



Aug. 8, 2023

From: Eric J Lund, Executive Director, Louisville Chamber of Commerce

To: The Louisville Planning Commission

RE: Concept Plan Review and Dark Sky Initiative

Dear Louisville City - Planning Commission,

Regarding Agenda Item 6b: Concept Plan Review Process:

We support any effort that results in the reduction of time or cost related to the planning for future builders and developers.

Regarding Agenda Item 6c: Dark Sky Lighting

The Louisville Chamber of Commerce represents more than three hundred and sixty-six Business Members in the Louisville area. We also represent more than nine thousand owners and employees. Regarding the Dark Sky Initiative that you are considering today we have some points that we feel are very important to address:

1. This initiative was originally started as an action that would only impact new construction - light fixture installations and it looks like it has been growing into a retroactive program with mandatory requirements for existing lighting which was not originally intended. This concerns us greatly as the potential cost to businesses and residents could be substantial if they were required to replace existing fixtures before their life expectancy ends. We strongly encourage you to allow existing fixtures to be used to their full life expectancy. We further encourage you to only apply the recommended policy to include new construction or rebuilding of 75% or more of a structure. We believe that less than 75% is not new construction. We furthermore ask that you do not put a compliance deadline date in place for all businesses or residences as again this would go against what was originally intended in respect of impacting new construction only.
2. The Chamber members and employees we represent are very concerned about Safety related to well-lit areas in our city. We ask that you refer to the Louisville Police Departments recommendations regarding lighting safety and avoid any change that would create dark areas in residential or business areas to help fight crime. Specifically, we would be against turning street

or parking lot lighting off during the night in commercial or residential areas where lighting helps to prevent crime. As you may know, there has been a lot of theft of construction materials in our reconstruction areas for residences, because of not having street lighting in place after the Marshal Fire. This is a great example of why good lighting is important to help fight crime.

3. Because we are not in a rural area and there is a light glow effect in our urban areas unrelated to Louisville, and you have already acknowledged that we are not likely going to get to a starry sky scenario in the future even with this initiative implemented. Why is this such an urgent matter? Our business community generally supports the idea of helping to create a darker sky, but if safety and cost becomes a major factor and you contribute to creating a worse scenario related to those two items then this will not likely be a positively supported result. Also, we are concerned about trespass language in this ordinance and ask that we make light trespass policy the same as other neighboring communities. Going beyond that policy will potentially create a negative result, again in respect to cost and safety.

Thank you for hearing our concerns and we respectfully ask that you consider our comments as representative of the many businesses and employees we represent, and as a result of our conferring with our members, Advocacy Committee and Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Eric J Lund,

Executive Director