

2016 September 16

RE: Central Phoenix Neighborhood Support for 2700K LED lighting



Dear Mayor & Council:

This letter represents a collective voice of nine community organizations in Central Phoenix.

We recognize the importance outdoor lighting decisions have in our neighborhoods and on our lives, and understand that the Council will soon make a decision on the quality of LED lighting to proliferate throughout the city. We support a transition to LED for its energy and cost saving attributes. In making the final decision, however, we urge the selection of 2700K lights for our streets and parks.

Scientists, including from Harvard and the American Medical Association, warn that higher Kelvin lights (i.e. “colder” color temperature) – which emit more blue-wavelength of light – are detrimental to human health by suppressing melatonin production. Higher Kelvin lights are further problematic for wildlife by confusing their sense of day and night.

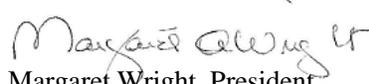
So too, overly-bright and overly-white lights create a harsh environment causing glare and dark shadows which run counter to CPTED guidelines and reduce security.

We want parks and neighborhood streets that are pleasant to walk along. Neighborhoods with open curtains and more community interaction are the safest neighborhoods, yet these overly-bright lights cause neighbors to block out the lights and thus avoid the streets, making our neighborhoods less safe. Day should be day, and night should be night. We do not support the nighttime lighting of our parks and streets to mimic daytime.

Other cities have tried these brighter, higher-Kelvin lights and have had to reverse their decisions after widespread citizen complaints. Such a mistake is expensive, disruptive, and wasteful. We urge you to avoid other cities’ mistakes by rejecting the higher Kelvin bulbs and instead adopting 2700K lights (generally thought of as a “warmer” color temperature) with an appropriate wattage that doesn’t increase the brightness from what exists today.

Respectfully,


Tim Eigo, Chair
Downtown Voices Coalition

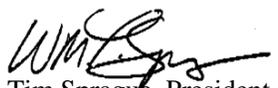

Margaret Wright, President
Midtown Neighborhood
Association

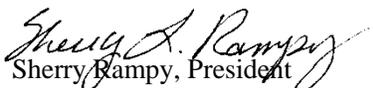

Sean D. Sweat, President
Thunderdome Neighborhood
Association

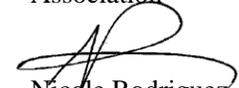

Will Denney, President
Story Preservation Association


Mary Anne Boe, President
Phoenix Downtown
Neighborhood Alliance


John McGarey, President
Devonshire Neighborhood
Association


Tim Sprague, President
Hance Park Conservancy


Sherry Rampy, President
Roosevelt Action Association


Nicole Rodriguez, President
Whitton District

cc: Mario Paniagua, Deputy City Manager of Infrastructure
Ray Dovalina, Director of Street Transportation
Inger Erickson, Director of Parks & Recreation