

# Recommended Revisions to A2 Draft Sign Ordinance (version 4/22/19)

from A2 Lighting Ordinance Joint Working Group

*Recommendations Provided By:* Joint Energy/Planning Commission Working Group tasked with providing recommendations for an updated Lighting Ordinance for the City of Ann Arbor. This group is a collaboration with Michigan Dark Skies and the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). Members include: John Mirsky (Energy Commission), Sarah Mills (Planning Commission), Erica Briggs (Planning Commission), Sally Oey (U-M Astronomy, Michigan Dark Skies), John Barentine (IDA), Mary Adams (Storytellers Night Sky).

We appreciate that some of our previous recommendations have been included. In what follows, the guiding principle is that the Sign Ordinance should be consistent with the Lighting Ordinance (A2LO). Note that all items except for 5 below could be eliminated simply by specifying that sign illumination shall conform to specifications of the A2LO (when enacted).

## Section 5B: Sign Illumination

3. Suggest defining the term “fully shielded” to make the verbiage cleaner throughout. Proposed text in Definitions is the same as in A2LO draft. Note that this item doesn’t actually state that glare is prohibited. Added definition of “glare” following A2LO draft.
4. The 1800 lumen exemption is equivalent to an unshielded 120 W incandescent bulb. Once a lamp is illuminating something other than the target (as an unshielded one would do) then it is generic lighting and should be governed by A2LO, hence any provisions should be consistent with A2LO, which does not permit such lighting.

The last sentence is about light trespass. Suggest to move to item 8 where that is addressed.

5. Bottom-lit signs should follow the specs in A2LO for vertical target illumination. Adding definition of “partially shielded” from A2LO.
6. Limit luminance for internal signs to 100 nits, parallel to for electronic signs.
8. Based on field measurements, the current limit is impossible to enforce. Recommend adopting the same specs as in A2LO. Also explicitly prohibiting glare here.
9. Suggesting a more specific definition of “dusk” and “dawn” and specifying how electronic sign luminance should be measured.
10. The curfew for ornamental lighting in A2LO is slightly different. The note gives the exact specs, but signage may require a different curfew.