



POLICY STATEMENT FOR LIGHTING

CITY OF CHARLESTON
2 George Street, Third Floor

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY
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Appropriate lighting levels are necessary as a way of providing environments free of light pollution while at the same time providing for well-lit secure areas.

1. Buildings:

- a. Fixture Style and Size: Fixtures are to be appropriate in style and size to the building.
- b. Fixture Number and Location: The primary use of fixtures is not to be for decoration; nor are fixtures to be used as a way of attracting attention to a building. The primary use of fixtures should be to safely light and identify building entrances.

2. Parking Structures:

- a. Fixture Style for Rooftop Level: Pole mounted fixtures are not to be used. Fixtures are to be wall mounted and are not to extend above the top of the roof parapet.
- b. Fixture Style for All Levels: Generally, fixtures are to have a concealed light source, semi-opaque lens or shielded to reduce glare and excessive light spillage outward from the building.
- c. Lighting Level: Lighting levels are not to exceed fifteen (15) foot candles.

3. Gasoline Canopies:

- a. Fixture Style: The light source from fixtures is to be concealed. Fixtures are to be recessed into the canopy with the fixture lens mounted flush with the canopy surface.
- b. Lighting Level: Lighting levels are not to exceed fifty (50) foot candles.

4. Site:

- a. Parking Lot Fixture Style: Fixtures are to be appropriate to the architectural style of the building. Generally, fixtures are to have a concealed light source or semi-opaque lens to reduce glare.
- b. Parking Lot Fixture Height: Fixture heights are not to exceed eighteen (18) feet in height.
- c. Parking Lot Lighting Level: Lighting levels are not to exceed five (5) foot candles.

The above criteria are intended as general guidelines. Applications for lighting shall be considered on a case by case basis.