



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 10/22/2019

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: October 14, 2019
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Discuss Town Code Section 29.10.09015 regarding “shoestring lights,” and forward a recommendation to the Planning Commission and Town Council to remove the provision prohibiting them.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss Town Code Section 29.10.09015 regarding “shoestring lights,” and forward recommendation to the Planning Commission and Town Council to remove the provision prohibiting them.

BACKGROUND:

Town Code Section 29.10.09015, below, prohibits “shoestring lights.” Town staff has always interpreted this section to apply to all outdoor lights, exclusive of private property. However, the Town does have such lights in trees throughout the downtown.

Sec. 29.10.09015. - Control of outdoor lighting.

Outdoor lights must be shielded and directed to shine on improvements including plants on the zoning plot where the lights are located and not directly on other property or any public right-of-way. Shoestring lighting is not permitted.

(Ord. No. 1316, § 3.47.010, 6-7-76; Ord. No. 1335, 10-4-76)

DISCUSSION:

Many businesses with outdoor seating areas wish to have ambient lighting for guests and one way to achieve this is with shoestring/bistro lights (individual light bulbs on a power string). The interest in bistro lights is increasing with the addition of parklets to the downtown, as businesses look to provide lighting for these dining areas.

PREPARED BY: Monica Renn
Economic Vitality Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney

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SUBJECT: Discuss and Make a Recommendation Regarding "Shoestring Lights"

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CONCLUSION:

The Town receives many positive comments on the ambiance provided in the downtown by the trees along the street lit with shoestring lights. These are provided by the Town. Thus, staff is recommending that the Policy Committee discuss "shoestring lights" and forward a recommendation to the Council to remove this provision from the Code. Any changes to Chapter 29/Zoning Regulations of the Town Code must be heard by the Planning Commission first for a recommendation to the Town Council.

Below is a redline version of the Town Code amendment recommendation from the staff:

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(Ord. No. 1316, § 3.47.010, 6-7-76; Ord. No. 1335, 10-4-76)

Staff looks forward to the discussion with the Committee and will be available to discuss the other options and related issues.

COORDINATION:

This report was prepared in coordination with the Town Manager's Office, Community Development Department, and Parks and Public Works Department.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is not a fiscal impact associated with this item.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.