



PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** December 7, 2017

SUBJECT: TR 2017-04 Public hearing to consider amendments to Sections 118-1 Definitions, Section 118-693 Exterior materials and colors, and Section 118-728 Outdoor lighting, of the North Richland Hills Zoning Ordinance regarding luminous tube lighting.

PRESENTER: Clayton Husband, Principal Planner

SUMMARY:

A revision is proposed to the Zoning Ordinance related to Section 118-1 Definitions, Section 118-693 Exterior materials and colors, and Section 118-728 Outdoor lighting. The revision would add a definition and standards related to luminous tube lighting.

This public hearing was continued from the November 16, 2017, meeting to allow staff time to provide additional information requested by the Commission.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

During the discussion of this item at the November 16, 2017, meeting, the Commission requested more information about time limits for color changes, and also expressed concern about the visibility of luminous tube lighting if it were attached inside windows and doors instead of on the exterior. These topics are discussed in more detail below. A complete copy of the proposed ordinance is attached.

Color changes

The proposed text amendment previously included a standard that would allow for the color of the light to change every two minutes. The Commission noted that this time interval might be too long and requested information about typical industry standards on the timing of color changes.

According to industry and retailer information, most LED tube and strip lighting are operated by light controllers that range from knob style devices to programmable and wireless remote controls. These controllers allow for the lighting colors to be mixed or changed on a variable basis, and are capable of creating flashing, strobing, pulsating, and fade-change lighting effects. Research indicates there is not a typical timing standard as the color changes can be set on a continuously variable basis.



During the discussion at the meeting, staff referenced that digital billboards are permitted to change messages every eight seconds. This timing is the same as the Texas Department of Transportation standards provided by state law. The Commission felt that eight seconds was too short and could lead to the appearance of a flashing or strobing light.

In the absence of an industry standard and in order to strike a balance between these two times, a time interval of one minute is recommended.

Proposed text

If the luminous tube lighting fixture uses LED or similar technologies that allow for the color of the light to change, only one color change every sixty (60) seconds is permitted.

Interior lighting

The Commission expressed concern that luminous tube lighting could be installed on the interior of a window or door and still be visible from the outside. In order to address this concern, the following language is recommended. It is based on an existing provision in the NRH sign regulations related to window signs.

Proposed text

Luminous tube lighting shall not be placed, attached, or affixed to the interior of a window or door or within three feet behind a window or door.

CITY COUNCIL: The City Council will consider this request at the December 11, 2017, meeting following a recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve TR 2017-04.