

## ISSUE SUMMARY: LED STREET LIGHTS DC Street Light Task Force

- ▶ The D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) has begun replacing conventional street lights with energy-efficient LED lights.
- ▶ The Office of Public-Private Partnerships (OP3) in collaboration with DDOT plans to enter into a contract to replace all 74,000 street lights in DC with LED lights.
- ▶ The 4000-Kelvin and 5000-Kelvin LED street lights DDOT has installed emit a large amount of blue-wavelength light
- ▶ The American Medical Association has warned that blue-rich LED street lights produce more glare than conventional lighting, causing a road hazard, especially for older drivers.
- ▶ The AMA has warned that blue-rich LED lights are potentially harmful to human health because they suppress the hormone melatonin, which regulates circadian sleep cycles.
- ▶ The AMA recommends that outdoor lighting use “the lowest emission of blue light possible to reduce glare.” This can be achieved by specifying LED lights that are in the warm-white color range of 2700 Kelvin.

OP3’s RFP (Request for Proposal) for LED street lights should:

- 1) Specify warm-white 2700-Kelvin LED street lights for all new installations in the District
- 2) Specify replacement of all previously installed LED street lights with 2700-Kelvin lights

Resolutions from ANCs and Civic Associations specifying 2700 Kelvin street lights:

**ANCs:** 1A, 2A, 2D, 4A, 4B, 5B, 3/4G (representing over 102,000 residents)

**Civic and Community Associations:** Kalorama Citizens Association, Palisades Citizens Association, Michigan Park Citizens Association Citizens Association, Crestwood Citizens Association, Congress Heights Community Association, Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association, Dupont Circle Citizens Association, Pleasant Plains Civic Association, Georgia Avenue Community Development Task Force, Restore Massachusetts Avenue, LeDroit Park Civic Association, Fairlawn Citizens Association, DC Federation of Civic Associations

- We urge DC to follow the example of Phoenix, AZ – “In 2016, the Council revised the city’s standard kelvin level for street lights from 4,000 kelvin to 2,700 kelvin. The revision was based on American Medical Association guidelines and extensive community input, potential environmental issues, technical lighting standards, and projected energy standards.” (from City of Phoenix LED Street Light Conversion Fact Sheet, Aug. 2017, <https://www.phoenix.gov/led>)

DC Street Light Task Force is a group of DC citizens who are concerned about the health impacts of high Kelvin LED street lights. DC Street Light Task Force members: Delores Bushong, Bonnie Garrity, LaRuby May, Wayne Savage, Sharon Turner

Contact Delores Bushong for more information or to request a presentation.

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