



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

*“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”*

May 12, 2017

Councilmember Mary Cheh  
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 108  
Washington, DC 20004  
[mcheh@dccouncil.us](mailto:mcheh@dccouncil.us)

**RE: DC Council’s Public Oversight Roundtable Regarding the District  
Department of Transportation’s Streetlight Modernization Project**

Dear Councilmember Cheh,

At its regular meeting on April 19, 2017, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With eight of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (8-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Schrefer, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has carried out pilot projects across the city, including here in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods, to replace the city’s streetlights with LED bulbs,

WHEREAS, thus far, DDOT has used LED bulbs with a temperature of either 5000 Kelvin or 4000 Kelvin as part of these pilot projects,

WHEREAS, one such project in ANC 2A was the #SmarterDC Pennsylvania Avenue 2040 (PA 2040) project, which was carried out in conjunction with the Golden Triangle BID and DC’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer to replace streetlights with LED bulbs throughout an area of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood along Pennsylvania Avenue between 17<sup>th</sup> Street and 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW,

WHEREAS, DC’s Office of Public-Private Partnerships (OP3) is in the process of issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to replace all of the city’s streetlights with LED bulbs,

WHEREAS, in June of 2016 the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted guidance regarding the harmfulness of high-intensity, blue-rich LED streetlights, saying that these high temperature lights create worse nighttime glare, inhibit sleep cycles by suppressing melatonin levels, and negatively impact wildlife species, including insects, birds, and fish,



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WHEREAS, the AMA specifically recommended, as part of their adopted guidance, that cities install LED streetlights with the lowest possible temperature,

WHEREAS, the DC Street Light Task Force, which has been studying DC’s installation of LED streetlights for an extensive period of time, has advocated for the installation of 2700 Kelvin LED bulbs, which have a lower intensity and level of blue light than the 5000 Kelvin and 4000 Kelvin bulbs that DDOT is currently installing,

WHEREAS, other American cities, including Phoenix, Arizona, have taken steps to mandate that they are only installing low-intensity LED streetlights, including specifically the 2700 Kelvin LED bulbs,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A has heard extensive concerns from local residents about the impact that DC’s current high-intensity LED streetlights have on glare, sleep cycles, and local wildlife, and

WHEREAS, DDOT has agreed to temporarily halt the further installation of LED streetlights in order to allow the DC Council to hear comments from the community regarding the installation work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the work of the DC Street Light Task Force in advocating for the installation of lower-intensity LED streetlights across the city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests the District Department of Transportation install 2700 Kelvin LED bulbs as part of the streetlight replacement process, as recommended by the American Medical Association and implemented in other American cities.

Commissioner Patrick Kennedy ([2A01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A01@anc.dc.gov)) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Chairperson

CC: Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2  
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4



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Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5

Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6

Sherrí Kimbel, Director of Constituent Services, Councilmember Jack Evans

Richard Livingstone, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services

Leif Dormsjo, Director, District Department of Transportation

Seth Miller Gabriel, Director, Office of Public-Private Partnerships

Delores Bushong, Member, DC Street Light Task Force