



December 8, 2016

Kathy Lantry, Director
City of Saint Paul Public Works
25 West 4th Street
1500 City Hall Annex
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Director Lantry,

On behalf of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council, I'd like to thank you for attending the town hall meeting on November 30, 2016, regarding the light-emitting diode ("LED") bulbs installed in our neighborhood's streetlights by the City of Saint Paul this year. We appreciate that you and the other city leaders engaged in constructive and cordial conversation with the nearly 50 residents in attendance, none of whom spoke in favor of the 4000 Kelvin ("K") LEDs. We hope this meeting cemented a city/neighborhood partnership dedicated to finding a lighting solution that satisfies both resident and government needs.

We want to emphasize again that our neighborhood supports the implementation of LED street lighting, but strongly objects to the City's current bulb selection because of its health, safety, light intrusion, environmental, and aesthetic impacts. We especially appreciate the Public Works Department's acknowledgement that the selected 4000K LED bulbs have been identified by the American Medical Association as a likely threat to public health. On that basis, and in light of the many other livability concerns raised in our petitions, correspondence, and during our meeting, **we request that the replacement LED bulbs installed in Lex-Ham be removed immediately and the former bulbs returned to the fixtures until an acceptable, permanent LED solution is identified.**

As discussed at the November 30 town hall meeting, and requested in writing by both the Union Park District Council and Council Member Dai Thao of Ward 1, **we also ask that the City employ proper community engagement to the LED bulb standard for streetlights on residential streets.**

It is our understanding that before selecting the 4000K LED bulb as the standard, the City did not commission any studies, survey residents' opinions, or conduct any community engagement whatsoever. Although it may seem like a perfunctory decision, the lighting used on residential streets affects the livability of our city and therefore requires citizen input in its selection. A key ingredient in strong, safe communities is the connection that residents have with one another. Since the 4000K LEDs have been installed in our neighborhood, residents have purchased

additional window coverings, closed their windows and blinds in the summer, cancelled their block parties, and avoided their front yards by retreating to backyards and staying inside their homes. With fewer eyes on the street and less time interacting with one another, the fabric that holds our community together deteriorates. There will be an immense and immeasurable loss by the City of Saint Paul when the full rollout of a bulb that is projected to last twenty years is implemented without citizen feedback.

To date, the 4000K bulbs have been installed on a fraction of the streets in our neighborhood. Given the intensely negative and nearly unanimous reaction by that small sample of citizens who have now have lived with the current LED bulbs, we hope that city leaders recognize that this matter is not analogous to the selection of concrete mixes or other routine maintenance matters managed by the Public Works Department, as that department has previously suggested. Fortunately, the rollout of the current LED bulbs has been small enough that the City still has time to select another bulb that achieves the same environmental and cost benefits while preserving the integrity, safety, and comfort of our neighborhoods.

As voiced repeatedly at the town hall meeting, the neighborhood is eager to partner with you on this issue. We look forward to your response and further collaboration to resolve this matter.



Amy Gundermann, Executive Director
Lexington-Hamline Community Council

cc: Kristin Beckmann, Deputy Mayor, City of Saint Paul