

Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Cc: Rob Zuccaro; Jeff Hirt; April Kroner
Subject: RE: information request
Attachments: Residential_Survey_Detailed_Report_(all_time)_Redacted.pdf;
Commercial_Outdoor_Lighting_Survey_Detailed_Redacted.pdf;
Residential_Survey_Summary_Report.pdf;
Commercial_Outdoor_Lighting_Survey_Summary.pdf; 2021 09 21 Dark Sky DD CC.docx

Good morning, all,

Tamar asked a few questions about the dark sky item that was continued to tomorrow night's meeting. Please see staff responses below.

Note that this email is going out to all commissioners. I will also add to the packet so members of the public can view.

Thank you,
Amelia

Amelia Brackett Hogstad, PhD
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[Schedule a meeting](#)
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From: tamar krantz <tamarkrantz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad <abrackett@louisvilleco.gov>
Cc: Rob Zuccaro <rzuccaro@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: information request

Hi Amelia,

Here are a couple things that would be helpful to me if you have time. I'm hoping at least a few of these will be simple. I know this is last minute and you probably are just about finished with the packet.

I totally get that you are understaffed and stretched thin. I can just use this list for myself to remember what my questions are.

Thanks,
Tamar

(1) You mentioned that City Council originally provided direction to staff on July 20, 2021. Would it be OK to provide that link, as well as a link to any other city council meetings on Dark Skies so that planning commissioners can better understand the direction?

[Here](#) is the video and packet link for July 20, linked to the start time for the dark sky item.

(2) The summary of community engagement includes a link to the actual data and some background information. Would it be possible for us to see the complete report and not just the summary? Attached are the documents that are available in that link from the July staff packet.

(3) Is there any more recent survey or summary or public engagement from EVC, chamber of commerce, etc? The most recent surveys concluded earlier this year, which is what the summary shows and the attached documents. The chamber of commerce survey was also from this year. Staff presented to EVC and LSAB this year, as well, presenting similar information to what you all have access to. [Here](#) are the minutes for staff's presentation to LSAB. EVC minutes for the item are [here](#) starting on page 5 of the PDF.

(4) Can you include any more cost information and include any information on rebates that might be available. I can summarize the information we have at the hearing tomorrow.

(5) One of the letters from Charles Dansforth mentioned that the ranger had knowledge of which lights were most egregious. He listed them in his e-mail.

Would it be possible to get the ranger to verify this data

Planning and Open Space staff have worked on this project together. Through that process, we have had many conversations about what data is and is not available for Louisville. In this case, the only kind of data available is to say what areas of the City are lighter and darker, not which specific lights or properties (point-source emission) are contributing because the meters are not capable of creating that kind of measurement.

(6) Also, Josh Cooperman's e-mail recommends 2700 Kelvin instead of 3000 Kelvin because that is now readily available and is the International Dark Sky recommendation. Do you have any information to support or refute what Josh says about this.

Staff's research in 2021 concluded that a higher Kelvin (3000 K max) allowed more flexibility, options, and price points for dark sky lighting. I do not know if IDA has updated their recommendation to 2700 K max, though their recent publications for 2023 International Dark Sky Week in April still name 3000 K max; I do know that the American Medical Association recommends lower K overall but still states 3000 K as the upper limit, at least as far as I could find. There are some statements that suggest lighting at lower K is no longer cost-prohibitive, but we do not currently have more information to assess whether that is the case. In addition, most cost estimates for retrofitting lighting that we can find use the 3000 K max benchmark, so further evaluation of the cost impact of lowering the Kelvin would likely be limited.

(7) Do you have any data on how we are doing with % compliance?

Staff conducted a small compliance survey, which we presented to Council, in 2021. I have attached the packet.

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