

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: intrusive lighting
Date: Apr 25, 2022 at 2:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Ola Dunin-Bell,

I am responding to your email you wrote to Council about intrusive lighting.

I can appreciate your concern and agree that the growth of our community could lead to an increase in lighting.

We do have a light bylaw in place for commercial signage, but we do not have anything to address residential lighting.

At this time, we do not have the resources to address this issue as there are considerable other initiatives in the works. We will be recording the inquiries to monitor if this issue could be addressed at a later date.

What jumps to mind with a lighting bylaw is there are a lot of considerations to explore before simply writing a bylaw such as:

- This type of bylaw (like noise) may have subjective elements to enforce and if worded like Vancouver it would be up to bylaw staff discretion to determine what is unreasonable and what one person finds offensive another person may not. As such, would require a policy to be written on how to enforce the subjective elements.
- Exemptions to consider (i.e security lights, street lights, government buildings like schools, and stratas)
- Decorative lighting: a determination on what is defined by bright as many decorative lights do face other houses (versus a security light that could face down)
- A review of what would apply to new buildings versus existing.
- Time to comply: some new bylaws that relate to physical attributes or have financial implications give communities time to make the updates. Given that many folks in town have security and decorative lights that may shine into another property we would need to review what inventory we would be addressing.
- Consultation with the public to determine if they wish to spend extra resources on this issue.

Behind the scenes, managing a complaint requires a fair process for both the person complaining and the subject of the complaint that our department needs to balance. We spend a lot of time on bylaw creation to ensure they are enforceable and to make enforcement successful there is an extensive process to create new bylaws.

Beyond creating a bylaw, we are creating a good neighbourhood document/campaign that will include some information about lighting and how to be a good neighbour.

Have you considered speaking with your neighbor to resolve the issue? That is often a good approach to solving issues that are adjacent to you. Your neighbor may not be aware of this impact on you and may be willing to reduce the lighting with lower wattage

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Thank you for writing to Council.

Best regards,



RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

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