



CITY OF EL PASO

City of El Paso Capital Improvement Department

Title 18 | Ordinance Amendment
Sun City Lights Program

December 15, 2025

Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal 3: Promote the Visual Image of El Paso



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.

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

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

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



D6 Marty Robbins Park



D6 Marty Robbins Park



D7 Pueblo Viejo Park



D7 Pueblo Viejo Park



Request for Action

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