



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 09/23/13)

APPROVED: MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA # R-7 DATE 9/15/16  
MARINA BAKER, ASST BOARD CLERK

### Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 9/15/16  
Agenda Item #: R.7  
Est. Start Time: 10:50 am  
Date Submitted: 8/23/16

**Agenda Title:** Ordinance Amending MCC Chapters 11.15, 33, 34, 35 and 36 Relating to Dark Sky Exterior Lighting Requirements and Associated Amendments to the Sign Code

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.*

### Requested

Meeting Date: September 15, 2016 Time Needed: 5-minutes

Department: Community Services Division: Land Use Planning

Contact(s): Adam Barber, Senior Planner

Phone: 503.988.0168 Ext. 80168 I/O Address: 455/1/116

### Presenter

Name(s) &

Title(s): Adam Barber, Senior Planner

### General Information

#### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Conduct a public hearing and approve proposed amendments to Multnomah County Zoning Code Chapters 11.15, 33, 34, 35 and 36. These amendments have been recommended to the Board for approval by Multnomah County Planning Commission.

#### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Light pollution from excessive outdoor lighting is rapidly diminishing the view of stars in and around developed areas and many jurisdictions have adopted anti-light pollution laws. Excessive light can also be a nuisance, waste electricity, result in unnecessary emissions of greenhouse gases, decrease the quality of lighting for safety and have negative effects on health of humans and wildlife.

Multnomah County land use code contains anti-light pollution regulations under certain development scenarios in specific portions of unincorporated Multnomah County including the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The county Planning Commission is recommending adoption of an ordinance applying a more complete and effective approach to regulating exterior lighting. The ordinance applies to rural portions of Multnomah County outside the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Multnomah County Code Chapter 38 applicable in the National Scenic Area currently contains development requirements for

exterior lighting reduction and is not being amended.

The proposed regulations protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare by generally requiring all new exterior lighting and certain existing exterior lighting associated with a development permit to have a fully shielded light source and to direct light downwards. A range of exemptions to these lighting requirements are provided, including but not limited to most lawfully installed existing exterior lighting, low lumen lighting for pedestrian pathways, limited duration lighting for certain farm and forest practices, lighting in support of emergency response, and transportation traffic control lighting. Additionally, lighting required by a federal, state or local law is exempt when the lighting cannot comply with county Dark Sky regulations.

The proposed regulations also amend Multnomah County's sign code to remove the internally illuminated sign, electronic sign, and flashing sign allowance for new signs and to require indirect illumination of signs to be directed downward onto the sign face.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

None.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

The proposed regulations do not affect the permissible uses of property. Multnomah County therefore was not required to mail notices to individual property owners as is required in some circumstances by state law ("Ballot Measure 56 notice").

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

The Multnomah County Planning Commission considered the proposed revisions at public work sessions held October 7, 2013; June 2, 2014; December 1, 2014 and March 7, 2016 followed by a public hearing held June 6, 2016. Staff also discussed the proposal at rural neighborhood association meetings during multiple points in the legislative process. Notice of each Planning Commission meeting was placed in the Oregonian newspaper and notice of the meeting and the staff report explaining the proposal was posted on the County's Land Use Planning webpage. Each meeting was open to the public to attend and the Planning Commission's public hearing was opened for testimony from members of the public.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department**

**Director:** Kim Peoples /s/

**Date:** August 23, 2016

*Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.*