



City of Santa Barbara
Planning Division

Memorandum

DATE: July 30, 2014

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC)

FROM: Jaime Limon, Senior Planner II, Design Review Supervisor

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION RELATED TO OUTDOOR LIGHTING AT ROOFTOPS

This memo is in response to a request made by Commissioner Orias at a Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) meeting last month for a discussion item regarding City design guidelines concerning rooftop lighting being proposed on buildings. Staff has extensively reviewed the City's current design guidelines and ordinances and has concluded that roof top lighting design conditions are not adequately covered. For this reason, staff has outlined bullet points below on how existing guidelines can be revised or expanded to better address these lighting designs when proposed on rooftops.

Background

The City first adopted Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and Design Guidelines in 1997. The Design Guidelines were recently updated and expanded in 2009 to include Streetlight Design standards. The primary focus of these guidelines was to establish recommended light levels to promote high quality lighting installations, reduce negative aspect resulting from poor lighting design such as light pollution, glare, light trespass and wasted energy through misdirected light.

Staff has provided some background research material to better understand how other communities have responded to this lighting issue concern (see Exhibit 1, Rooftop Lighting Guideline Examples). The most common areas that guidelines can be expanded involve the following rooftop lighting design concepts:

- Use lighting fixtures that are level or require low cut-off angles and directional controls
- Design lighting to limit trespass and light wash to avoid adverse impacts
- Lighting shall be designed to effectively eliminate glare, prevent light spilling over the side of buildings and to sharply cut-off lighting levels at the property line.

- All lighting must be turned off when the rooftop is not in use.
- Light sources shall be installed so as to not be visible from PROW, or adjacent properties.

Staff will provide more information and lighting installation examples on this subject at the discussion hearing and explain the expected review process and timing involved with the possible updating of these lighting design guidelines.

cc: Bettie Weiss, City Planner