



**City of Racine, Wisconsin  
Common Council**

**Ordinance 0005-26 – Light Nuisance  
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

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**INTRO TO COUNCIL DATE:** August 5, 2026

**STANDING COMMITTEE DATE:** TBD

**FINAL ACTION COUNCIL DATE:** TBD

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**DEPARTMENT:** City Attorney's Office

**Prepared By:** Matthew Perz, Assistant City Attorney

**Reviewed by:** Scott Letteney, City Attorney

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**SUBJECT:** Communication sponsored by Alder Mary Land and Alder Maurice Horton regarding limiting light illuminance at lot lines that create a public nuisance.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The proposed ordinance amends Section 66-1002 of the Racine Municipal Code and designates light illuminance at lot lines exceeding 0.1 footcandles as a nuisance if the light interferes substantially with the comfortable enjoyment of life, health, or safety of another. Lighting that conforms to the zoning code is exempted.

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**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

Unreasonable lighting can become a nuisance that adversely affects the quality of life for those living and working nearby. This ordinance is intended to address those situations where the light source is not covered by the zoning code and interferes substantially with the comfortable enjoyment of life, health, or safety of another.

28           The 0.1 footcandle illuminance limit at the lot line is consistent with an anticipated  
29 revision of the zoning code. A footcandle is the illumination produced by one lumen distributed  
30 over a square foot. A 0.1 footcandle limit is roughly comparable to low twilight or moonlight on  
31 a clear night. This ordinance is drafted to incorporate any future changes made to the zoning  
32 code.

33           The ordinance additionally clarifies that, unless otherwise specified, any code  
34 enforcement officer may enforce the article regulating nuisance properties.

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36   **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

37           N/A

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39   **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

40           To approve.

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