Published August 19, 2026

NOTICE OF PENDIN ORDINANCE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on August 17, 2026 there was introduced and read for the first time, and passed on such first reading, an ordinance, a true copy whereof is printed below and that said Council did then and there fix the regular meeting of said Council to be held on September 14, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, and the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey or via Zoom as the place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage, at which time and place, or at any time and place to which such meeting shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

The said ordinance as introduced and passed on first reading as aforesaid is in the following words and figures:

BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD
263 SOMERSET STREET
NORTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060-4846

ORDINANCE NO. 26-15

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 22, ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT," MORE SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE VII, ENTITLED "SITE PLAN AND SUBDIVISION STANDARDS", TO ADD A NEW §22-83, ENTITLED "OUTDOOR LIGHTING".

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40:48-1 and *N.J.S.A.* 40:48-2, the governing body of a municipality may make, amend, repeal and enforce such other ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws not contrary to the laws of this State or of the United States, as it may deem necessary and proper for the good of government, order and protection of person and property and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this subtitle, or by any other law; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield have determined that it is in the public interest to reduce light pollution and skyglow; promote energy conservation; potentially reduce energy costs; support aesthetic interests; and, improve the natural nighttime environment for the Borough's residents and wildlife.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that Chapter 22, entitled "Land Development," more specifically Article VII, entitled "Site Plan and Subdivision Standards," is hereby amended, revised and supplemented to add a new §22-83, entitled "Outdoor Lighting", which shall read as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision and Site Plan Details. The design and installation of outdoor lighting must utilize fixtures that are certified as "Dark Sky Compliant" on the site of a subdivision for any new development of three (3) dwelling units or more or site plan. This shall include newly developed public and private roads; parking lots; commercial or mixed-use developments; and, municipal or school facilities. Such new developments shall install dark sky compliant lighting at the time of construction or when undergoing upgrades or renovations.

Section 2. Submission of Plans. All plans submitted in connection with an application for subdivision or site plan approval must include the following:

A. A description of the outdoor light fixtures including component specifications, such as lamps, reflectors, optics, angle of cutoff, supports, poles, mounting height and the manufacturers catalog cuts and hours of operation; and,
B. A point-by-point analysis of lighting that sets forth the illuminance for each point in footcandles.

Section 3. Public Properties. With respect to public properties, the following shall apply to the extent feasible:

A. Illumination levels should be extinguished by 10:00 p.m., or the close of activities, whichever is later, except for lighting activated by motion sensors;
B. Lighting around the perimeter of a site/building for security lighting purposes that is controlled by a motion sensor shall extinguish the light no later than ten (10) minutes after activation;
C. Light fixtures used to illuminate an American flag after dark shall comply with these regulations, emitting a narrow cone of light on the flag but not extending outward; and,
D. Lighting for the sole purpose of artificially illuminating landscaped areas in public properties is prohibited.

Section 4. Additional Requirements.

A. For residential buildings, additions or uses, an information sheet must be given to applicants educating them about the problem of light pollution and steps private homeowners can take to avoid and minimize it.
B. In all cases, alternative methods to lights should be considered by all applicants for development to the extent feasible. Such alternative methods may include reflective road markers or lines or motion-sensitive fixtures.
C. The requirements of this Section shall not apply to temporary lighting that is used for emergency purposes or nighttime construction work, or if there is a compelling temporary safety reason that cannot be addressed by another method, or for a special event. With respect to a special event, lighting must be removed within forty-eight (48) hours of the event's completion.

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BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that if any word, section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall only apply to the word, section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect, after final passage, twenty (20) days following action or inaction by the Mayor as provided by law or an override of a mayoral veto by the Council, whichever is applicable and publication in accordance with law, unless a Resolution is adopted, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40:69A-181(b), declaring an emergency and providing that this Ordinance shall take effect at an earlier date.

Copies of the full Ordinance are on file with the Borough Clerk of the Borough of North Plainfield in the Municipal Building, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey. Copies may be obtained upon request and a copy is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building reserved for such purpose.

Michele Irby-Garry
Borough Clerk