

**CLAIBORNE PARISH WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Ordinance No. 202501**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CLAIBORNE PARISH WATERSHED**  
**DISTRICT TO REGULATE LIGHTING ON LAKE CLAIBORNE**

The Claiborne Parish Watershed District ("District") desires to regulate the placement, direction, and luminaire of lights placed on docks, piers, boathouses, or otherwise directed towards Lake Claiborne:

**WHEREAS**, the unrestricted use of dock lighting harms the public health, safety, and welfare by causing unreasonable glare and visual clutter, and

**WHEREAS**, the unrestricted use of dock lighting causes boater disorientation and may lead to personal harm and property damage; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution from the unrestricted use of residential dock lighting negatively affects the use and enjoyment of surrounding properties; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution from the unrestricted use of dock lighting is detrimental to wildlife, fish, and aquatic plants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Claiborne Parish Watershed District, the following:

**SECTION 1. Definitions.** In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) "District" means the Claiborne Parish Watershed District.
- b) "Dock" means any fixed structure alongside or extending below the 185.0-foot contour line of Lake Claiborne which includes but is not limited to piers, boathouses, and other structures.
- c) "High Intensity Discharge Light" (HID) means a light source characterized by an arc tube or discharge capsule that produces light which emits greater than 1,000 lumens.
- d) "Person" means any landowner, tenant, or entity that owns property within the jurisdiction of the District pursuant to La. R.S. 38:2875.

**SECTION 2. Restriction on use of lighting.**

- a) It shall be unlawful for a person to illuminate a high intensity discharge light on a dock at Lake Claiborne;
- b) It shall be unlawful for a person to illuminate a high intensity discharge light located on the land or bottom lands immediately adjacent to and within 50 feet of a dock on Lake Claiborne;
- c) It shall be unlawful for any person to put or place a light more than 50 feet from the 185.0-foot contour line of Lake Claiborne; and
- d) It shall be unlawful for a person to illuminate other installed lights on a dock on Lake Claiborne, unless the light is equipped with an opaque shield and pointed toward the water or unless the light bulbs are 25 watts or less.

**SECTION 3. Compliance Period.** Dock owners shall have 45 days from the enactment of this ordinance to bring their properties into compliance with these regulations.

**SECTION 4. Enforcement.** This ordinance shall be enforced through the provisions of La. R.S. 38:2870(B) which establishes that each incident or separate occurrence of any act that violates this Ordinance shall be deemed a separate offense. In addition to the penalties provided in La. R.S. 38:2870(B) violators of this present Ordinance shall be subject to any other appropriate civil action provided by law in a court of competent jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief.

**SECTION 5. Severability.** If any phrase, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise illegal, or if its applicability to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance and the applicability of it to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 6. Effective Date.** Notice of this ordinance will be published twice within fifteen (15) days on the District's website, in the Guardian Journal, and with the Claiborne Parish Journal. Any opposition to this ordinance must be made in writing, filed with the clerk or secretary of the District within fifteen days of the last publication. If an opposition is filed, this ordinance will not be adopted until a hearing is held by the District. If this ordinance is adopted, it shall not become effective until ten days after its passage, during which time any interested citizen may apply to the district court having jurisdiction of the District for an order of injunctive relief. If an interested citizen files for injunctive relief, this Ordinance will not become effective until a district court of competent jurisdiction has ruled on said injunction. After this ordinance becomes effective, it cannot be contested for any reason, and it shall be effective at that time.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein, which can be given effect without the invalid provision; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

This ordinance having been submitted in writing, having been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the Claiborne Parish Watershed District, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows.

Moved for adoption by Marcus McClung

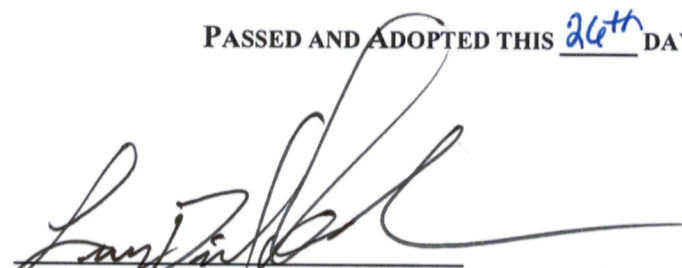
Seconded by Jay Blanchard

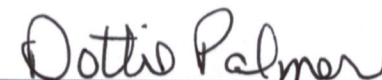
Whereupon this ordinance was submitted to a vote and resulted in the following:

YEAS 7 NAYS 0

ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June, 2025.

  
LARRY DAVID NOKES, PRESIDENT  
OF THE CLAIBORNE PARISH  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

  
DOTTIE PALMER, SECRETARY  
OF THE CLAIBORNE PARISH  
WATERSHED DISTRICT