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To the Honorable, the City Council:

The undersigned hereby petition the City Council of the City of Cambridge to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge to clarify existing law so that said law can be enforced. Easily understood definitions have been added. The use of the undefined term "glare" is replaced with the now-defined term "direct light". An illustration of "direct (glare) light" is attached.

Key elements are:

1. no one has the right to shine lights in someone's window
2. the overly broad term "glare" in existing law is removed
3. a "distance from the light" restriction is added
4. safety of pedestrians, bicycles, and other vehicles is increased
5. Inspectional Services Department only enforces complaints filed by others
6. many remedies are inexpensive

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The intent of the current Zoning Ordinance to limit inappropriate lighting to shown by these excerpts:

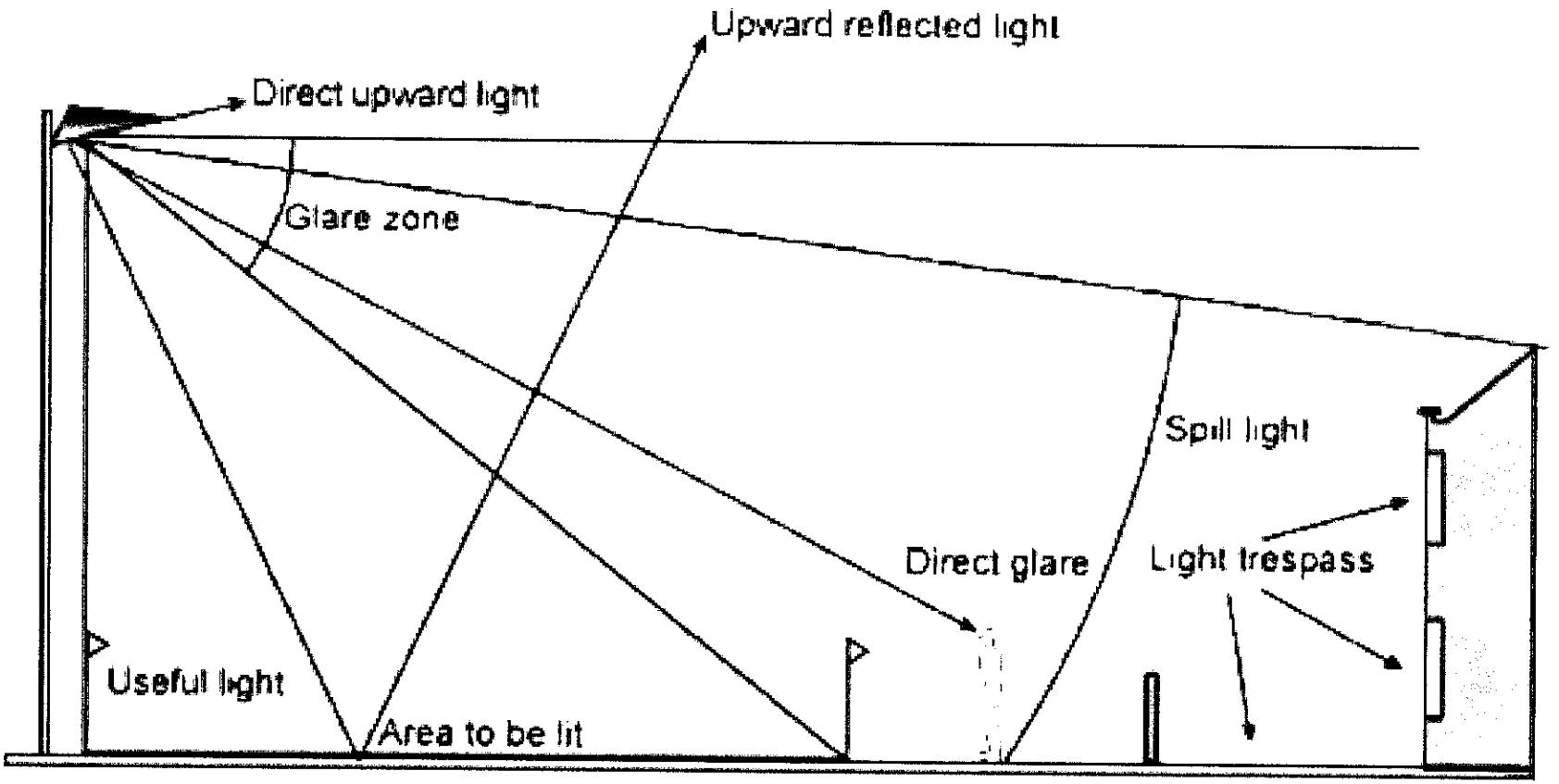
Section 6.41 (off street parking facilities)
*" ... improvements to reduce noise, **glare** or reflection from autos, lights, ..."*

Section 6.46 (off street parking facilities)
*"... lighting installed and maintained in such a manner so as **not to reflect or cause glare on abutting or facing residential premises** nor to cause **reflection nor glare** which adversely affects safe vision of operators of vehicles moving **on nearby streets** ..."*

6.93 (loading facilities)
*"... Any lighting provided shall be install in a manner that will prevent **direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property."***

Section 7.15.B (general limitations on signs)
*"All lighting shall be indirect, continuous, and installed in a manner that will prevent **direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property.** ..."*

Section 7.20 (illumination)
*"In Residence A, B, C, and C-1 districts no outdoor floodlighting or decorative lighting, except lighting primarily designed to illuminate walks, driveways, outdoor living areas, or outdoor recreational facilities, and except temporary holiday lighting in use for not longer than a four week period in any calendar year, shall be permitted. Any permanent lighting permitted by the preceding sentence shall be continuous, indirect, and installed in a manner that will prevent **direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property**."*



Light pollution is often caused by the way light is emitted from lighting equipment. Choosing proper equipment and carefully mounting and aiming it can make a significant difference.

Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge by doing the following:

Insert the following text after "Section 7.20 ILLUMINATION", with the existing text to be retained and labeled as "Section 7.23 Lighting Restrictions for Residential Districts".

7.21 ***Definitions***

7.21.1 Lamp. Lamp shall mean and include the source of optical radiation (i.e., "light"), often called a "bulb" or "tube". Examples include incandescent, fluorescent, high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps, and low pressure sodium (LPS) lamps, as well as light-emitting diode (LED) modules and arrays.

7.21.2 Luminaire. Luminaire shall mean and include the complete lighting unit (fixture), consisting of a lamp, or lamps and ballast(s) (when applicable), together with the parts designed to distribute the light (reflector, lens, diffuser), to position and protect the lamps, and to connect the lamps to the power supply. Temporary holiday lighting in use for not longer than a four week period in any calendar year shall not be considered a Luminaire. Internally illuminated signs that have current and valid sign permits shall not be considered a Luminaire.

7.21.3 Direct Light. Direct light shall mean and include any lighting entering the eye directly from a luminaire or reflecting from any part of that luminaire. For enforcement purposes, a luminaire shall be considered to be causing direct light if any part of the lamp or any of the parts designed to distribute the light (reflector, lens, diffuser) are visible to any person. Further, a daytime photograph of the luminaire is sufficient to prove that it is the source of direct light even when said luminaire is not in operation.

7.21.3 Indirect Light. Indirect light shall mean and include any lighting from a specific luminaire entering the eye reflected by any object(s) not part of said luminaire.

7.22 Lighting Restrictions for the City of Cambridge

No direct light shall be allowed on any abutting property, on any property abutting an abutting property, on any property across a street from those properties, on any property within 300 feet of the Luminaire, and on any street. A property shall explicitly include any buildings on said property with the intent of prohibiting said direct light from entering windows or any other opening.

Replace the undefined terms "lights", "glare" and "indirect" (words to be deleted are marked with a ~~line~~) with the newly defined terms "indirect light" and "direct light" in the sections below:

6.41 *Purpose.* The regulations governing the design and maintenance of off street parking facilities are intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the users of the parking facility and of abutting properties, including pedestrians and motorists. Therefore, the regulations herein provide for internal and perimeter landscaping, planting, walls, fences and other improvements to reduce noise, direct light ~~**glare**~~ or reflection from autos, direct light ~~**lights**~~, fumes and the like, and minimum standards for parking space and aisle dimensions to ensure safe traffic circulation within the parking facility and from entrances and exits.

6.46 *Lighting.* Off street parking facilities which are used at night shall be provided with adequate lighting installed and maintained in such a manner so as not to ~~**reflect or**~~ cause direct light ~~**glare**~~ on abutting or facing residential premises nor to cause indirect light ~~**reflection**~~ nor direct light ~~**glare**~~ which adversely affects safe vision of operators of vehicles moving on nearby streets. A recommended standard for lighting is a minimum intensity of one (1) foot candle on the entire surface of the parking facility.

7.15.B All lighting shall be ~~**indirect,**~~ continuous~~,~~ and installed in a manner that will prevent direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property. Flashing or intermittent light creating flashing, moving, changing or animated graphics is prohibited, except that a warning sign, a device intended to tell the time and temperature, or official traffic and directional signs may have intermittent illumination.

~~**7.20 ILLUMINATION**~~ **Section 7.23 Lighting Restrictions for Residential Districts**
In Residence A, B, C, and C-1 districts no outdoor floodlighting or decorative lighting, except lighting primarily designed to illuminate walks, driveways, outdoor living areas, or outdoor recreational facilities, and except temporary holiday lighting in use for not longer than a four week period in any calendar year, shall be permitted. Any permanent lighting permitted by the preceding sentence shall be continuous ~~**, indirect,**~~ and installed in a manner that will prevent direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property.

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