamish, Washington  
kkielsmeier@sammamish.us

**Re: Light Pollution Ordinance**

Dear Mayor, Council, and Public Works,

The Soft Lights Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to advocate for the protection of individuals and the environment from the harms of Visible Light radiation emitted by products that use Light Emitting Diodes. I write to you now regarding the nuisances created by LED lights.

The photo below shows an instance of a light trespass nuisance in the city limits of Sammamish, Washington. As you can see in the photo, the lighting device is unshielded and the light is invading the property of a neighbor, violating the right of the neighbor to peaceful enjoyment of their own property.



Sammamish Municipal Code 23.30.010 states:

Declaration of public nuisance - All code violations are determined to be detrimental to the public health, safety, welfare and environment, and are declared to be public nuisances. All conditions determined to be code violations shall be subject to and enforced pursuant to the provisions of this title, except where specifically excluded by law or regulation. (Ord. O2011-302 §2 (Att. A))

While Sammamish has a nuisance ordinance for sound in Section 8.15, there appears to be no similar ordinance for light trespass nuisance. The invention of high-luminance and extreme blue wavelength LED lights has necessitated the need for explicit ordinances that will prevent the type of light trespass nuisance as shown in the photo above.

Thus, to protect the rights of private landowners, to limit the need for neighbor-to-neighbor lawsuits, and to protect the health, safety, and civil rights of the public, we request that the Sammamish city council adopt the following ordinance:

Section 8.25 Light Trespass Prevention

- A. Outdoor lighting must be fully shielded to prevent the light from trespassing beyond property lines.
- B. Outdoor lighting must not exceed 2700 Kelvin Correlated Color Temperature.
- C. Outdoor lighting must be turned off when not in immediate use.
- D. Outdoor lighting that creates a discriminatory barrier for an individual with a disability is prohibited.
- E. A citizen may initiate an enforcement action for this section by submitting the address of the property and a photo of the offending light at night to Code Enforcement.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Baker

President

Soft Lights Foundation

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[www.softlights.org](http://www.softlights.org)