

# McANA

**Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, Inc.**  
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## **McANA Position on Light Pollution**

adopted May 1, 2002

The Marion County Alliance of Neighborhoods Association believes light pollution is an undesirable condition which should be eliminated or reduced.

Light pollution is defined as misdirected and excessive artificial light in the environment. It is a form of urban blight, and it often creates nuisance that can rise to extreme levels. It can deprive citizens of privacy and the peaceful enjoyment of property. Poor lighting practices actually reduce public safety.

There is evidence that light pollution also damages the ecosystem by adversely affecting many species of flora and fauna. Health care research also suggests a link between light pollution to cancer in humans. Light pollution also wastes energy. Light pollution's luminous haze in the night sky obscures the natural view of the heavens and greatly impedes astronomical research at Butler University and Indiana University and by amateur astronomers.

Light pollution should be effectively addressed through enforcement of city codes and implementation of appropriate City policy. The Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development should require that a detailed lighting site plan be submitted by the applicant during the Improvement Location Permit (ILP) process. Such a plan should also be considered at applicable zoning and variance hearings and appeals. High intensity outdoor lighting design should be full cutoff as defined by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, (IESNA), projecting no light directly from a light fixture in a direction above the horizontal. The bulb should be shielded from off-property view by opaque components of the fixture's housing.

To the extent the above standards or enforcement provisions are not sufficiently provided by current ordinances, new codes should be adopted. Provisions of these new codes should be patterned after comprehensive provisions such those adopted by Nashville, IN and Hendricks County, IN.

City policy regarding street lights should require that no high intensity discharge street lights be installed, whether new or replacements, except fixtures designated as full cutoff by the IESNA. The City should request that INDOT cease lighting of reflective roadway signs in Marion County. The City should also request INDOT to place high mast cluster lighting no closer to the public right-of-way boundary than a distance equal to three times the mast's height, adjusting the height as needed to satisfy the distance requirement.

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