



ORDINANCE AMENDING  
CHAPTER 31 – OUTDOOR  
LIGHTING ORDINANCE

PH-24-014

May 7, 2024

# Background

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- On January 23, 2024, the City Council made a Motion of Direction to direct staff to prepare an outdoor lighting ordinance to expand the current outdoor lighting regulations associated with the “UD” (University District) and “CD” (Cemetery District) to make these standards applicable to all zoning districts.

# Background

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- If approved, the proposed ordinance will help to prevent outdoor lighting nuisances like glare and light trespass. It will also help to preserve the integrity of the night sky.
- As written, the proposed ordinance prohibits light trespass onto adjacent properties and rights-of-way and prohibits uplighting (with exemptions for flagpoles and public art).

# Background

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- The proposed ordinance states that “all outdoor lighting fixtures shall be shielded to direct lighting downward and oriented in a manner that ensures that all illumination is contained within the source property.”

# Background

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- Sec. 31-897 includes outdoor lighting standards for commercial, manufacturing and multifamily development; and
- Sec. 31-898 includes standards for single-family and two-family development.

# Background

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- The proposed ordinance addresses the maximum height for both freestanding and wall-mounted exterior lighting, as follows:

## Single-Family & Two-Family:

- Free-standing: 8 ft.
- Wall-mounted: 10 ft.

## Commercial & Multi-Family:

- Free-standing: 15 ft.
- Wall-mounted: 12 ft.

# Background

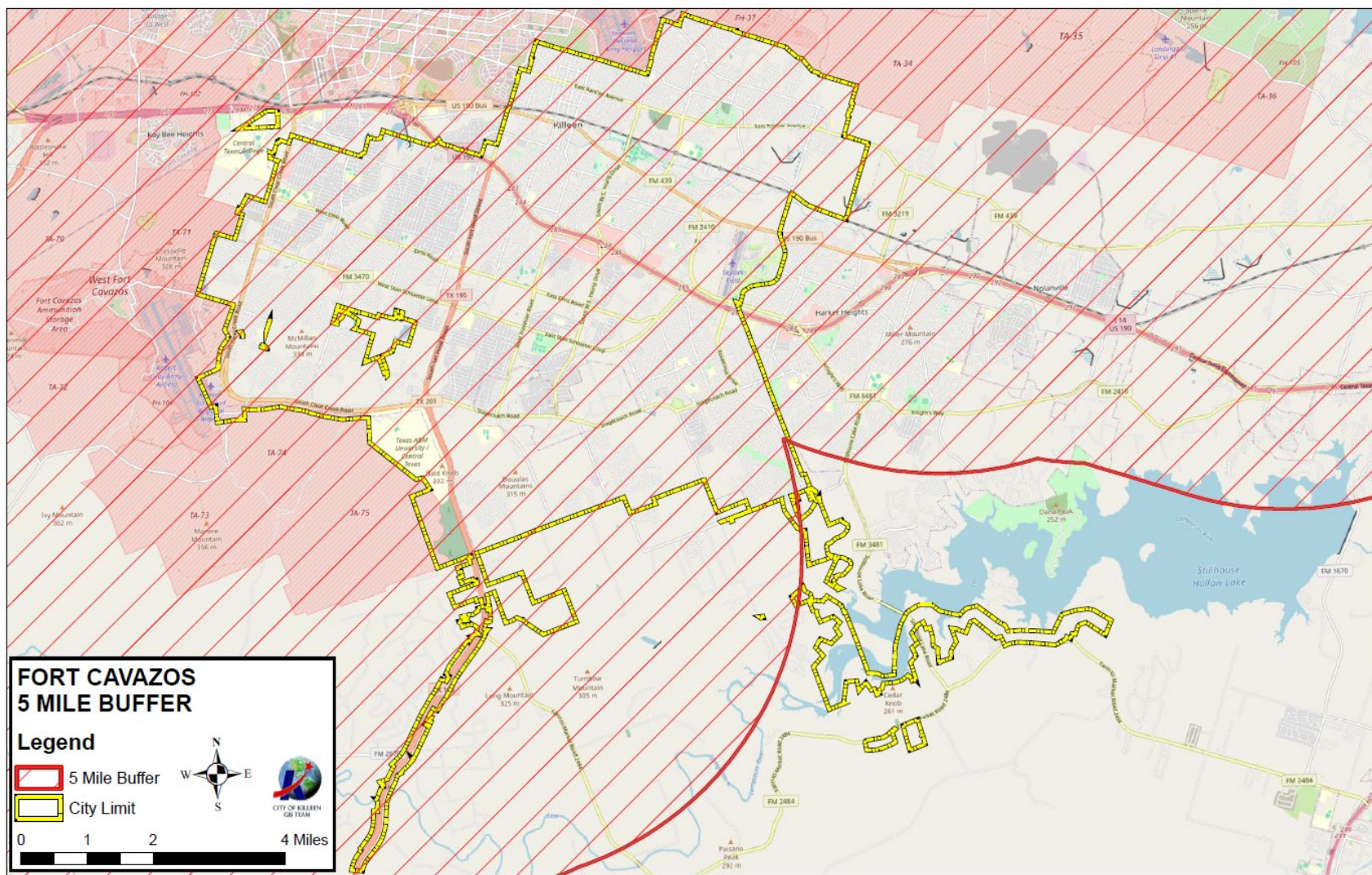
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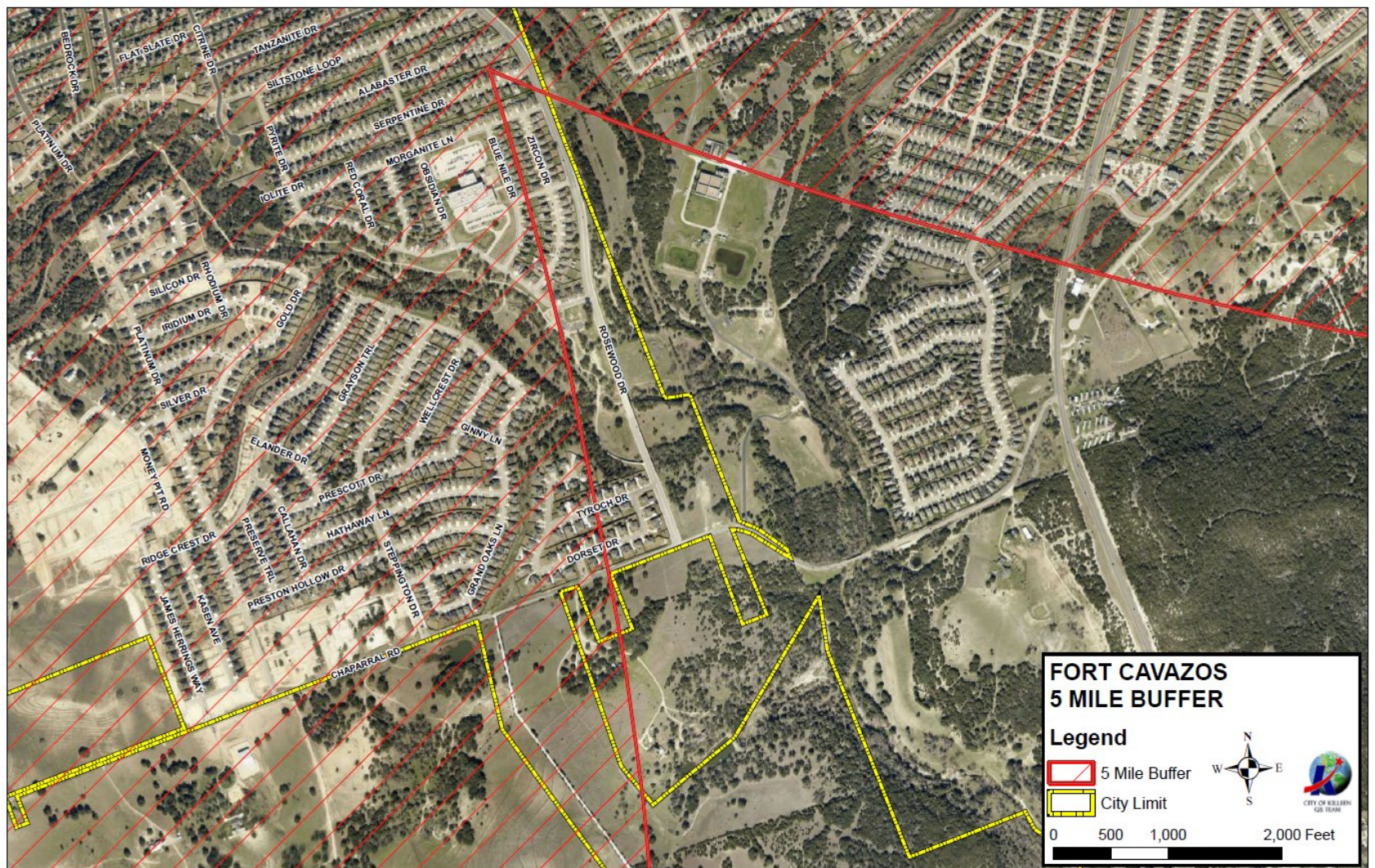
- If approved, the proposed ordinance will require “any person wishing to install or use exterior lighting that requires a permit” to “request a site plan review and obtain approval for such lighting from the building official.”
- The required site plan must “fully comply with the general regulations” in the ordinance and “specify the location, height, and type of all exterior lighting.”

# Background

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- Per Texas Local Government Code Sec. 3000.002(c)(3)(C), municipalities are prohibited from regulating outdoor lighting, except within five miles of an active military base.
- Therefore, the proposed ordinance would only apply to property within five miles of the boundary of Fort Cavazos.





# Background

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- The proposed ordinance also includes exemptions for temporary lighting for holiday decorations, civic events, and construction projects, provided such lighting does not cause light trespass or a driving hazard.

# Staff Recommendation

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- Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed outdoor lighting ordinance as presented.

# Commission Recommendation

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- At their regular meeting on April 18, 2024, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance as presented by a vote of 6 to 0.