

Subject: Dark Skies and Glare in the Town of Cazenovia - October 15, 2021

Dear Residents and Commercial Property Owners in the Town of Cazenovia,

Like most people in the Cazenovia community, the Town Board wants to protect our dark skies and prevent night-time light glare. **Glare** is defined as *spillover of artificial light beyond the area intended for illumination in a manner that impairs vision or beams light into adjoining properties or toward the sky.* With the increase in development and the installing or retrofitting of outdoor LED lighting, the ability to see the stars in the skies is steadily diminishing and the glare seen while driving and walking is worsening.

You can help by doing four things when using outdoor lighting:

1. **Install the lowest brightness** (lumens) needed. This reduces the overall light outside. It also allows your eyes to see better in shadows.
2. **Shield the lens or bulb** so that it only shines where you need it. Where applicable, try pointing the light straight down or against the wall. That often reflects a surprising amount of light in a useful way, and won't blind you as you drive or walk in. Walk around and observe your outdoor lights: you should not see the lens or bulb from your property line or street.
3. **Use a 'warm, lower' temperature** (measured in Kelvin) light. 2700° is more the color of a candle flame or incandescent bulb, whereas many LEDs are whiter in the 4000°-6000° range. This is important as our eyes respond and see in the dark better with yellow/orange light compared to white light. Think of a red flashlight, or the use of red lights inside ships at night that aid in preserving night vision. Refer to the lightbulb or fixture description on the packaging or online description (packaging or online descriptions will often show the Kelvin temperature).
4. **Use motion detectors.** These will provide light if there is any movement and are great for security.
5. **Turn off the lights, when possible.**

An added benefit to these changes is that they can generally reduce energy use and costs.

The Town Code has ordinances that outline the installation of outdoor lighting to improve dark skies and reduce glare in our eyes. The objective of the ordinances is "To encourage designs and uses that discourage light pollution and which will protect and preserve 'dark skies' in the Town." The ordinances include: "No structures or uses shall have flashing lights or lights which cause glare onto adjoining properties or the public roadway."

Feel free to contact Roger Cook for any questions at (315) 655-9213 ext.3 or go to <https://ecode360.com/CA0021> and search for "lighting" and "glare".

Please take the next opportunity to adjust your existing lighting or be mindful when buying new fixtures. Look for the features mentioned above. We recognize and are thankful for the many homes and businesses that have incorporated these lighting practices with great success.

Together, we can make our area one of those increasingly rare places where people can enjoy the dark skies above while maintaining security.