

From: Darren Stewart <M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1)>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:38 PM
To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>
Cc: Rosemary McConkey <M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1)>; Darren Stewart <M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14 (1)>
Subject: Letter to Oshawa City Counsel

To City Counsel

Re: Outdoor potlights - Nuisance lighting / Light intrusion / Light pollution

I am writing regarding bylaw nuisance lighting to request that consideration be given to research exterior potlights/lighting further and updating/changing bylaws regarding outdoor potlights.

These have become quite popular in the past 5-10 years, and there is nothing in bylaws that addresses them; not something that we had to deal with 20 or 50 years ago, but a real nuisance in today's world. Some of these homes are lit up like spaceships with excessive lights. We live in your typical neighborhood where homes are built in very close proximity to each other.

We have neighbors on both sides of that have the outdoor potlights in their soffits. One neighbor leaves their lights on all night and has now been left on for the past 4 weeks, 24/7. They light up our house at night, interfere with our enjoyment of our home.

I have contacted Service Oshawa, and was advised a bylaw officer that if their lights are not pointed directly into our house, then there is nothing bylaw officers can do. This is just wrong.

Answers/comments you might be thinking:

1. Safety – some argue that by lighting up the outside of their home, it deters thieves. I disagree with this. If a criminal wants to break into your home bad enough, they will. These lights will just light up their way, and with some being so bright then they can even see right in through the windows, see what type of window mechanism you have, etc. Criminals don't care about the lights, many home break-ins are done during the day as well. If anything, their lights impede my safety by light the way for the criminals.
2. I can buy black out curtains – I believe this is not a reasonable solution. First, I already have 2-inch blinds, and the light still comes in around then and through slats. But why should I have to incur the cost of black out curtain because they want to light up the outside like daylight? And for my own MENTAL HEALTH, I should not have to bar up my house, blocking out ALL light and the world.

3. The light is not “pointed” into your house – How can it not be? Our houses built very close to each other, one neighbor’s soffit is slightly lower than mine, therefore even when I walk in the direction of that window, the “dart” of the light is directly in my eyesight. When both neighbors have their lights on, we can’t escape the light at all. We are in a bungalow, so we would literally need to close every door leading to every room, put black out heavy curtains to all windows/doors. This is not reasonable, again my own mental health and my rights to enjoyment INSIDE my own home. These lights are “shining” into my home. They may not be “pointed” into my home, but there’s no doubt they’re shining into my home.

These lights are so bright, that they must be the highest lumens that is available. Even for security or safety, is there truly a reasonable need to have them this bright? It is not fair for three homeowners (one on each side and the house behind) to have to put up with these nuisance/polluting lights because one homeowner wishes to have their home excessively lighted at night.

I’ve attached some photos to my email so maybe you can understand just how bright these are.

I’ve noted multiple links below where you can see these lights are becoming an issue through many forums.

I’ve also included a link to the City of Oshawa agenda from Sept 20, 2019, where outdoor potlights were discussed. It’s time to bring the issue back to the table.

I’ve included a link regarding the City of Brampton and how exterior lighting should be of “low intensity to avoid light intrusion.”

And I’ve included a link regarding Mississauga’s Nuisance lighting, and refer you to page 3, item 4.1.c where it states “No Person shall cause a Light Nuisance within the City without limiting the generality of the foregoing: “ (c) No Direct Lighting or Indirect Lighting shall be used so that an unusual quantity or type of light creates a Glare or Light Trespass upon the land of others so as to be or to cause a Nuisance to the public generally or to others residing or carrying on a business or trade in the vicinity.”

I am requesting you investigate this issue and to limit lumens in some way.

Regards,

Janetta Stewart
Oshawa resident

REFERENCES:

Links found on internet:

1. https://www.reddit.com/r/Oshawa/comments/zcs4nw/any_municipal_laws_against_light_pollution_in/
2. <https://forums.redflagdeals.com/exterior-pot-lights-durham-timing-laws-2563538/>
3. https://app.oshawa.ca/agendas/corporate_services/2019/09-30/report_corp-19-79.pdf

(Can you define shining directly into another's residence because it's hard for the neighbors' lights to not shine directly into our home since our houses so close together; also their light lumens must be the highest in existence. This issue was raised in 2019 and should be looked at again)

4. https://www.durhamregion.com/news/particularly-aggravating-lights-out-for-nuisance-lighting-in-clarington/article_ca941d67-9a47-50bb-9a6f-6f7add3e870a.html
5. [Facebook · Whitby Residents50+ reactions · 1 year agoWhat are exterior pot lights by-laws in Whitby? My neighbour switches them ...](#)
6. <https://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/nuisancelighting2013.pdf>
See page 3. Item 4 Nuisance lighting - section 4.1.c
7. <https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/By-Law-Enforcement/Pages/Home-Maintenance-Exterior.aspx>
Page 1 -light intrusion- ensure are of low intensity













