City of Dover

FINAL READING

PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2026-15

BE ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOVER, IN COUNCIL MET:

That Chapter 42 –Environment, be amended by inserting the text indicated in bold, blue, italics, and deleting the text indicated in red strikethrough as follows:

Sec. 42-3. Lighting

(a) *Generally.* It shall be unlawful for any person to install, maintain, operate, or cause to be installed, maintained, or operated, any excessive, unreasonable, or unusually bright lighting, glare, or illumination that annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others, or creates a risk thereof, within the limits of the city.

(b) *Exterior Lighting.* All exterior lighting shall be installed, maintained, and operated to minimize light trespass onto adjacent properties. The type, height, location, intensity, and shielding of exterior lighting fixtures shall be designed and maintained so that light is directed onto the subject property and does not unnecessarily shine, glare, or reflect onto adjacent buildings or properties.

(c) *Light Trespass.* Exterior lighting shall not be installed or operated in a manner that causes excessive or unreasonable illumination, glare, or light trespass onto adjacent properties or public rights-of-way.

(d) *Shielding.* Where necessary to prevent excessive glare or light trespass, exterior lighting fixtures shall be appropriately shielded, redirected, or adjusted to confine illumination to the subject property.

(e) Notice. Where a violation of this section is identified, the property owner shall be notified of the violation and, when applicable, any complaint received concerning the violation. The property owner shall take all reasonable and necessary action to correct the violation and bring the premises into compliance with this section.

(f) Violations; penalties. Any property that violates any provision of this section shall be subject to the fines and penalties provided in Appendix F—Fees and Fines.

APPENDIX F - FEES AND FINES

Chapter 42-3.- Lighting

Chapter 42.Environment	
Sec. 42-3. Lighting	
Subsec. (f) Violations; penalties, Initial Notice	**$0.00**
Subsec. (f) Violations; penalties, Second Notice	**$100.00**

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Subsec. (f) Violations; penalties, Third Notice	**$200.00**
Subsec. (f) Violations; penalties, Fourth Notice	**$300.00**
Subsec. (f) Violations; penalties, Fifth Notice	**$500.00**
Subsec. (f) Violations; penalties, Sixth and Subsequent Notice	**$1000.00**

ADOPTED: *

SYNOPSIS

This proposed ordinance establishes standards for exterior lighting within the City of Dover to address excessive or unreasonable lighting, glare, illumination, and light trespass. The ordinance requires exterior lighting to be installed, maintained, and operated in a manner that minimizes impacts on adjacent properties and public rights-of-way. These amendments provide a specific regulatory framework for addressing lighting-related complaints and violations while establishing standards intended to prevent excessive lighting, glare, and light trespass from adversely affecting neighboring properties.

(SPONSORS: ROCHA & DUCA)

Actions History

11/09/2026 – Scheduled for Final Reading – City Council

10/26/2026 – First Reading – City Council

10/13/2026 - Scheduled for Introduction - Legislative, Finance, and Administration Committee

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