



Dark Sky Policy Evaluation Work Group
Workshop #3 Summary - May 23, 2017 3:00pm
Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1901 South Alamo Street

Workshop #3: What is Right for SA

❖ Welcome

❖ Military Overview

City of San Antonio's Military Commitment and History/Overview presented by Major General Juan G. Ayala (USMC Ret) Director, Office of Military Affairs (OMA):

- Their mission statement is to establish, strengthen relationships with key leaders from various organizations including military, city, business, and academic communities in order to sustain Joint Base San Antonio's missions and work to protect our installations. This office is the City's link to the military community.
 - The importance of Dark Sky Lighting for Military training/missions:
 - Night training: Night Vision Goggles (NVG) is used in both air and ground training. Aviation missions are night missions that use night vision goggles. When there is too much light these missions are negatively impacted.
 - City's commitment to the military city supports military presence
 - Getting additional missions to the city, units, citizens that live and work in the city.
 - Military Economic Impact to San Antonio and surrounding communities.
 - Military Lighting Overlay District
 - Currently existing outdoor lighting policy is a City Ordinance and County Dark Sky Order that apply to an area extending 5 miles around Camp Bullis. Only applies to new construction or replacement fixtures.
- Importance of further studying effects of dark sky lighting:
- May improve military night training at Camp Bullis and the in the military overlying district.
 - May improve/ increase present and future military night training missions at other bases.

Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Dark Skies and Lighting Pollution Concerns Presented by Ms. Meg Reyes:

- Compatible land use and development is a shared interest between JBSA and the greater San Antonio area that may affect JBSA missions and or the economic viability of the surrounding communities.
- Area of concern encroachment- 5 top JBSA Encroachment risks:
 1. Urban growth
 2. Air
 3. Endangered species and critical habitat
 4. Airspace and land restrictions
 5. Airborne noise



- Joint Land Use Studies were conducted at different times. The study was done to find commonalities between the regional bases. They found that the glooming effect of too much light was prevalent in these areas.
- Bexar Country Ambient Lighting Assessment Report- Jun 2015
 - This report evaluated and analyzed land that was deemed potentially developable to determine where the encroachment risks could occur regarding light pollution adjacent to and near the JBSA-Lackland Medina Training Annex (MTA).
 - Expert recommendations were designed to mitigate any further increased light pollution in the San Antonio Metropolitan Area and protect the land adjacent and proximate to JBSA-Lackland’s MTA from light pollution and glare that would render the night training missions ineffective for producing superb military readiness.
 - BUG ratings consist of three sequential numbers, corresponding to the amounts or levels of light (lumens) the luminaire emits in one of three ways: backlight (B), uplight (U) and glare (G)

Work Group Comments:

- Q: Will elected officials and council be informed on this? Can they get copies of presentations?
Ayala A: Yes, Informing elected officials after the run-off. There will be briefings to a council committee.
- Reflecting on the Joint Land Use Study Strategy:
Camp Bullis JLUS recommended a Dark Skies Ordinance for the area 5 miles around Camp Bullis, Lackland AFB JLUS
- Q: What is in the study?
A: Initiatives that support the military’s mission.

❖ Scenarios Discussion

Components for Consideration:

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| ○ Current standard: Update or leave as is | ○ Timeframe: Special Session or UDC Update 2020 |
| ○ Boundary: City-wide or Military Bases (MLOD covers approximately 2/3 of the City) | ○ Approach: All at once or Phased |

Work Group Comments:

- Consider City wide benefits in updating the ordinance in a special session before 2020 UDC changes and should be implemented all at once.
- Flying at night- Top Golf Entertainment Facilities is an issue for Camp Bullis and cannot look in that direction, limiting areas that they can train in.
- Light environment is poor in the area and will continue to do so as development expands.



- Likely to be implemented by grandfathering the existing features & replacing lighting once it needs a new one.
- Bright lights by entrances are for security purposes. Secure facilities such as storage facilities need sufficient lighting for cameras and security. Security lighting can be controlled so that cameras can see without unnecessary scatter which can cause sky glow.
- Light does not respect boundaries; protect health safety, energy savings, less light cluttered communities, dark skies can fit the whole city.
- Look into Enabling ordinance and see if it can be expanded
- Current standards need to be updated...time frame UDC Updated 2020. A new code time frame is important and 2020 might be right. Need to be able to train staff etc... to figure out an approach
- Q: How do other cities implement dark skies, identifying best practices?
A: As seen in other cities the zoning can't be a stand-alone ordinance.
- Current standards can be updated due to technology advances.
- Code changes to an agreement for every 5 years, Council has the ability to look at modifications.
- Q: Is there a difference between this study and past studies?
A: Each JLUS has 20 recommendations and works with commonalities for a regional JLUS.
- Q: Can there be an incentive to promote dark skies through CPS?
A: Possibly, if it shows an energy savings.
- Updates in the ordinance, needs to be phased in, concerns from developments on how it will be enforced. It's good for military and community overall.

❖ Stakeholder Outreach:

Office of Sustainability Staff provided an update on stakeholder outreach and requested any other organizations that should be reached out to personally. Comments consider for the June 20th meeting should be submitted before June 15th.

Work Group Comments:

- What would be an incentive for developers? Initial cost of dark skies lighting fixtures would be on the developer meaning the overall savings on energy usage is for the property owner not developer.
- Schools are concerned over details required to have shielded lighting. Facing concerns of the need to comply with state law.
- Create partnerships with developers for an ideal model looking at outcomes.
- Educational campaign: Incentives are good and should include an educational component on the benefits of Dark Skies. EX. McDonald's Observatory and education program.
- Billboard lighting, cost association and impacts on dark skies
- What about cities not in San Antonio? ACCOG Regional Task Force is working with other municipalities and looking at San Antonio and how to be supportive.

❖ Next Steps:

Workshop #4- June 20, 2017