



PIMA COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DATE: November 16, 2020
TO: Pima County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Chris Poirier, Planning Official and Tom Drzazgowski, Chief Zoning Inspector
SUBJECT: November 17, 2020 – Board of Supervisors - Agenda Item #15 Sign Code Update

Over the last two years staff has continued to work with stakeholders to draft and refine the proposed changes to the sign code. This process has involved multiple drafts and additional changes to the code in the lead up to the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Since the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval subject to the changes presented at the hearing, staff has continued to work with stakeholders. Based on the most recent discussions with community and astronomy representatives, staff is proposing additional changes to draft code recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The changes below reflect concerns raised about increases in square footage for freestanding signs and the associated additional lighting output. The concerns raised were with the most commonly occurring sign type, a 50 square footage freestanding sign. Without the below proposed change, an additional 14 square feet would be permitted per sign. By this memo, staff is proposing to limit the allowed square footage to the currently adopted requirements which are based on the street frontage of the site.

1. Revert "Freestanding" sign square footage from the proposed 64 square foot standard to the currently adopted business zone requirements of the Pima County Zoning Code (PCZC). The current code provides different options based on street frontage. These are;
 - a. Below 300 feet of street frontage – 50 square feet;
 - b. Between 300 feet and 549 feet of street frontage – 64 square feet;
 - c. Above 549 feet of street frontage – 90 square feet;
 - d. Development Complex Option – Complexes with 500 feet or more of street – 50 square feet per access point.

In the Dark Sky Protection Option, two additional standards have been proposed to limit lighting color temperature and to provide a Nit output limit to signs. These additional standards will result in a reduction in color temperature and light output/brightness.

2. Enhance the "Dark Sky Protection Option" to require two additional dark sky protections. These are;
 - a. Light output shall not exceed 100 Nits.
 - b. Lamp color temperature shall not exceed 3000k.

A forthcoming effort to amend the Outdoor Lighting Code (OLC) has been initiated. A draft of

NOV 16 2020 4:03 PM CCK/KCF-HD
MP

changes may be available for review by the Outdoor Lighting Code Committee as soon as next month. If future changes to the OLC are redundant or otherwise inconsistent with the above proposed Dark Sky Option changes, staff will initiate changes to the Pima County Zoning Code sign standards necessary to resolve any issues.