

## **Statement of the D.C. Street Light Task Force**

The D.C. Department of Transportation is poised to convert the District's 74,000 street lights to energy-saving LEDs. While this presents a wonderful opportunity to save tax dollars by reducing energy consumption, we must ensure that DDOT selects the best-available LED technology.

The American Medical Association has warned that "blue-rich" LEDs – those emitting a greater amount of blue-wavelength light – produce more glare, which the AMA calls a "road hazard," especially for older drivers. The AMA also warns that blue-rich LEDs are potentially harmful to human health because blue-wavelength light suppresses the hormone melatonin, which regulates circadian sleep cycles.

The AMA recommends that outdoor lighting fall within the warm-white range (3000 Kelvin *or lower*). The AMA also recommends "the lowest emission of blue light possible to reduce glare." These recommendations are based on more than a decade of research published in peer-reviewed journals.

The D.C. Street Light Task Force is urging DDOT to install warm-white 2700-Kelvin LED street lights because they comply with the AMA recommendations and have been selected by other progressive cities concerned about public health, including Phoenix, Ariz., and Davis, Calif.

The color of LED light, as measured on the Kelvin scale, should not be confused with the level of illumination, as measured in lumens. National standards for roadway illumination can be attained with 2700-Kelvin LED fixtures by selecting the wattage to produce the desired lumens.

Residents in DC have made clear that they want 2700 Kelvin LED street lights. Over 100,000 citizens have weighed in by passing resolutions in their ANCs and Civic Associations specifying 2700 Kelvin street lights.

The District of Columbia should embrace this once-in-a-generation opportunity and become a national leader in street lighting by installing 2700-Kelvin LEDs.

DC Street Light Task Force

Contact: [deloresbushong@hotmail.com](mailto:deloresbushong@hotmail.com)

Delores Bushong

Wayne Savage

Bonnie Garrity

Sharon Turner

LaRuby May

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