



The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

February 10, 2021

City of Falls Church
City Council, Planning Commission and Staff
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

SUBJ: CIP Budget and the Proposed LED Lighting Program

Dear Mayor Tarter and Members of City Council and the Planning Commission:

The Board of the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) supports moving towards a more energy efficient society and reducing our carbon footprint, and thus very interested in the plan to move to LED lighting in neighborhoods and parks and on main City corridors. We support the CIP funding in an early year based on the following comments.

We believe the color temperature is key to provide a natural appearance and has a large impact on the appearance of the community, especially if not done well. We support a color temperature of no higher than 3000K, in neighborhoods and commercial areas, including the main corridors. For 25 years the City, with thorough study and design, had sodium vapor lamps that had a color temperature of 2,200K on West Broad Street. It served us well. The lighting made the area appear warm, welcoming, and safe. The lower temperature lighting provides an even level of dispersion. We think that any lighting over 3,000K will appear harsh and provide bright and dark spaces because different light frequencies have different travel characteristics. Also, higher temperature and luminosity will defeat the lighting of nearby businesses and sign lighting. This can be seen at Virginia Ave where the Exxon canopy lighting defeats the lighting of the Broaddale Shopping Center parking lot, which was previously perfectly adequate.

In the material available to us, (the staffing letter of January 8, 2021) there is no statement of the planned lighting luminosity, but we did notice a mention of reduced wattage to compensate for brightness. We support a lamp intensity that is approximately 10,000 lumens in neighborhoods, to match the current luminosity.

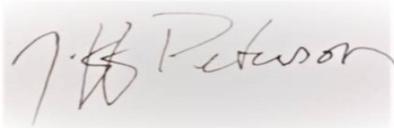
The City has supported the Dark Sky initiative and we feel that is very applicable to this project. We support lamps that time-out approximately 6 hours after sunset to help support that cause. The reduced operation time should reduce the energy costs and shorten the payback period.

For Frady Park we request that the lamp poles heads be of the style near what is currently present (Cutoff Acorn) instead of the Acorn style designated for parks. The current lighting was what the Department of Parks and Recreation had Dominion install about 8 years ago. This request is to honor and maintain the design style of that park that was achieved with a lot of work by both community groups and the City.

A sample pilot installation has been mentioned and we think that should be a mandatory part of the effort, to have a pilot area of candidate lighting choices, for both neighborhoods and West Broad Street, and to include a public feedback meeting before proceeding with the final City decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Peterson", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Jeff Peterson, President
On Behalf of the Board of Directors
Village Preservation and Improvement Society

cc: Zak Bradley, Director of Public Works
Lionel Millard, Public works