

# Heber City

## Annual Council Strategic Planning Retreat Agenda

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**Day 1 –Thursday, January 22, 2026**

**5:00 to 9:20 p.m.**

**Heber Police Department Community Room**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity / Description</b>	<b>Who</b>
5:00 p.m.	<b>Welcome   5 min</b> 1) Check-in 2) Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ground rules &amp; logistics details</li> <li>✓ Parking Lot of Ideas &amp; Action Register</li> <li>✓ Time Management</li> </ul> 3) Desired Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reaching Team Potential</li> <li>✓ Moving the Community Forward</li> <li>✓ Finalizing Budget and Policy Priorities for FY '27</li> </ul>	Mayor Matt
5:05 p.m.	<b>Public Comments</b>	All
5:10 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b> —Working Dinner (spouses invited)	All
5:30 p.m.	<b>Guest Speaker</b> --Ben Sehy with Meeder Public Funds   40 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Federal, State and Local Economic Overview</li> <li>✓ Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	Ben
6:10 p.m.	<b>Celebrating 2025 Victories   70 min</b>	Leadership
7:20 p.m.	<b>Break   10 min</b>	
7:30 p.m.	<b>State of the Administration   60 min</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Score Card Summary-'25 Council Priorities</li> <li>✓ Fund Review and Projections</li> <li>✓ Key Trends</li> <li>✓ Watch Items</li> <li>✓ Decision Points</li> <li>✓ Priority Recommendations</li> <li>✓ 4<sup>th</sup> Class Cities Benchmarking Initiative</li> </ul>	Matt       Lainee
8:30 p.m.	<b>Strategic Topic—Presentation &amp; Discussion</b> 1) Review of Dogs in City Parks Survey and Policy Direction   25 min 2) Night Sky   25 minutes	Mark S. Tony
9:20 p.m.	<b>Wrap Up / Overview of Day One</b>	Mayor



# Heber City Council Staff Report

**MEETING DATE:** 1/22/2026  
**SUBJECT:** Check-in  
2. Overview

- Ground rules & logistic details
- Parking Lot of Ideas & Action Register
- Time Management

## 3. Desired Outcomes

- Reaching Team Potential
- Moving the Community Forward
- Finalizing Budget and Policy Priorities for FY '27

**RESPONSIBLE:**  
**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative  
**STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:**

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## SUMMARY

## RECOMMENDATION

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## BACKGROUND

## DISCUSSION

## FISCAL IMPACT

## CONCLUSION

### ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve as proposed
  2. Approve as amended
  3. Continue
  4. Deny
- 

### POTENTIAL MOTIONS

#### Alternative 1 - Approval - Staff Recommended Option

I move to **approve** the **item** as presented, with the findings and conditions as presented in the conclusion above.

#### Alternative 2 - Approve as Amended

I move to **approve** the **item** as amended, as follows.

#### Alternative 3 - Continue

I move to **continue** the **item** to another meeting on [DATE], with direction to the applicant and/or Staff on information and / or changes needed to render a decision, as follows:

#### Alternative 4 - Denial

I move to **deny** the **item** with the following findings.

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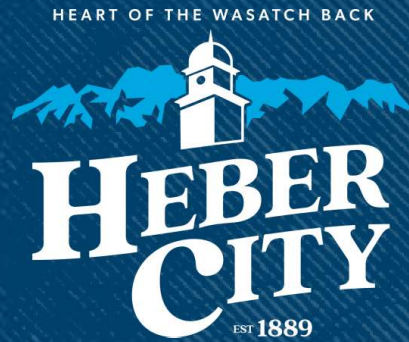
### ACCOUNTABILITY

**Department:** Administrative  
**Staff member:**

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### EXHIBITS

None



# Victories 2025

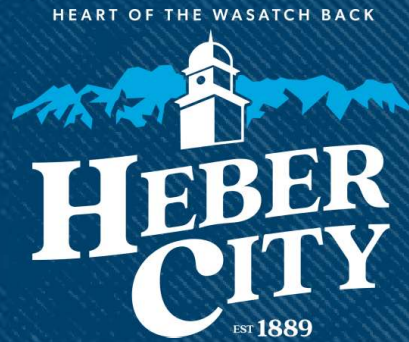
Finance Department

January 22, 2026

# LIVE FOOTAGE OF THE FINANCE TEAM AT WORK

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE5FGSEQc8Q>

Thank you.



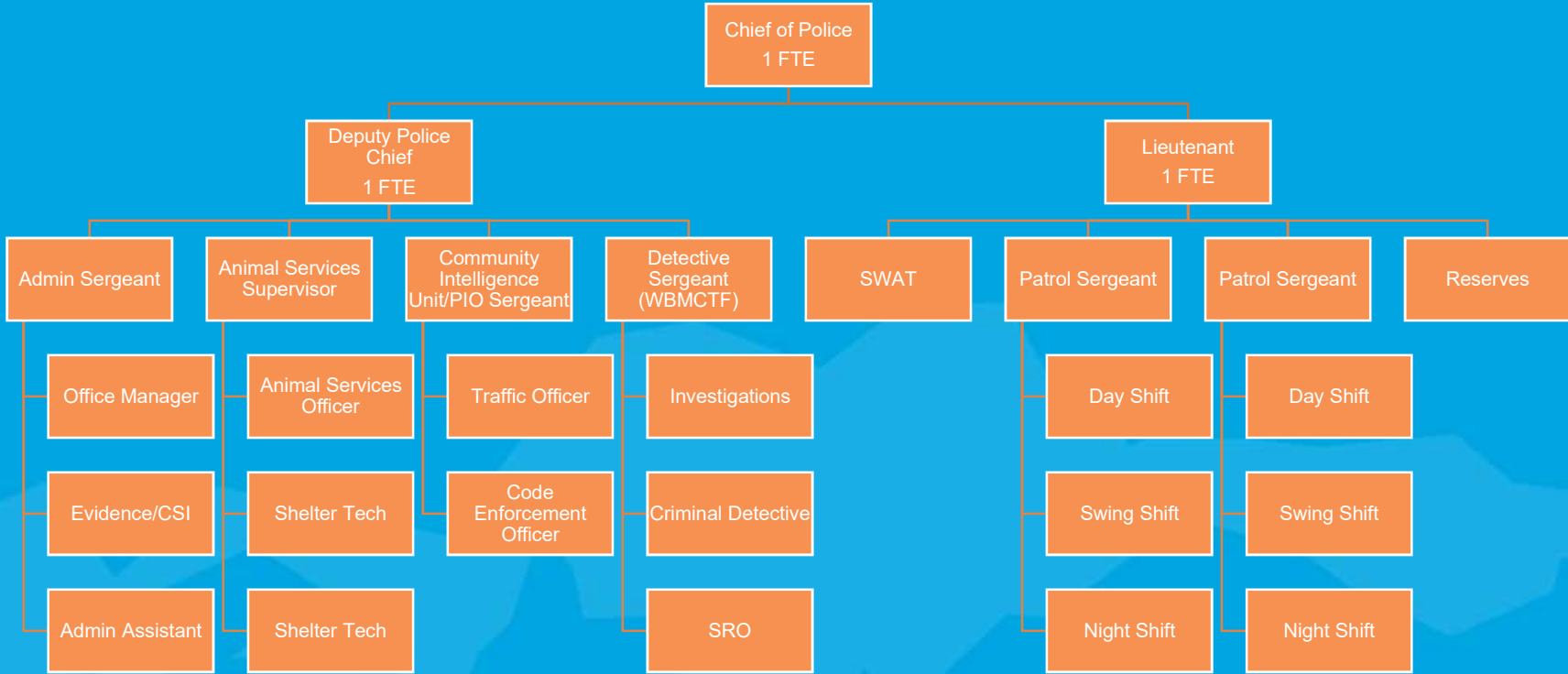
# HEBER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2025 VICTORIES

01/18/2024

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# HPCD ORGANIZATION CHART



# HEBER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT





## Animal Control

- New signed MOU with all entities.
- No Kill Shelter Award.
- Updated Animal Control Fines



# Investigations

- Heber City has added an additional Detective.
- Added on-call pay
- Investigations now covers all crimes that occur within its jurisdiction.

# OPERATIONS

- Staffing up to full capacity
- New Patches / New Vehicle Graphics
- Serving Midway City
- Very few safety Incidents, no time off incidents
- Added K-9 Officer and K-9 Bane
- Two Traffic Units both Motors Qualified
- ALPR Camera System
- Switched from Lens Lock to Taser Axon for body-worn cameras, in-car video & Digital Evidence Management



Officer Weishar was quick to get to the scene of the suspicious car that I called about. After he completed the "investigation" with the driver he drove to my house to let me know what was going on. I appreciated a couple things. 1- the amount of time that it took for him to get there after I called 2- that he came and updated me on the situation

Can't remember his name but he was prompt, professional and listened to me! He explained things so well and was beyond awesome

Both officers were kind and professional.



Absolutely amazing service in Heber Utah. I may have shown signs of a "manic episode" but blood tests have proven it's all about hormones, potassium and other medical things! Thank you to every officer who helped me

Even though my situation was actually taking place in San Antonio, Texas, the officer helped me stay calm and walked me through it on my end. I really appreciated the help. Thank you.

# ADMINISTRATION

- We had a 43% return rate on Citizen Surveys, with 941 surveys returned.
- 95.11% positive reviews 91% 5 star reviews
- Power Engage, Guardian Tracking, Target Solutions
- AI Report Writing



# Heber City Council Staff Report

**MEETING DATE:** 1/22/2026

**SUBJECT:**

- Review of Dogs in City Parks Survey and Policy Direction | 25 min - Mark S
- Night Sky | 25 min - Tony

**RESPONSIBLE:**

**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative

**STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:**

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## SUMMARY

## RECOMMENDATION

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## BACKGROUND

## DISCUSSION

## FISCAL IMPACT

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## ALTERNATIVES

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3. Continue
  4. Deny
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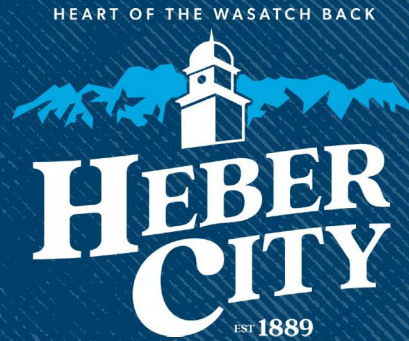
## ACCOUNTABILITY

**Department:** Administrative  
**Staff member:**

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## EXHIBITS

1. HC-Presentation-011526 Dog in Public Places Retreat
2. Dark Sky Presentation 2026



# Dogs and Parks: Policy Review & Survey Results

Assessing Public Opinion and Future Opportunities

January, 2026

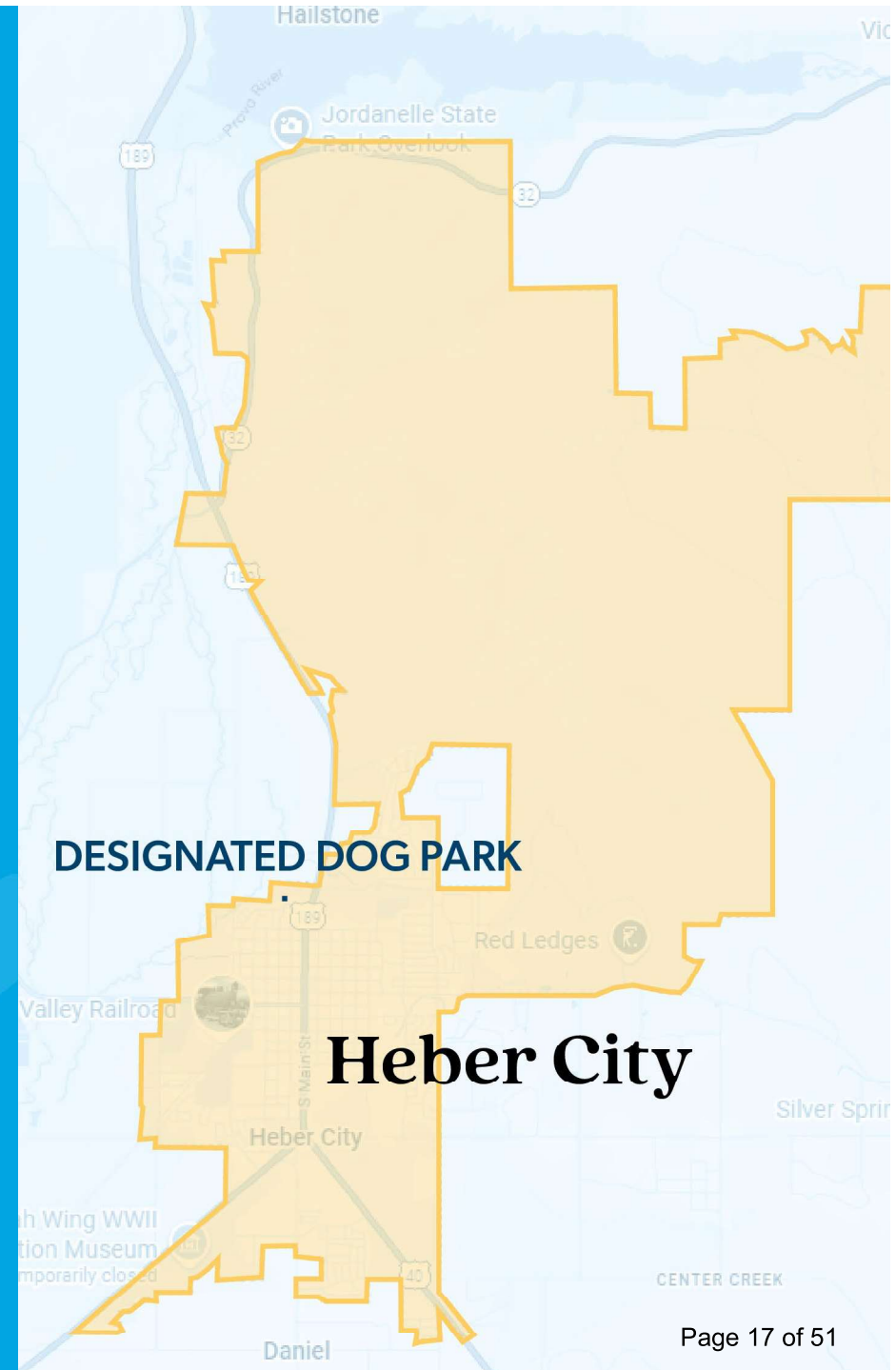
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## CURRENT STATUS:

Currently, dogs are not permitted in any public lands or areas within the City, with the exception of designated Dog Parks.

## THE CHALLENGE:

- This blanket restriction limits recreational opportunities for dog owners and concentrates use in limited areas.
- Staff has identified a need to review this policy against current public needs and community growth.



# Purpose of the Inquiry

## CITY STAFF OBJECTIVES:

- To gauge accurate public sentiment regarding the current "No Dogs" policy.
- To determine if the policy should be modified, and if so, to what degree?
- To understand the community's willingness to support (and fund) the necessary changes.





## KEY QUESTIONS FOR STAFF:

### Maintenance

What administrative issues arise with increased access (waste management, turf repair)?

### Safety

How would leash laws or containment requirements factor into a modification?

### Personnel

What is the impact on enforcement officers and parks staff?

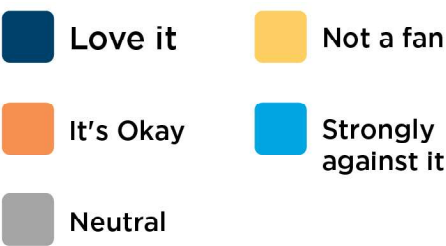
# Summary of Survey Findings

## PUBLIC SENTIMENT:

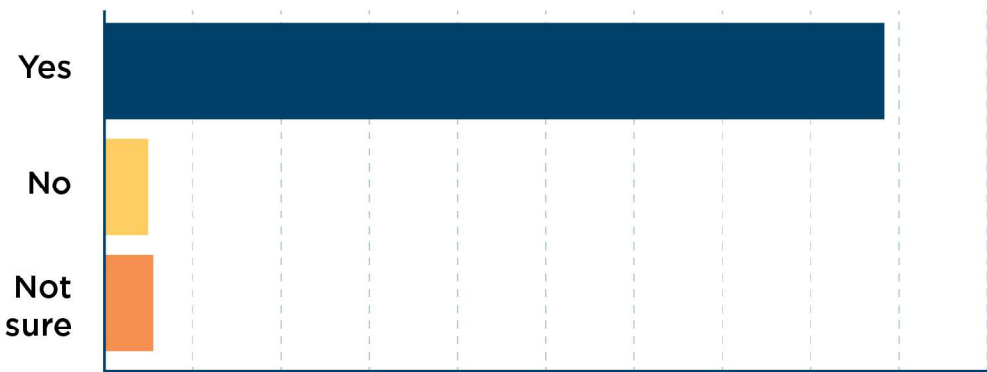
A reportable majority of respondents are in favor of less restrictions on dogs in parks and city property.

Residents expressed a clear desire for more opportunities to bring dogs into public spaces beyond just designated dog parks.

Q: How do you feel about dogs being allowed in our parks?



Q: Should dogs be leashed at all times?



# Recommendations

## PROPOSED STRATEGY:

- Explore a policy to allow expanded opportunities for dogs in public places.
- Infrastructure Commitment: The City must commit to ongoing funding for amenities, including:



**ABUNDANT DOG  
WASTE BAG  
STATIONS**



**ACCESSIBLE  
GARBAGE CANS**



**CLEAR SIGNAGE ENCOURAGING/  
MANDATING PROPER CLEANUP**



## Recommendations

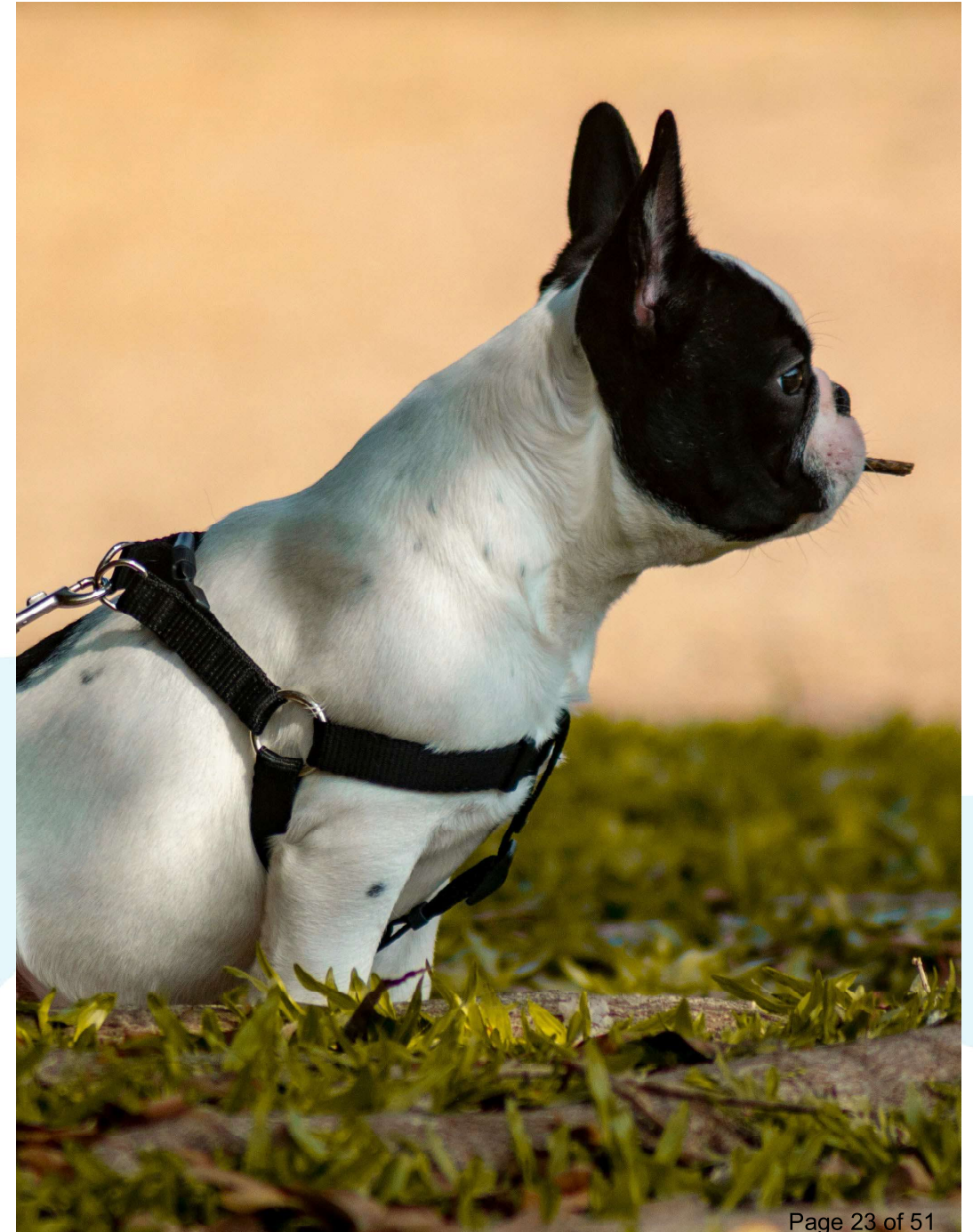
### PHILOSOPHY:

Promote a model of self-governance among dog owners to maintain property standards.

# Implementation & Challenges

## CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS:

- Funding: Securing budget for initial setup (signage/stations) and ongoing personnel costs.
- Enforcement:
  - Transitioning to allowing dogs will likely increase use during "off-hours" (pre/post normal business hours).
  - Challenge: Ensuring compliance and cleanup when the general public or staff are not present to help self-enforce.



# Conclusion

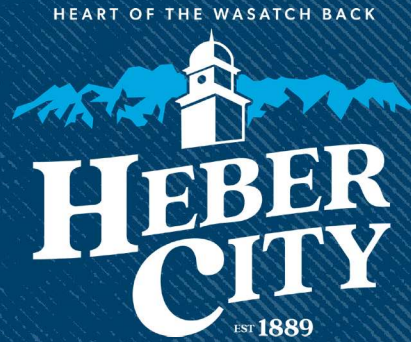
### SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The survey indicates a mandate to modernize our dog policy. Staff recommends drafting a pilot program that balances increased access with strict responsible ownership requirements.

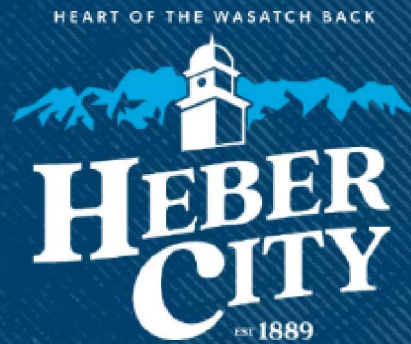
### NEXT STEPS:

- Council direction on drafting the new ordinance.
- Budget review for necessary waste station infrastructure.





# Thank you Heber City Council

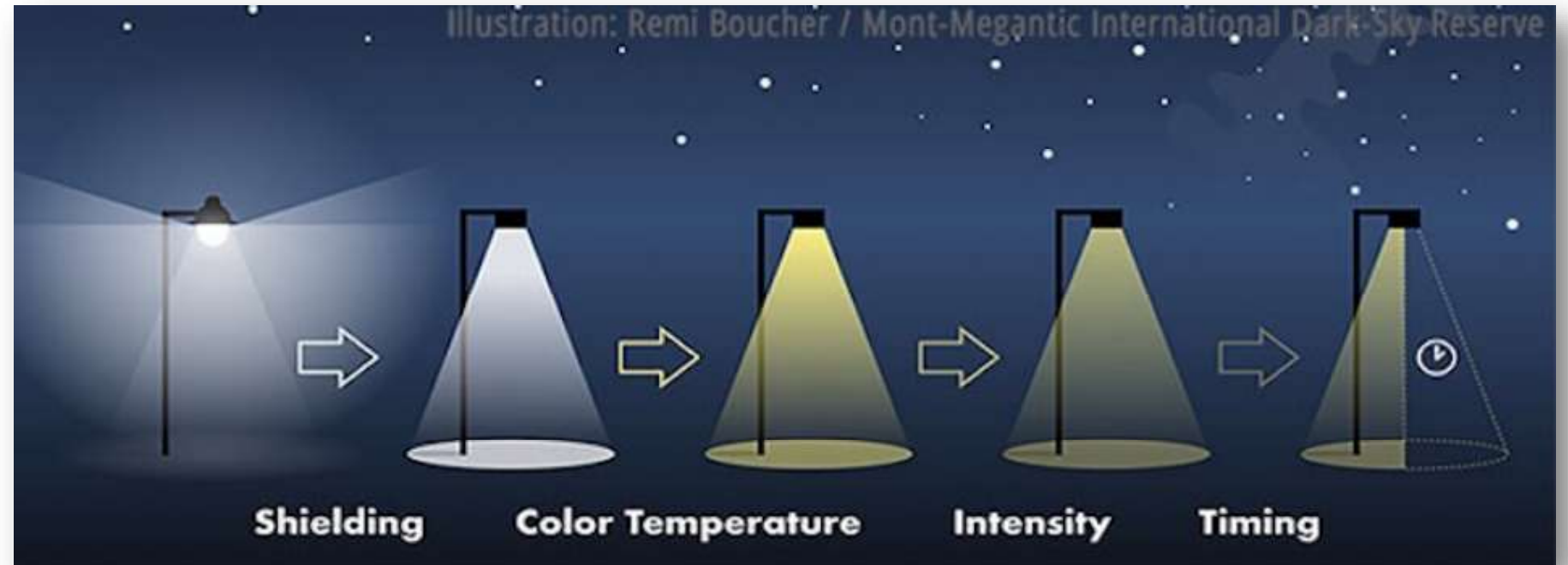


# Heber City Dark Skies

January 24, 2026

# Summary of Dark Sky Code

1. LED Bulbs
2. Light Trespass
3. Color Temperature
4. Intensity
5. Timing
6. Exemptions



Adopted August 3, 2021

**Grandfathered Uses:** those uses lawfully in place before the passage of the applicable law may continue as they operated before that new law

# 1 LED Bulbs

## STANDARDS

- All light bulbs must be Light Emitting Diode (LED) Bulbs

### Why

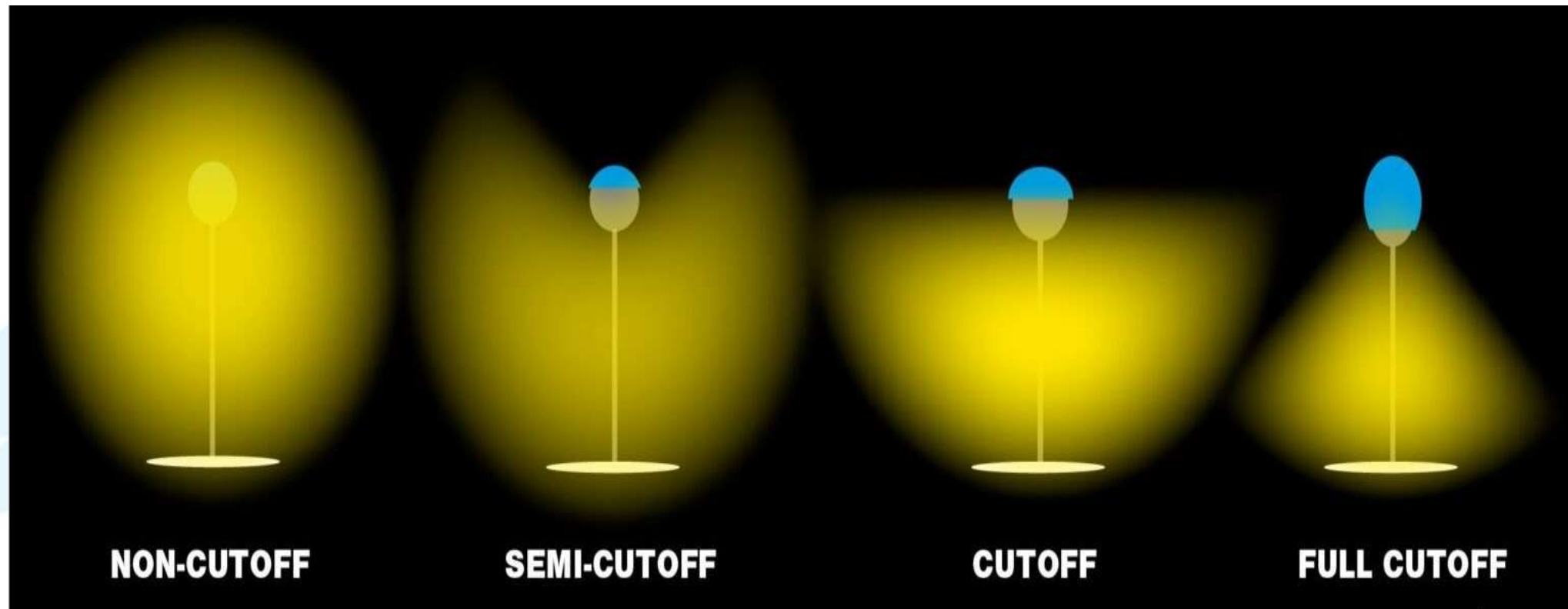
- Ability to change color
- Ability to change brightness
- Efficiency



## 2 Light Trespass: Cutoff

### STANDARDS

- All lighting must be full cut-off and directed downward



# Why Cut Off Lighting?

## Non cutoff lighting shines into:

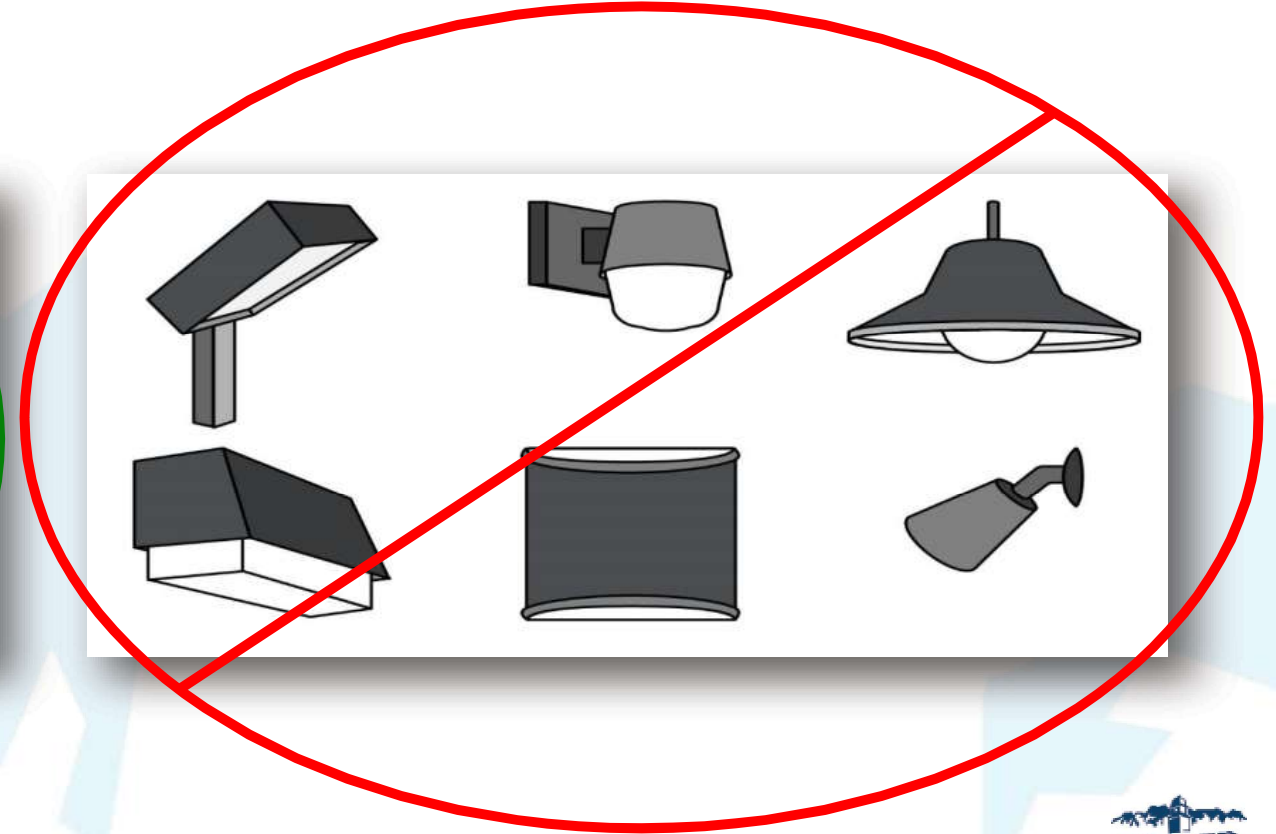
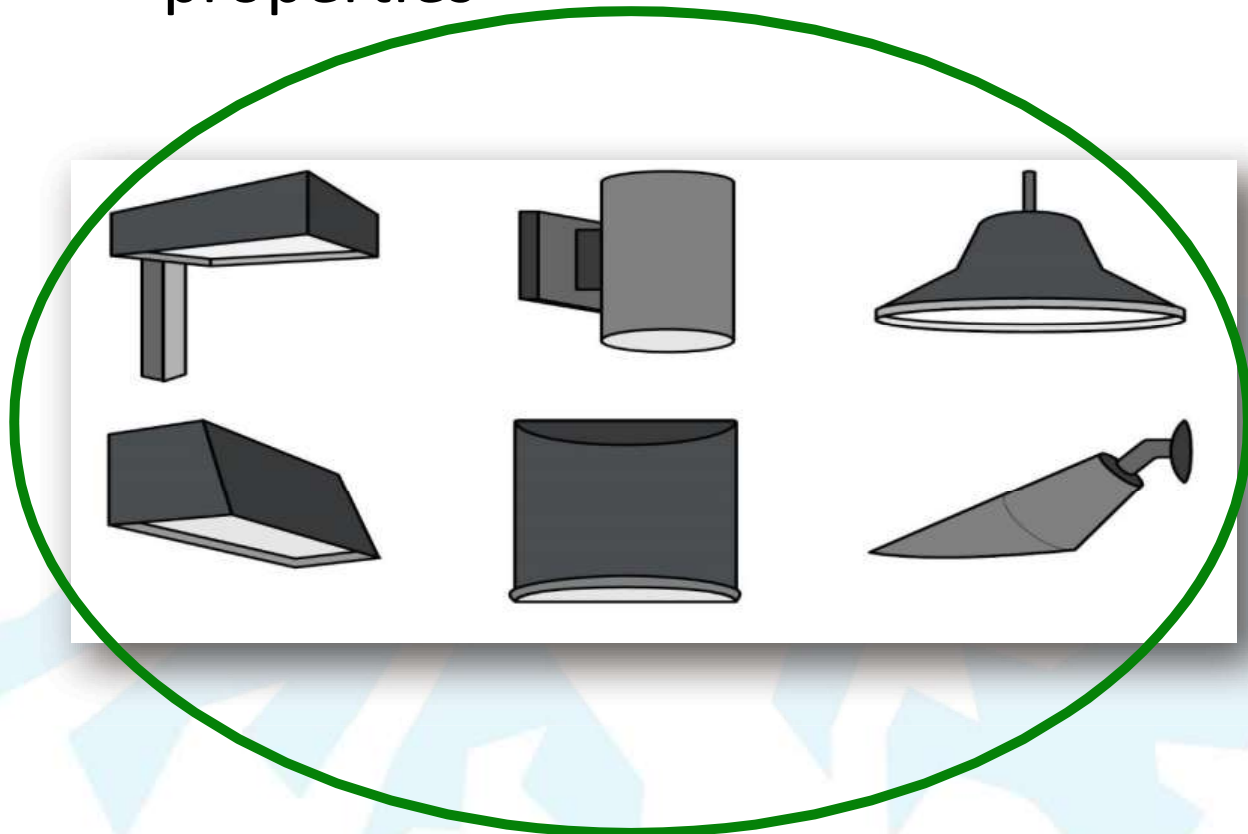
- adjoining properties, annoying neighbors
- the sky, making it hard to see stars
- the eyes of pedestrians, making it hard to see hazards, criminals & vehicles
- the eyes of drivers, making it hard to see pedestrians



# Attaining Cutoff Lighting: Bulb Visibility

## STANDARDS

- All bulbs must be fully shielded and not directly shine onto other properties



# Attaining Cutoff Lighting: Height

## STANDARDS

- All lighting must be mounted no higher than 16 feet



16' max height



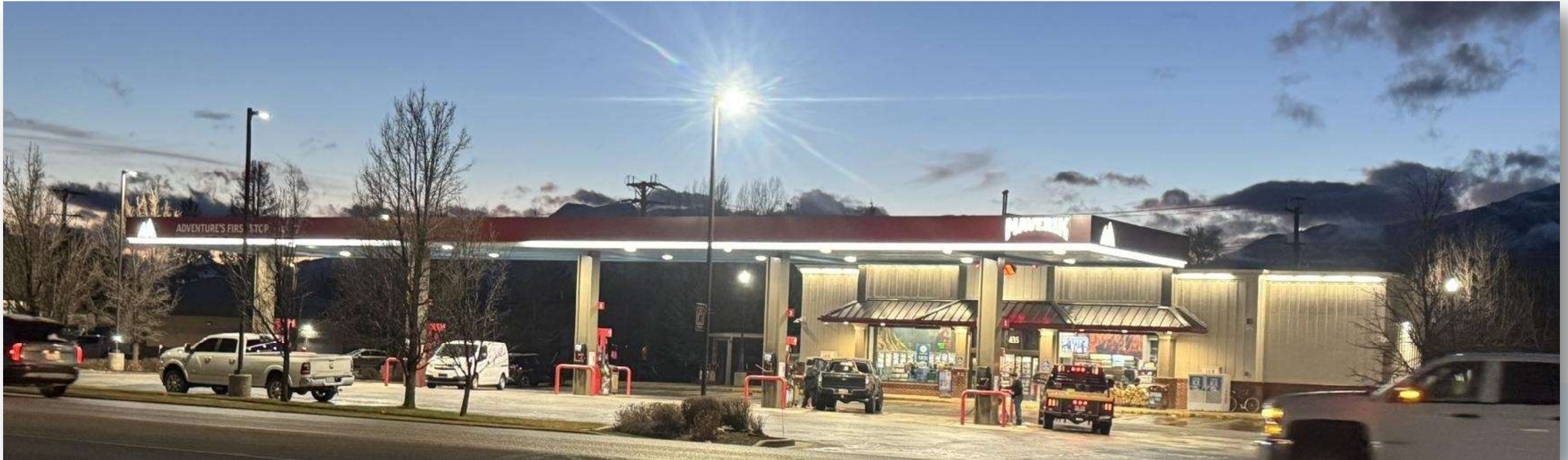
16' max height



16' max height

# Full Cut Off Issues Around the City

- Could a shield be installed in these light fixtures?



# Full Cut Off Issues Around the City

- Should the City pass an amortization law requiring Full Cutoff Lighting within 5-years?
- Question: does the City really need street lighting here?

## **AMORTIZATION**

The process of phasing out non-conforming land uses over a specified period, allowing property owners time to adjust to new zoning regulations



# 3 Color Temperature

## STANDARDS

- All lighting must be 3000 K or less in color

Why:

- More natural
- Relaxing
- Similar to traditional lighting colors

## Affordable change

- May simply require switching electronics settings for LED color



# 4 Low Intensity

## STANDARDS

- 100,000 lumens max per acre
- Only for non-residential/multi-family

### Why:

- Over illuminates a site
- Light Trespass onto other properties
- Blinding to drivers/customers



- Could the light bulbs be changed to a lower wattage and a warmer color LED bulb?

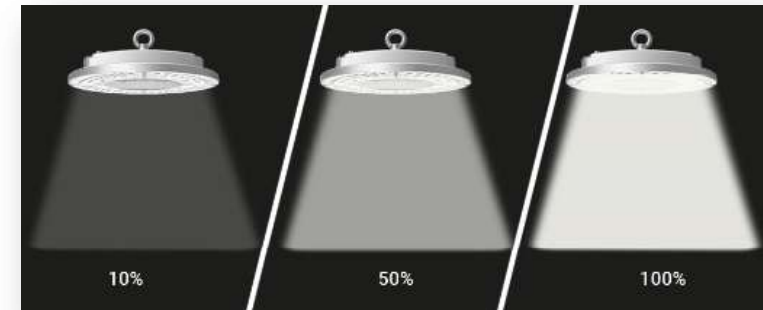


# 5 Timing: Dimming & Nightly Shut Off

## STANDARDS

- Must shut off exterior lighting during non-business hours
- Dimming permitted when essential to security
- Only for non-residential/multi-family

- Could a dimmer timer be installed?
- Could the City offer matching financial assistance?



# 6 Exemptions

- Airport lighting
- Up-lit government flags
- Holiday lighting



# Soffit Lighting (permanent holiday lighting)

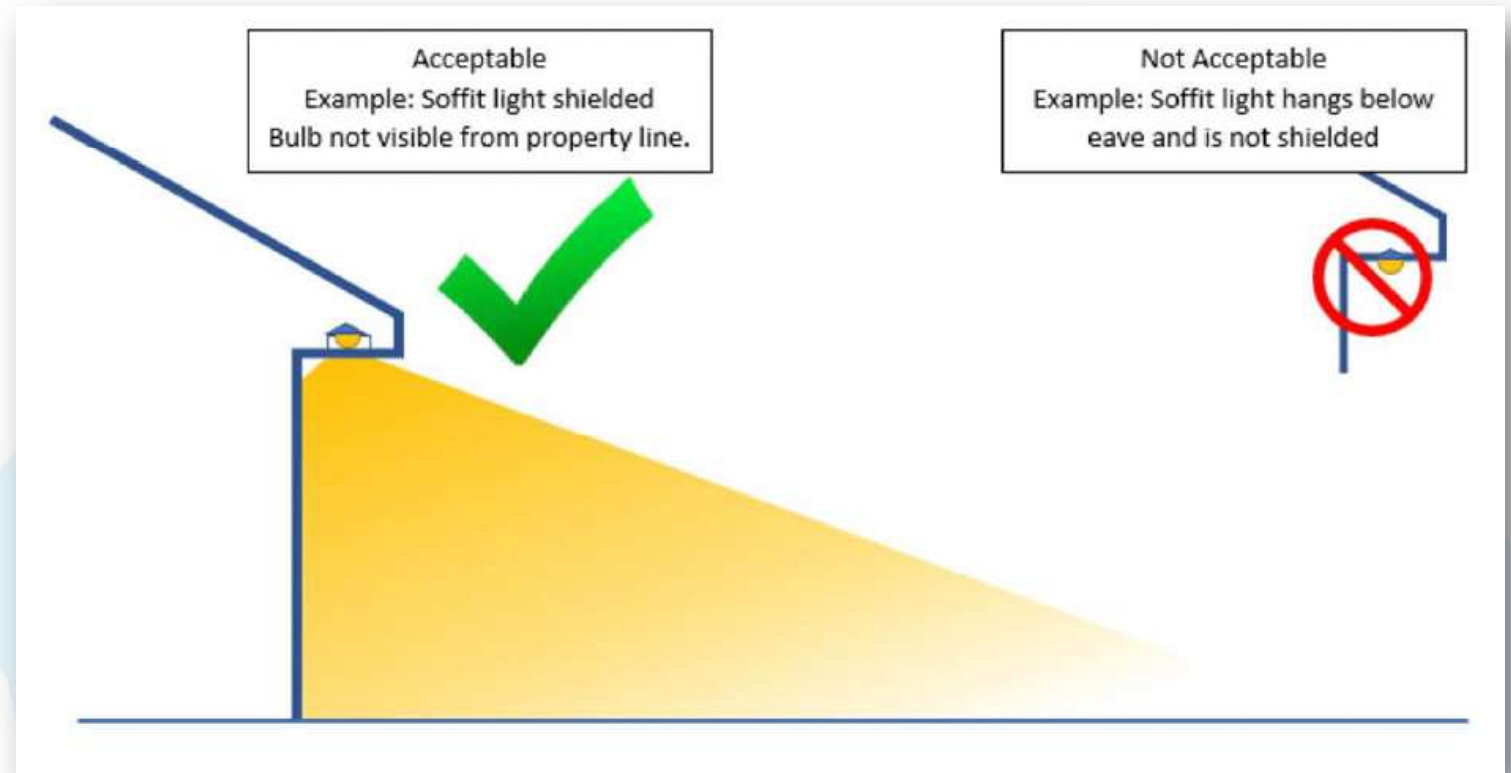
## Why is this becoming an issue?

- LED lighting becoming cheap and readily available
- Owners not aware of nuisance they create for neighbors
  - Shines onto adjoining properties
  - Non-standard colors
  - Permanent use
  - High intensity
  - Left on all night



# Soffit Lighting Best Practices

- Shielded
- Low Intensity
- Timers turn off at late night
- Use only during holidays
- Could CAPS assist with an Education Project?



# Streetlighting

- Heber City allocates \$25,000 each year to decommission streetlights
- Online request form
- Many streetlights removed along Main Street

https://heberut.gov/formcenter/street-light-retrofit--decommission-request-8/dark-sky-retrofit--decommission-request-58

HC Maps Utah APA City Works APA Coursera Express Eval MS 365 Copilot Utah Alliance Redev Google Earth Google Maps FlexReady Home

Create a Website Account - Manage notification subscriptions, save form progress and more.

**HEBER CITY** 1889

Sign In

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS COMMUNITY

### Dark Sky Retrofit / Decommission Request

HEART OF THE WASATCH BACK  
**HEBER CITY**  
1889

Some neighborhoods may have excessive street lights and some have outdated lights that should be retrofitted to become dark sky compliant. We want to hear from you. This request allows you to nominate non-corner/intersection streetlights to be evaluated for retrofitting or even decommissioning.

Requester First Name\*

Requester Last Name\*

Requester Email Address\*

Requester Phone Number\*

Requester Address\*

Requester City\*

Requester State

Requester Zip Code

Lighting Request Address\*

City

State

Zip Code

Requested Lighting Issue\*  
-- Select One --

Upload a photo of the Lighting Issue  
 No file chosen

# Street Lighting

- Light trespass onto adjoining properties
- Lights shine into viewer's eyes, blinding drivers and pedestrians
- Duplicates other lighting source just a few feet away
- Is it necessary: vehicles have headlights
- Does the City need to wait for a complaint?



# Street Lighting

- Does the City really need streetlights here?
- Maybe these streetlights could be dimmed or turned off?



# Potential Dark Sky Lighting Strategies

- **Permanent Soffit Lighting**

- Education: Potential Caps Project
- Ordinance Enforcement
- Ordinance Update

- **Non-Compliant Street Lights**

- Budget each year for:
  - Removing duplicative street lighting
  - Turning off unnecessary fixtures
  - Shielding nuisance streetlights

- **Non-Conforming Lighting**

- Education
- 5 Year Amortization
- City/HPL Matching Grants
- Reach out and negotiate
- Ask local retailers to carry Dark Sky compliant lighting fixtures

# Dark Sky Community Standards in Utah

## Communities

- Heber
- Helper
- Hurricane
- Ivins
- Kanab
- Midway
- Moab
- Park City
- Torrey

## Standards

- All:
  - Require Full Cutoff Lighting
  - Have a <3,000k limit (except Hurricane: 4,000k)
- Several exemptions per community (3 in Heber)
  - FAA, Flags & Holidays exempt in most
- Intensity limits vary greatly
- Helper and Moab: 5-year Amortization
- Park City required immediate 3,000k compliance as of 2024
- Torrey: implies that it offers financial assistance

# Comparison of Dark Sky Regulations



City	5-Year Amort	Notable Exemptions from Lighting Regulations								Other
		Holiday	Low Output	String Light	Motion Sensor	Trails	Temp	SFD	Unique	
Heber		X								
Helper	X	X	X				X			
Hurricane		X	X		X					
Ivins		X			X	X	30 days			
Kanab		90 day/yr	X		X			1 & 2	public parking	
Midway		Nov 15-Jan 20 & all holidays	X	X					flags on Memorial Hill	• soffit light prohibition
Moab	X	Oct 15 – Jan 15 until 10 pm		X		X			special exceptions	• immediate compliance for any new permit/license; • abandoned uses full compliance; • non-conforming lighting turned off by 10 pm
Park City		Nov – Mar until 11 pm		X		X	X		parking, ski, water, film	• immediate compliance with 3,000k
Torrey			X		X					• financial assistance; • change of ownership compliance

# International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Certification

## Benefits

- International recognition
- Promote tourism
- Community engagement
- Community pride

## Requirements

- Quality lighting policies
- Dark-sky education
- Citizen support of dark sky conservation

- Moab and Torrey are (IDA) Certified
- Park City celebrates International Dark Sky Week

# Policy & Budget Recommendations

## **1. Permanent Soffit Lighting**

- Increase Education Efforts
- Refine Ordinance for Soffit Lighting: holiday limits, shielding & timer requirements

## **2. Non-Conforming Properties**

- Consider 5-Year Amortization Period
- Reach Out and Negotiate: Offer Matching Grants
- Offer suggestions that are easy & cheap to at least partially comply with Dark Sky

## **3. Non-Compliant Street Lighting**

- Remove duplicative Street Lighting, especially next to bright businesses
- Budget money each year to modify nuisance street lighting without citizen requests

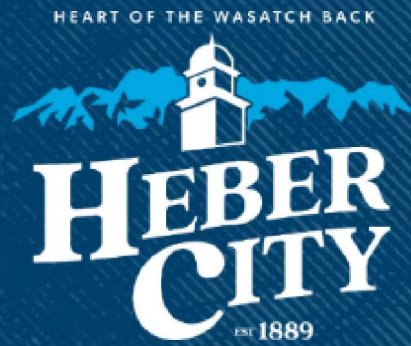
## **4. Celebrate International Dark Sky Week (April 13-20)**

## **5. Update Code to best practices**

## **6. Pursue International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Certification**

# Policy Questions

1. Does Council support additional enforcement efforts for holiday lighting (soffit lighting)?
2. Does Council support amending the ordinance to clarify that holiday lighting is exempt only on specified holidays, and during the winter months, but only until 11 pm and must be shielded and have a timer?
3. Does Council support modifying more street lights to be dark sky compliant or simply removing some duplicative street lights?
4. Does Council support modifying the ordinance to adopt a 5-year amortization for non-shielded business lighting?
5. Does Council support offering financial incentives to assist businesses in shielding non-compliant lighting?
6. Should the City Celebrate International Dark Sky Week (April 13-20)?
7. Should the City pursue (IDA) Certification? (may require updating the ordinance)



# Discussion