



City of El Paso Capital Improvement Department

Title 18 | Ordinance Amendment Sun City Lights Program

January 6, 2026

Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal 3: Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

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Background

As we move forward with the Sun City Lights Program, we face a regulatory challenge. Under the current **Title 18 Outdoor Lighting Code**, our artistic and placemaking installations are classified as **Class 1 Functional Lighting** the same category as roadway, parking, and security fixtures.

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Outdoor lighting Code Limitations

Standards are strict:

- Color temperature limits (to reduce glare and blue light).
- Cutoff and shielding requirements (to minimize light trespass).
- Brightness levels based on safety codes.

The code assumes lighting is for **visibility and safety**, not aesthetics.

Overview

Title 18 Lighting Code

Not designed for artistic/placemaking

2017 Precedent

Council approved Ordinance **18.18.377**

Heritage corridors No. 018665

- Kern Place – Cincinnati Sun City Lights

Impact on Sun City Lights

Program

Limits innovation

Adds delays & redesign costs

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18.18.377 - Heritage corridors.

Ornamental lighting including but not limited to string lights, lighted archways and spires located within the public rights-of-way for the following heritage corridors are exempt from all requirements of this chapter:

1. El Paso International Airport Corridor which is Airway Boulevard from Interstate 10 to Airport Road;
2. Kern Place Neighborhood Corridor which is Cincinnati Avenue which is from North Stanton Street to North Oregon Street; East Glory Road from North Mesa Street to North Oregon Street; and East Baltimore Avenue from North Stanton Street to North Mesa Street.

(Ord. No. [18665](#), § 1, 4-18-2017)

Recommendation

Amend the existing ordinance to include the remaining (4) four Sun City Lights projects

- ★ Five Points
- ★ MCA Washington Park
- ★ Marty Robbins Park
- ★ Pueblo Viejo Park

Strategic Alignment

VIBRANT REGIONAL ECONOMY

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Goal 3: Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

3.1 Improve the visual impression of the community
(gateways, corridors, intersections and parklands)

- Construct Sun City Lights entryways



Without this proposed exemption, the City's own program may conflict with lighting code

MCA Washington Park



MCA Washington Park



GECKO



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D6 Marty Robbins Park



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D6 Marty Robbins Park

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D7 Pueblo Viejo Park



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D7 Pueblo Viejo Park



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Request for Action

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Authorize staff to draft amendment to **Ordinance Title 18.18.377** – Article X Other Exemptions.

Direct CID + Planning & Inspections + Legal to prepare language.

Apply exemptions to all remaining Sun City Lights projects that are currently under design.

- Five Points
- MCA Washington Park
- Marty Robbins Park
- Pueblo Viejo Park

MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community.

VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government.



VALUES

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People

MISIÓN



Brindar servicios excepcionales para respaldar una vida y un lugar de alta calidad para nuestra comunidad

VISIÓN



Desarrollar una economía regional vibrante, vecindarios seguros y hermosos y oportunidades recreativas, culturales y educativas excepcionales impulsadas por un gobierno de alto desempeño



VALORES

Integridad, **Respeto**, **Excelencia**, **Responsabilidad**, **Personas**