

Attachment B

From: Philip Ianna [mailto:philianna3@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2015 2:20 PM
To: Board of Supervisors members
Cc: Elaine Echols
Subject: Dark Sky Comp Plan Strategy

If I may, I would like to suggest some minor changes/additions (in red) to the Strategy Section (11a) of the Comprehensive Plan.

Strategy 11a: Continue to pursue measures to reduce light pollution in the County caused by uplighting, excessive lighting, glare, light trespass, and inconsistent light, including, but not limited to, the development of guidelines to address these issues for street lights in the Development Areas. Such guidelines should focus on providing a safe and secure pedestrian environment.

Light pollution is the biggest threat to dark sky. Light pollution obscures the view of the sky and primarily comes from inefficient **overly bright** and misdirected lighting sources. Terms often associated with light pollution are *urban sky glow*, *glare*, and *light trespass*. Simply defined, light pollution is too much light shining in the wrong direction, sometimes creating glare. Glare occurs when light is seen directly from the fixture or bulb, which can cause ~~pain~~ **discomfort** to the eyes and reduce the effectiveness of the emitted light. Glare can be taxing to the eye, and cause accidents. Other problems occur when light spills over property lines. This can illuminate adjacent grounds or buildings in an objectionable manner, interfering with the owner's enjoyment of his or her property, privacy, and view of the night sky. While the current lighting regulations have helped to improve the night sky since their adoption, **more** work is needed. **Providing safe and secure nighttime pedestrian access requires provision of on street lights in the Development Areas; however, Street lights have the potential to create glare and shadowed areas, which are problematic to nearby residents, drivers, and pedestrians. Development of guidelines or regulations are is needed. for street lighting that protects the night sky as well as pedestrians. In addition, consideration should be given for stronger measures to limit glare and uplight from inadequately shielded lights and to set maximum limits for illumination at ground level. Research should take place on the successful work of other localities and the recommended lighting practices from the Illuminating Engineering Society in order to have a safe, comfortable, and attractive nighttime environment.**

Detailed outdoor lighting guidelines may be found in the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) Handbook, Tenth Edition. Therein are many carefully thought through, research-based recommendations for any conceivable outdoor lighting task. As a local example Fluvanna County Code requires following IES recommendations. Further, excellent models for any future lighting ordinance exist for several Northern Arizona Counties (e.g. Coconino and Sedona Counties), an area with a far more critical need for dark skies than is Albemarle.

In my view the Comp Plan, if and when implemented, should be a guide to good lighting for the community. Good lighting designs will help retain the dark skies we still have in Albemarle County.

Sincerely,

Phil

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‘It is indeed a feeble light that reaches us from the starry sky. But what would human thought have achieved if we could not see the stars?’ -Jean Perrin

"You have to have seen it to care about it." -Sylvia Earle