

**From:** [Jeffrey](#)  
**To:** [Jeff Remas](#)  
**Cc:** [Lanelda Gaskins](#); [Natasha Moore](#); [Donald Peters](#); [Evalyn David](#); [Judith Goldberg](#); [Marshall Labadie](#); [David Stern](#); [Rick Greenwald](#); [Ingrid Allen](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Lighting Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:17:46 AM

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Jeff,

Thank you for your concern for the residents of Highland Beach.

Your contributions to the safety of Highland Beach residents are greatly appreciated by all.

Many matters that come before the Town Residents' Commission are "quality of life issues," as opposed to safety issues.

For the most part, the State of Florida has stayed away from beachfront lighting ordinances. I think this is because the state recognizes that each municipality may have different but equally effective ways of protecting sea turtle hatchlings.

To date, Highland Beach's residents have been successful in obtaining the common goal of preventing artificial lighting from disorienting sea turtle hatchlings.

Adding new overreaching ordinances only serves to needlessly restrict property owners' rights.

Over the past few years, I have suggested many environmental improvements to our Commission. I would like to invite you to join my efforts in advancing these meaningful initiatives.

I am currently working on getting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to stop dumping polluted stormwater from the state road into our canals.

Best regards,  
Jeffrey Kleiman

On Dec 5, 2023, at 12:33 AM, Jeff Remas <[bco@highlandbeach.us](mailto:bco@highlandbeach.us)> wrote:

Mr. Kleiman,

I appreciate you taking the time to express your concerns about the proposed lighting ordinance. Your engagement in civic matters is valuable to our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some additional context regarding the ordinance. This proposal has been in development for several years, drawing from a model ordinance for the State of Florida, reduced in scope, and integrated practices from similar municipalities. Our goal has been to create a more effective framework for managing turtle-safe lighting in our community.

As you may know, the current ordinance has often been critiqued for its vague language, which, ironically, has led to broader interpretative applications. The proposed ordinance addresses these ambiguities by offering clear guidelines and compliance solutions, thereby reducing the potential for overreach. It's important to highlight that this ordinance has been a subject of public discussion on multiple occasions, starting with the Town Commission, which asked for changes that were implemented for further board reviews. The contributions of our community members have enriched these discussions. The Natural Resources Board and the Planning Board, consisting of residents like yourself, have reviewed, discussed, and

unanimously recommended the proposed ordinance. Their collective insights have been instrumental in shaping a balanced and community-centric proposal.

I understand that you are concerned about the ordinance's implications, particularly regarding indoor lighting and its impact on our residents' well-being. Please know that these factors were thoughtfully considered in the drafting process.

I noticed that your participation in these discussions was missed. Active involvement in such processes can offer a deeper understanding of the complexities and intentions behind such proposals. Your perspective and insights would be a valuable addition to future discussions. In this light, I would like to encourage you to consider participating more actively in our community boards and meetings. Your involvement could significantly contribute to shaping our town's future during the process rather than afterward.

The Town aims to always work collaboratively towards solutions that reflect the needs and values of our residents, and your continued input is a vital part of this process. Thank you again for reaching out, and I look forward to your active participation in our community's ongoing dialogues.

<image001.png>

Respectfully,  
**Jeff Remas**  
Building Code Official

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**From:** Jeffrey <jeffreyfl@gmail.com>

**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 at 11:58

**To:** Lanelda Gaskins <lgaskins@highlandbeach.us>

**Cc:** Natasha Moore <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>, Donald Peters <sportsbarn1@aol.com>, Evalyn David <edavid@highlandbeach.us>, Judith Goldberg <judy@judithgoldberg.com>, Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>, David Stern <dstern@highlandbeach.us>, Rick Greenwald <Ragreenwald@bellsouth.net>, Jeff Remas <bco@highlandbeach.us>, Ingrid Allen <iallen@highlandbeach.us>

**Subject:** Proposed Lighting Ordinance

Public Comment for Tuesday's Commission meeting.

Subject: Proposed Lighting Ordinance,

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners,  
The proposed lighting ordinance represents a clear case of government overreach.

This proposed ordinance is focused on regulating the behavior of Highland Beach residents through absolute measures. It goes beyond mere overreach; It actively creates issues where none previously existed. It is a cure for a disease we don't have.

Our residents are intelligent enough to continue being permitted to install outdoor flood lighting for use only during the peak People Season from November through February.

The Highland Beach Commission should not restrict daytime indoor sunlight over a nighttime issue. Our residents are also intelligent enough to lower their beachfront window shades at night during hatchling season, as they have been doing successfully in accordance with the existing town ordinance for many years.

The proposed ordinance would minimize indoor sunlight to less than half on sunny days. On cloudy days, this reduction in sunlight will cause a notably gloomy and depressing indoor environment. Our older, infirmed residents do not deserve to spend their final days in partial darkness.

Let's remember that it's Florida's sunshine that brought us here.  
I firmly believe this proposed ordinance warrants outright rejection.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Kleiman  
Highland Beach