



# 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

**Impact** on Sun City Lights  
Program  
**Limits innovation**  
Adds delays & redesign costs

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**2017 Precedent**  
Council approved Ordinance **18.18.377**  
**Heritage corridors No. 018665**  
☐ Kern Place – Cincinnati Sun City Lights



## 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

### 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)

# 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



Glow in the dark  
Sidewalks





# MCA Washington Park

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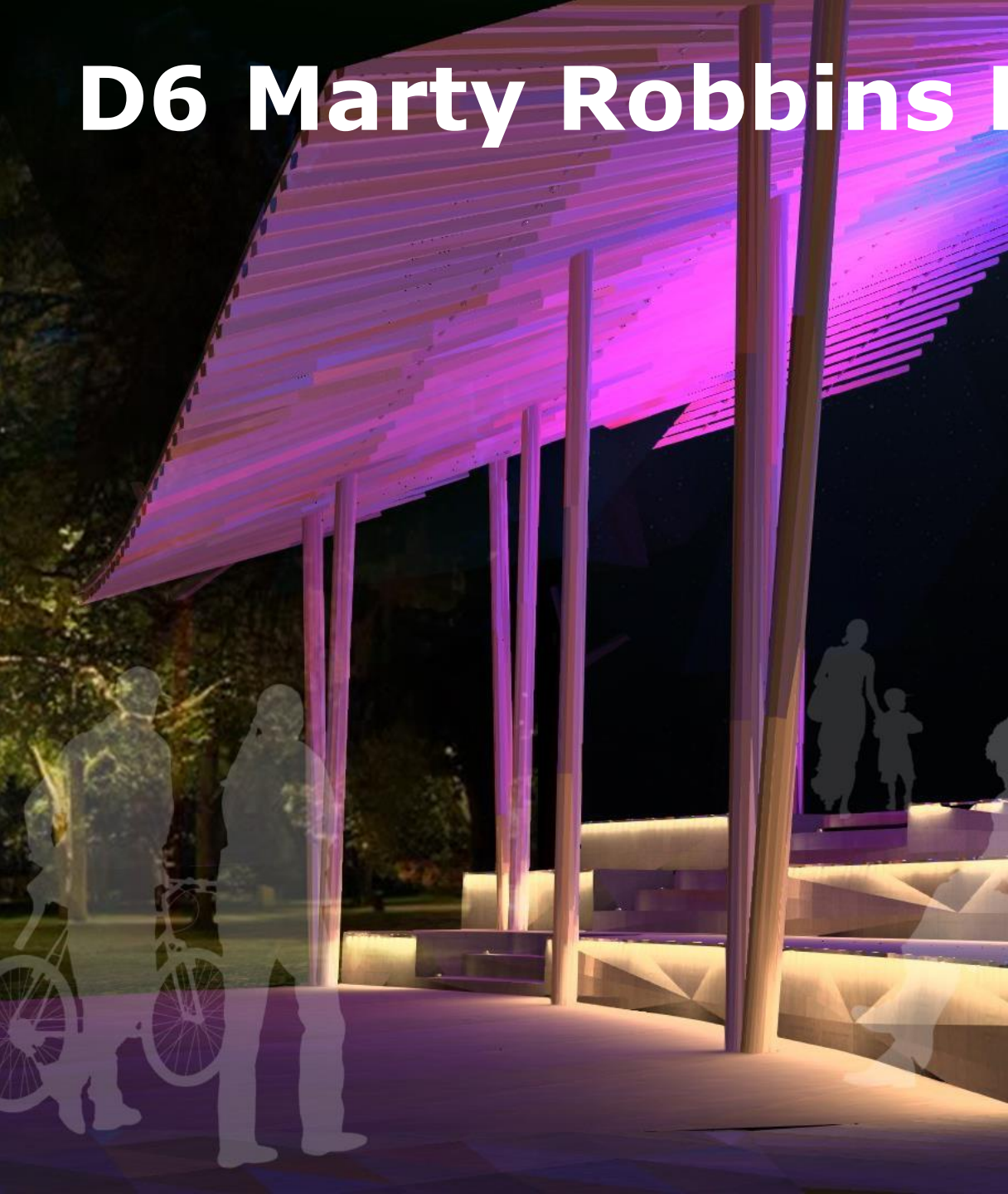




# D6 Marty Robbins Park

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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, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,  
**A**ccountability, **P**eople



## 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