

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G Street NE
March 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm.
- II. Introductions
 - A. Committee members in attendance: Co-chair Todd Sloves, Elizabeth Nelson, Lara Levison, Jeff Fletcher, Hassan Christian, Andrea Adleman
 - B. Delores Bushong and Brian Sullivan, presenters, LED street lights
- III. Announcements - none
- IV. Community Comment - none
- V. New Business
 - A. Presentation on LED street lights
 - i. Delores Bushong and Brian Sullivan presented their concerns regarding DC's streetlight modernization initiative, which is being run by the Office of Public-Private Partnerships (OP3). DC has begun installing new LED streetlights that are much more energy efficient.
 - ii. The problem is with the Kelvin rating of the lights. The Kelvin is a unit of measurement that is often used for the color temperature of light sources. The higher the Kelvin rating, the bluer and more intense the light is from these LED bulbs. The American Medical Association (AMA) has adopted guidance for communities on these lights, recommending the use of lower-intensity LEDs. The higher intensity, bluer LEDs can have harmful health and environmental impacts. Blue light (as comes from computer screens as well) suppresses melatonin and therefore interferes with sleep. The glare from these LEDs can cause "disability glare" that makes it harder to see other things right after you look away from these lights, which is of particular concern for driver safety. These lights can also disrupt many species of wildlife.
 - iii. OP3 is going to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for installation of these too-bright lights. These lights are very long-lasting and will be up for many years. LED lights are available with a phosphor coating that lowers the Kelvin rating, costs the same amount, and only slightly reduces the efficiency of the lights. The city of Phoenix revised the Kelvin level for their lights from 4000 Kelvin to 2700 Kelvin, but OP3 so far is resisting requests to do the same.
 - iv. The DC City Council has to approve the RFP. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is questioning the science behind the critiques of the LEDs with high Kelvin ratings. ANCs 4B and 5B passed resolutions opposing high-intensity LED streetlights. Councilmember Cheh is going to have an oversight hearing on this on March 30, 2017.
 - v. Committee members decided to wait until after the hearing, and to bring it up at the next monthly meeting, since attendance at this meeting was very low. [Update: the hearing was cancelled and rescheduled for May 3, 2017.]

VI. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.