



Agenda Abstract

Department: Planning

Authorizing Signature: _____

Submitting Official: Jason Sullivan

Meeting Date:	May 21, 2012
Subject:	Request by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for text amendments to sections 17 and 22 of the Countywide Lighting Ordinance to allow internally-illuminated signs and delete the amortization requirement for vehicular canopy lighting.
Action Requested:	See Recommendations
Attachments: (List Individually)	Application packet distributed prior to the March 19, 2012 public hearing

Introduction & Background:	Staff prepared amendments for Sections 17 and 22 of the Countywide Lighting Ordinance to correspond with changes made to the Lighting section of the Zoning Ordinance as directed by the Board of Commissioners. These changes include permitting internally-illuminated signs meeting the requirements in the Ordinance and removing the amortization clause requiring vehicular canopy lighting that does not meet the Ordinance standards to be replaced within five (5) years of the adoption date of the Ordinance.
Discussion & Analysis:	<p>A public hearing was held on these proposed amendments at the March 19th Board of Commissioners meeting. No one from the public spoke on the proposed amendments.</p> <p>Commissioner Kost asked if it was possible to replace non-compliant lighting in vehicular canopies without replacing the vehicular canopy. Staff responded that it is possible to come into compliance with the Ordinance standards without replacing the canopy.</p>
Budgetary Impact:	None
Recommendation:	Planning staff and Planning Board (by unanimous vote) recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending the Countywide Lighting Ordinance; specifically, the following amendments to Sections 17 and 22:



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SECTION 17 PERMANENT SIGN AND BILLBOARD LIGHTING

External lighting Lighting fixtures illuminating signs and billboards shall be aimed and shielded so that direct illumination is focused exclusively on the sign. Externally lighted signs shall be lighted from the top of the sign downward. The Lighting Administrator can waive this requirement in rare and unusual cases if it is demonstrated that the physical location of light fixtures for top down aiming is not possible. –The maximum watts permitted to illuminate a sign are determined by multiplying the sign face area by 2 watts per square foot. Internally illuminated signs are permitted, provided that the message or letters of such sign consist of nonreflective material.

Exception: Signs less than 7 feet (2 meters) in height above grade may be illuminated by ground mounted uplighting not exceeding 100 lamp watts per sign face.

NOTE: Refer to Section 9.4(c) regarding portable internally illuminated signs.

SECTION 22 NONCONFORMITIES

- ~~Vehicular Canopies do not qualify for this exemption and have five years from the adoption date of this ordinance to bring the outdoor lighting into compliance. If a m~~Major renovation(s) of the vehicular canopies (50% or more of the existing light fixtures) will require compliance with this Ordinance.~~occurs at this facility prior to the expiration of the five-year term, the earlier date will apply regarding compliance.~~