

## **PROPOSED Chapter 18.715: EXTERIOR LIGHTING**

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### **18.715.010 Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to provide regulations that help conserve energy and resources and protect wildlife; promote health, safety, security, and productivity; and preserve the night-time environment. The provisions of this chapter are intended to minimize adverse offsite impacts including light pollution, light trespass, glare and night glow. It is the intent of this chapter to provide standards for appropriate lighting practices and systems that will permit reasonable amounts of exterior lighting for night-time safety, utility, security, productivity, enjoyment and commerce.

### **18.715.020 Definitions.**

See Chapter 18.100, Definitions, “Lighting” for definitions of the terms and concepts used in this chapter.

### **18.715.030 Applicability.**

A. All exterior lighting fixtures installed on private and public property following the effective date of this chapter shall comply with this chapter. This chapter does not apply to interior lighting; provided, that if it is determined by the planning director that any interior lighting emitting light outside of the building or structure in which it is located creates a light trespass, the interior lighting shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Types of exterior lighting to which this chapter applies include, but are not limited to lighting for:

1. Building and structures including, but not limited to, overhangs and canopies.
2. Recreational areas.
3. Parking lot lighting.
4. Landscape lighting.
5. Lighting on docks and piers.
6. Street lighting.

B. In the event of a conflict between the requirements of this chapter and any other requirement of the Ridgefield Municipal Code, the more restrictive requirement shall apply.

#### **18.715.040 Exemptions.**

A. The following types of lighting are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

1. Traffic control signals and devices.
2. Street lights installed prior to the effective date of this chapter, provided that when a street light fixture becomes inoperable, any replacement street light fixture shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter. All street lights shall also comply with Section 2.26, Street Illumination, of the City's Engineering Standards for Public Works Construction.
3. Temporary emergency lighting (i.e. fire, police, repair workers) or warning lights.
4. Moving vehicle lights.
5. Navigation lights (i.e. radio/television towers, docks, piers, buoys) or any other lights where state or federal statute or other provision of the Ridgefield Municipal Code requires lighting that cannot comply with this chapter. In such situations, lighting shall be shielded to the maximum extent possible, and lumens shall be minimized to the maximum extent possible, while still complying with state or federal statute.
6. Seasonal decorations do not have to be shielded, provided that they do not have a brightness of more than 0.1 foot-candles at the property line on which they are installed.
7. Exterior lighting approved by the planning director for temporary or periodic events (e.g. fairs, nighttime construction).
8. Internally and externally illuminated signs regulated by RDC 18.710.
9. Fossil fuel lights.

#### **18.715.050 General Standards.**

The following general standards shall apply to all non-exempt exterior lighting fixtures and accent lighting:

- A. All light trespass is prohibited.
- B. Exterior lighting fixtures and accent lighting must be shielded and aimed downward. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable light pollution control shielding are shown in Figures 1 through 4 in 18.715.100. The shield must mask the direct horizontal surface of the light source. The light must be aimed to insure that the illumination is only pointing downward onto the ground surface, with no escaping direct light permitted to contribute to light pollution by shining upward into the sky.
- C. All exterior lighting fixtures and accent lighting shall be designed, installed, located and maintained such that there is no light trespass (See Figure 3 in 18.715.100).
- D. Exterior lighting fixtures and accent lighting shall not directly illuminate public waterways such as Lake River, even if the shorelines are privately owned, unless it is a navigational light subject to state or federal regulations.

E. Accent lighting shall be directed downward onto the illuminated object or area and not toward the sky or onto adjacent properties (See Figure 4 in 18.715.100). Direct light emissions of such accent lighting shall not be visible above the roof line or beyond the building, structure, or object edge.

F. Spotlighting on landscaping and foliage shall be limited to 150 watts incandescent (2220 lumens output).

**18.715.060 Prohibited.**

A. The following fixtures (luminaires) are prohibited:

1. Searchlights for any other purpose other than temporary emergency lighting.
2. Laser lights or any similar high-intensity light for exterior use or entertainment, when projected above the horizontal plane.
3. Strobe lights visible from another property.
3. Quartz lamps
4. Mercury vapor lamps

B. Red decorative lights, other than those exempted in RDC 18.715.040, are prohibited.

C. The city reserves the right to further restrict exterior lighting including, but not limited to, pole height, and level of illumination, when it is deemed to be in the best public interest consistent with the purpose of this chapter.

**18.715.070 Submittals.**

A. All site plan applications for development including the installation of exterior lighting fixtures shall meet the requirements of RDC 18.500.040 and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this Chapter. For Type I applications, applicants may elect to submit, and the planning director retains the authority to request, any of the components listed in RDC 18.715.070.A.(1) to (6) to demonstrate compliance with this Chapter. Submittal requirements for all Type II or higher applications shall include all the following components:

1. The location and description of every outdoor lighting fixture and hours of operation, their aiming angle and mounting heights.
2. A description of the outdoor light fixture including specifications such as lamps, optics, cutoff angle, supports, poles and manufacturer's catalog cuts for each type.
3. Foundation details for light poles.
4. A schedule providing for the reduction of on-site lighting during the hours when the facility is not in operation to the levels necessary for security purposes.
5. Maintained horizontal illuminance, in foot-candles (after depreciation) including the following:
  - a. maximum
  - b. minimum

- c. average during operating and nonoperating hours
- d. maximum to minimum ratio
- e. average to minimum ratio

6. A computer generated photometric grid showing the light distribution pattern in foot-candle readings across the site and at the property line, at 10-foot intervals.

B. All building permit applications including the installation of exterior lighting fixtures shall demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

**18.715.080 Penalties for violation.**

Any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a civil offense, enforceable pursuant to RDC 18.395.

**18.715.090 Severability.**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such order or judgment shall be confined in its operation to the controversy in which it was rendered and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any part thereof to any other person or circumstances.

**18.715.100 Figures of acceptable shielding and direction of exterior light fixtures.**

The following four figures illustrate acceptable and unacceptable exterior lighting fixtures in the city.

Figure 1: Wall mounted lights.

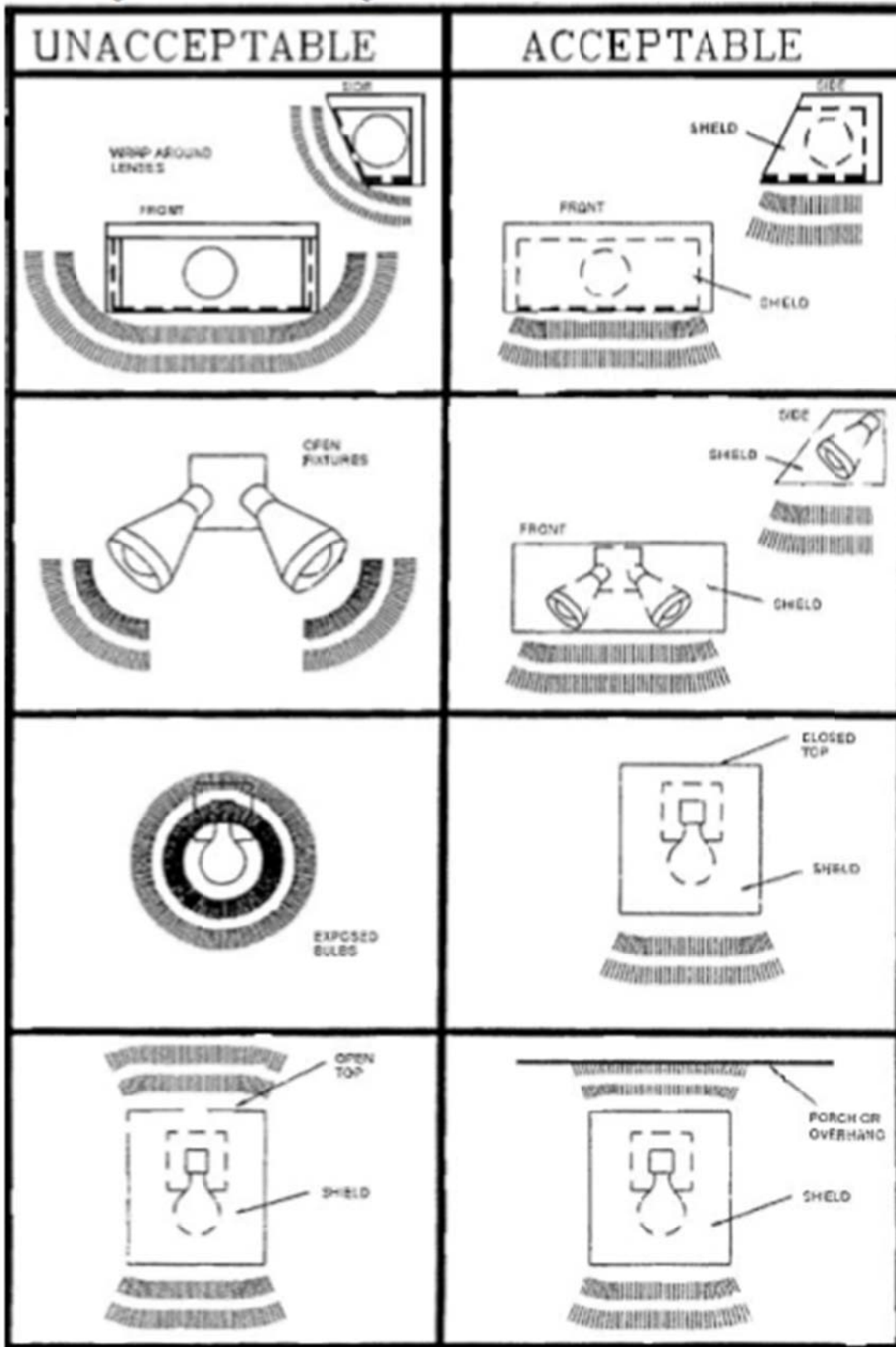


Figure 2: Free standing exterior lighting fixtures.

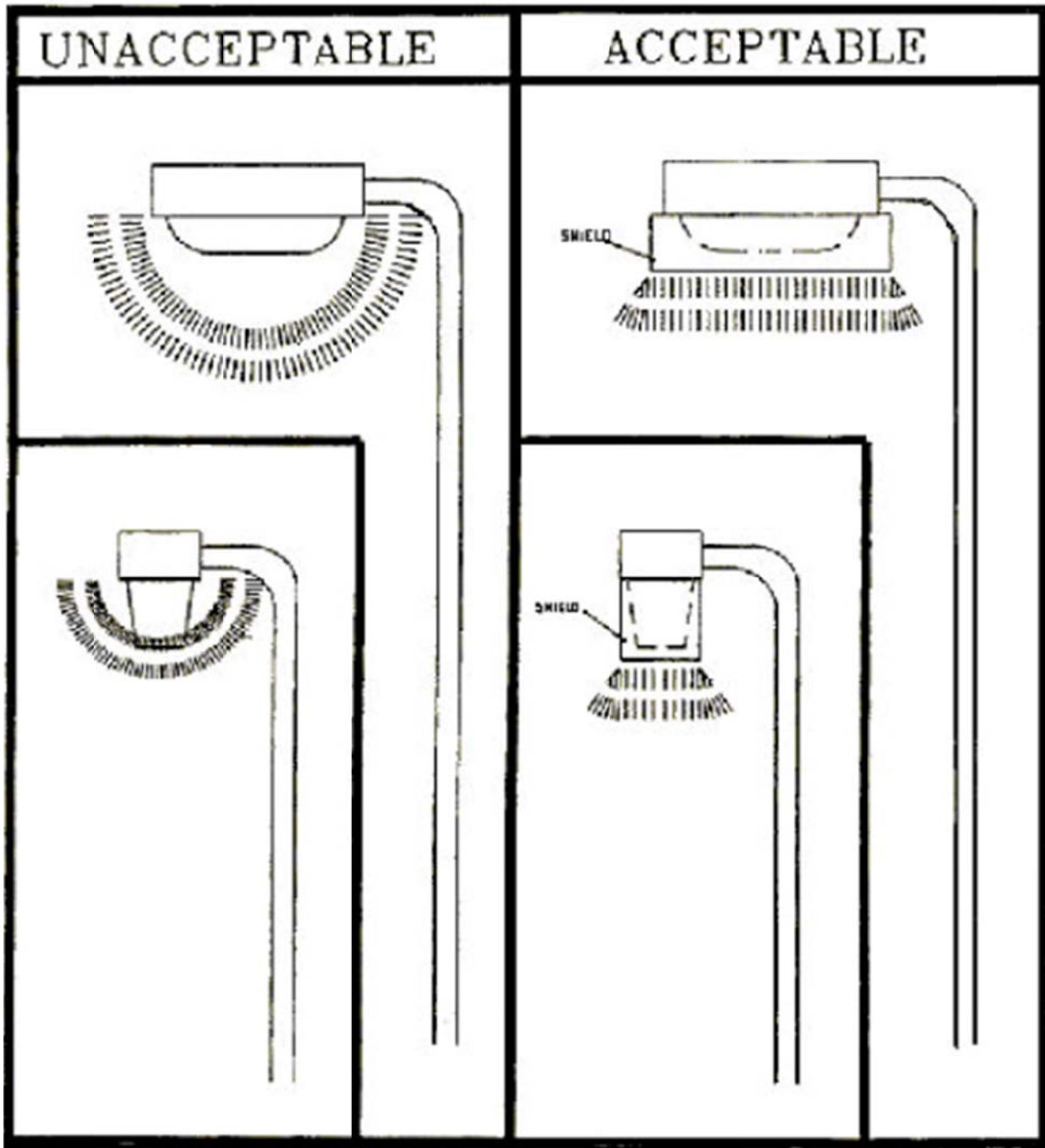


Figure 3: Exterior lighting fixtures - Street and lot light cut-off at property line.

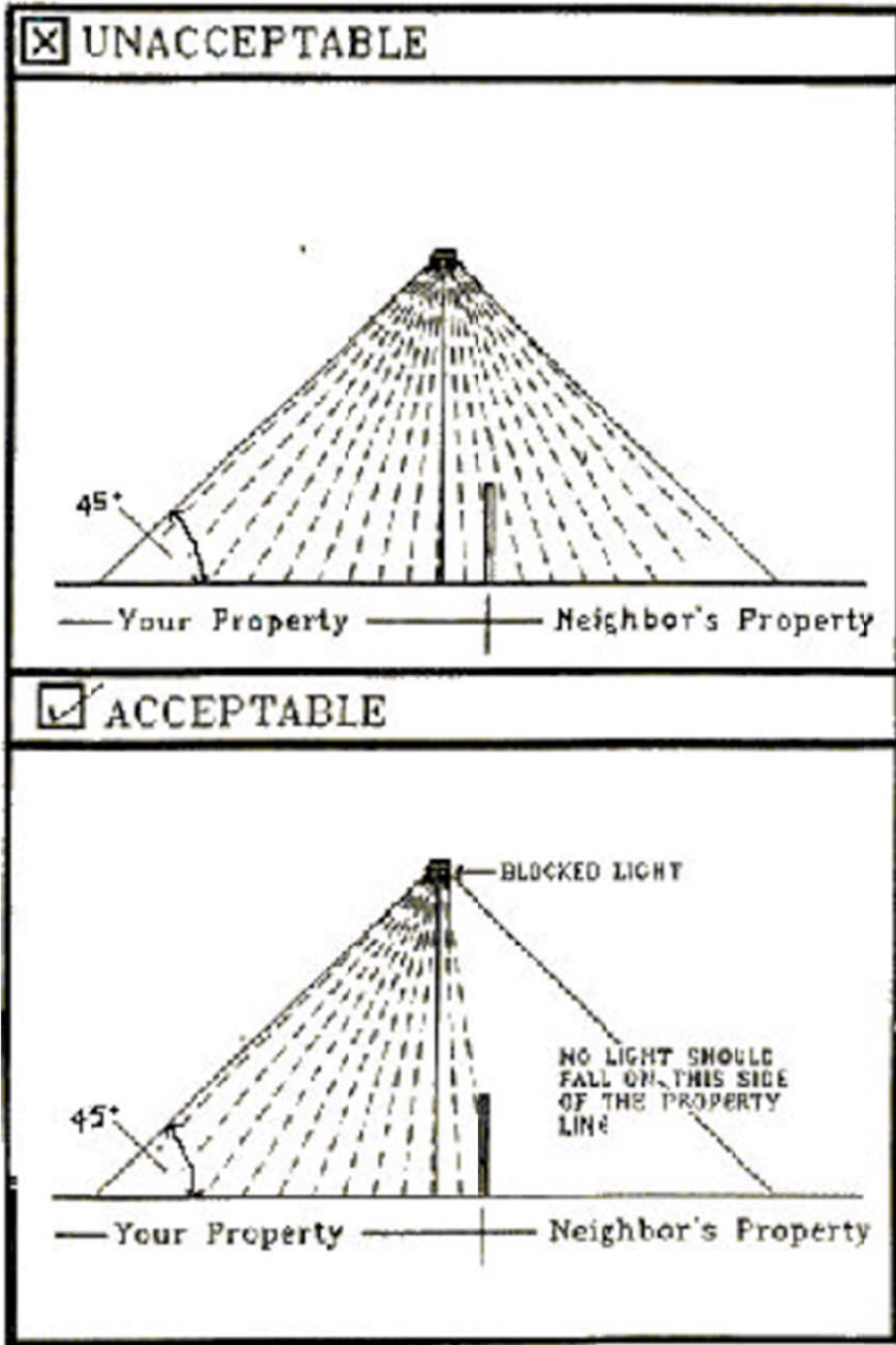


Figure 4: Accent lighting.

