



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 18, 2009

Subject: **Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Ordinance**

In December, Mayor and Council chartered the Sustainability Commission to promote measures that encourage Dunwoody to work towards reducing the environmental footprint of the government through its policies, practices, buildings, and fleets. The Sustainability Commission has been working with staff to research and pursue measures to attain the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities certification program. Many of these measures require action by Mayor and Council.

One of the measures the Commission is tackling this quarter is Measure 15 Community Outdoor Lighting Efficiency. This measure requires the City to adopt an ordinance to require efficient operation of outdoor lighting by limiting misdirected, excessive, or unnecessary outdoor lighting. This would include amending the current Zoning Ordinance, Article IV, Sec, 4-22 to include the Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Ordinance.

The Sustainability Commission and staff have begun researching lighting ordinances and regulations in surrounding jurisdictions. The City of Roswell, the City of Alpharetta, and Fulton County all have Outdoor Lighting Efficiency or Night Sky ordinances. The Fulton County ordinance, in particular, is cited by the ARC as a model ordinance.

The cities of Chamblee, Norcross, and Sandy Springs also have some limited guidelines. Furthermore, research has been conducted into adopted legislation from other states including Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, and Virginia.

As such, the Sustainability Commission would like to Council's support to continue researching outdoor lighting efficiency ordinances and how these could limit the degradation of the night sky by minimizing glare, obtrusive lights, and artificial sky glow by limiting outdoor lighting that is misdirected, excessive, or unnecessary in the City of Dunwoody.

As with any other amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, this text amendment must first be initiated by the Mayor and Council, heard by the Community Council, then the Planning Commission, and finally read and voted upon by Mayor and Council. For this amendment, the Community Council will hear the amendment on June 11th, the Planning Commission on July 14th, have a first read and public hearing by Council on July 27th, and a second reading and vote by Council on August 10th.