



March 16, 2021  
City of Pflugerville  
Ian Beck  
Planner I  
100 E. Main St.  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

## Re: Park Crest Middle School Athletics Lighting Variance

Dear Mr. Beck,

Pflugerville Independent School District (PflISD) is currently renovating the track and football field at Park Crest Middle School. Included in the scope is a new lighting package to accommodate the relocated program. To accommodate the District's needs for this facility moving forward, these lights have been designed in such a way that will ultimately violate the City of Pflugerville's Unified Development Code (UDC) Sections 13.9.2 and 13.9.4:

- 13.9.2.A states the "maximum height of any athletic field lighting fixtures shall be not more than 60 feet". The proposed design calls for fixtures mounted 70 feet above the playing surface. Chief among the reasons to use a pole of this height is to provide better control of the light itself. With a steeper angle, glare is reduced, improving the performance of the players on the field, increasing the enjoyment of the fans in attendance, and minimizing the complaints over the unwanted light intrusion from the surrounding community. Adhering to the UDC would quadruple (25,000 to 100,000 candela) the amount of glare. Relatedly, spilled light is also reduced, allowing more light to be redirected to the playing surface. This in turn allows PflISD to reduce the number of fixtures required to illuminate the space, saving on maintenance and operational costs while also allowing taxpayer money to be spent more effectively. Adhering to the UDC creates an undesirable lighting situation – the already-tight spill light along the property line (0.4 vertical foot-candles) would double.
- 13.9.4.A, specifically Table 13.9.4, restricts field lighting levels to an average of 25 foot-candles and a maximum of 30 foot-candles "where the predominant use is recreation and/or team practices." PflISD's intent with all new middle school athletics venues is to use them to host UIL events for surrounding communities to generate supplementary income and lower the tax-payer burden. To maximize future opportunities, the current lighting package has been designed to meet the University Interscholastic League's requirement of a maintained minimum average of 50 footcandles for events with over 2,000 spectators.

PflISD is asking for a variance from these requirements.

Sincerely,

Garrett Martin | Project Manager